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Liberal discount on lots of 200 eggs and over.

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PRACTICAL POULTRY POINTS**CONDENSED POULTRY FARMING.**

A New Hampshire egg farmer conducts a business that nets him \$25 profit per week on a five-acre tract. This man certainly has ideas of his own, for while he owns 200 acres of land, only five acres of it is used for the poultry, which is the only source of income of the entire family. On this five acres are kept 2,500 laying hens and 8,000 chicks are hatched annually. Here is a case of intensive egg farming that pays, yet we are inclined to believe that if the fowls were given the use of some of the 200 acres the profit would be much larger.

The housing and yarding on this plant consists of houses 8 by 24 feet with the floor up off the ground, and the only yard that the birds have is the ground under the floor—just the 8 by 24 feet. Two cows, three horses and three large dogs are kept, as well as a hired man, but all the expenses are footed by the hens. The three dogs are kept for protection from chicken thieves, and in this method there is another idea that is unique. Around the entire five acres is a trolley wire. To this the dogs are fastened with long chains so they can patrol the entire enclosure. For feed for these dogs there is an outlay of \$4 a month—a little expensive, but effective.

The salary of the hired help is \$610 per year, and all stock and eggs are sold at market price, and yet the profit is good. This farmer gave up the dairy business to embark in the egg farming business and finds it much more profitable, and I believe that the profit would be one-third more if free range was used.

KEEPING EGGS.

Science seems to be making an active inroad on prejudices and ignorance and even the man who has been fighting book farming is willing to confess that great strides have been made along certain lines that have been beneficial to his own interests. The latest we have had up to the present in the preservation of eggs and the prolonging of their edible qualities has been by the water glass system, which is quite generally known.

Now comes a scientist who claims a method that will even up the egg business at a wonderful rate. The shells by the new process are first disinfected and then immersed in a vessel of paraffin wax in a vacuum. The air in the shell is extracted by the vacuum, and atmospheric pressure is then allowed to enter the vessel, when the hot wax is forced into the "pores of the shell, which thus hermetically seals it. Evaporation of the contents of the egg, which has a harmful effect, is thereby prevented, and the egg is practically sterile.—Register and Farmer.

Soft Shelled Eggs.—When hens lay soft-shelled eggs or abnormally large eggs something is wrong with them. Strong and healthy hens do not lay double-yolked or deformed eggs. Soft-shelled eggs indicate a lack of lime and the poultry raiser should see to it that the hens have abundance of crushed shells or some other substance in which lime predominates. When the fowls are too fat the diet should be changed and no starchy foods should be fed.

Artificial incubation is obtained in China by the following process which has been used for many generations: Straw baskets are arranged along the ends and on one side of a straw-thatched cottage. These baskets are plastered with clay to make them incombustible, and a till forms the bottom, beneath which a small fire burns. A straw cover is placed over each basket during the process. In the center are wide shelves over each other, to receive the eggs, at a certain stage of the operation. Those being placed in the baskets, a fire is lighted, and a steady heat between 95 and 102 degrees, but regulated by no better thermometer than the sensations of the attendant, is kept up. About the 16th day the fertile eggs are removed from the baskets and spread on shelves covered up with cotton or some similar substance, but without fire underneath. And thus they remain until the chicks burst forth from their shells.

DUCKS PAY.

Kate V. Saint-Maur, who has won a reputation by her success in showing people how to make money at home, tells how to make money with ducks in the April Woman's Home Companion as follows:

Ducks are so profitable that I cannot understand why so few keep them unless it is the mistaken idea that they must have a stream or pond in which to swim. It is true that the old-fashioned puddle duck did seem a miserable creature out of water, but the improved strains are almost as much land birds as chickens are. My stock started with two ducks and a drake which cost me \$7. The first season I raised 58, sold 46, and kept 12 to stock. They were ready for market when eleven weeks old and the lowest price was 17 cents a pound.

POULTRY HOUSE WHITEWASH.

A capital whitewash is made by mixing common water lime sement with sweet skimmed milk to the proper consistency. The following is the government whitewash: Put two pailfuls of boiling water in a barrel, add one-half of a bushel of well burned quicklime; put in quickly one peck of common salt, dissolved in hot water, and cover the barrel tightly to keep in the steam while slacking; when the violent ebullition is over stir till well mixed together, and if necessary add more boiling water so as to have the mass like thick cream, strain through a sieve of coarse cloth. Make a thin starch of three pounds of rice flour and one pound strong glue, having first soaked the glue in cold water, and to the latter mixture add two pounds of whiting. Add this to lime wash, and also sufficient hot water to dilute to the proper consistency; keep hot while applying. It will require about six quarts of the mixture to 100 square feet surface, and it will last remarkably well. It goes without saying that it may be made any desired color.—The Poultry Keeper.

Tuberculosis is reported as prevalent among Oregon poultry, according to Dr. R. C. Young, Secretary of the State Board of Health.

Now is the time to knock the lice. Spring and summer weather is conducive to their multiplication. Catch them before the hot weather insect incubator starts.

Old hens make the best mothers, but the pullets are the better layers. The breed you like best is the best breed for you to keep.

Shells and gravel as well as charcoal should be accessible to the poultry.

A few good hens are better than a big flock of mongrels.



GUY MacL. RICHARDS
Editor

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