

# Home Course In Poultry Keeping

## IX.—Seasonal Review of the Work.

By **MILO M. HASTINGS,**  
Formerly Poultryman at Kansas Experiment Station, Commercial Poultry Expert of the United States Department of Agriculture, Author of "The Dollar Hen."

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**I**N this last lesson I shall apply the suggestion given in the previous eight lessons by naming briefly the things that will require attention month by month.

**January.**  
All stock saved for sale as breeders should have been got rid of around the holiday season or shortly thereafter, and the poultryman begins the year with a well culled flock of layers.

In January the laying hens will require more attention than at any other season of the year. The weather is severe, and as egg prices are high every egg added to the basket represents a good profit. See that the house is tight, except openings in the front left for ventilation. See that these windows are so protected that snow does not blow in. Whether you will keep the hens shut in or allow them to run out will depend upon your general plan of operation. If feeding in litter is used, it will be best to keep the hens indoors as much as possible, and careful watch will be necessary to see that the birds are kept busy and always too hungry to mope around, yet the January hen must never go to bed with an empty crop. When the temperature of the house is below freezing the hens should be given water with the chill taken off twice or, better still, three times a day. Sometimes eggs will have to be gathered



WHITE WYANDOTTE COCKEREL.

ered more than once a day so that they will not freeze in the nest. Do not neglect to provide green food. If your supply of fall cabbages and other vegetables run out, it will be necessary to use either steamed clover or alfalfa or to sprout oats.

**February.**  
The February work of the poultry yard is very like that of the January. The main idea at this season of the year is to keep the hens laying. When the warm days come, the droppings that have accumulated in the poultry house will become damp and malodorous and should be removed. If there is a heavy fall of snow shovel a little strip in front of the house, and if hens range around stables or in feed lots it will pay to shovel a path for them. During very sloppy days it may be desirable to shut the hens in, as it is of little benefit for them to trail around in the slush, and it will result in the soiling of the eggs.

**March.**  
With a well kept flock of poultry the March egg yield is the heaviest of the year. Eggs are declining in price rapidly at this season and should be marketed frequently. By this month any supply of vegetables kept from the previous fall will have been exhausted, and with the feeling of spring in the air the poultryman must not forget that warm days will not bring the hens spring foods. Dry clover and alfalfa are fair, but sprouted oats are better, and it will be worth the trouble necessary to prepare them. As soon as the ground may be worked all yards or, if on a farm, a patch of ground near the poultry house should be sown in oats. The chickens may pull one-half the crop up by the roots as it comes through the ground, but it is the chickens we are interested in and not the oat crop.

If the incubator is to be used for hatching it should be started about the 1st of March, while the hens may now be set as rapidly as they become broody. With the heavy breeds every effort should be made to have the bulk of the chickens hatch during the month of April. During the last two weeks in March incubators are to be set for Leghorns.

**April.**  
With green food sown the previous month the egg production problem in April will simplify itself considerably. The hens can now range abundantly, and the care necessary in the winter time to keep them busy and happy is no longer required. April is the poultryman's busy month. His labors with the layers consist chiefly in gathering the eggs, but the work is most arduous with sitting hens and incubators, which are now running full blast, and even more of his time must go to

the care of wee chicks. Of all the work of the poultry farm that of caring for the newly hatched chicks is the most difficult to systematize or to intrust to the hands of hired labor.

The coops or outdoor brooders should be well scattered about, as it is not good for large flocks of young chicks to run together. Moreover, young chicks must be protected in their feeding quarters from the presence of old fowls, which in their greed to get at the food meant for the little fellows will run over and trample them. On the farm this is most easily arranged by having the food for chicks in a siat coop, which keeps out the grown fowls.

**May.**  
May, like April, is a month in which the hens take care of themselves. The hatching of the larger breeds should be finished the early part of this month. Hens of all breeds will insist upon wishing to brood, but can be broken up by penning them in an outdoor coop for a few days. Little chicks will require a great deal of care, and when thundershowers come up some one must hasten out, frequently in the rain, and see that the foolish hens and frightened brooder chicks get under shelter and do not crouch up in some fence corner. If perchance some have been forgotten one should make a thorough search as soon as the shower is over and bring all soaked chicks into the house to dry. Those found down flat on their backs and apparently dead, if rescued soon enough and wrapped in woolen rags and placed around the stove, will revive in a most astonishing fashion.

**June.**  
The hatching of Leghorns should be brought to a close during the early part of this month and all male birds taken from the yards. The growing chicks will now be old enough to need less care, and the chief source of the poultryman's loss will be due to his carelessness in leaving coops unprotected from "varmints."

Lice and mites will now begin to invade the poultryman's camp more abundantly, and with the approach of the warm weather more cleanliness in feeding vessels and about the house will be necessary.

**July.**  
The poultryman's work is considerably relieved during July. Indeed, this is the best season of the year for him to leave the chicken farm to the hired man and visit his kinfolk. Cleanliness to keep down disease and lice and care in gathering the eggs frequently and marketing them promptly are the chief points worthy of mention.

Early broilers will be ready for market during this month.

**August.**  
In August we have the same problems as the previous month. Be sure the hens have abundant water and green food. The egg yield should show a considerable increase over July. The male birds of the heavier breeds should now be got into shape for market. The poultry breeder should take careful observation of his growing stock and make selection of the most vigorous youngsters to be reserved, from which to pick the breeding stock. More green crops should now be sown for the fall pasturage. All two-year-old hens and, if you have abundant pullets, a portion of the yearling hens may now be sent to market.

**September.**  
Eggs are now advancing in price, but it is neither right nor, in the long run, profitable to hold them. Sell all eggs promptly and try to get recognition for your honesty and quality of your product. Young male birds, especially Leghorns, should be separated from the pullets. The coops or colony houses in which the young pullets have grown should be gradually moved toward the house which is to be the winter quarters and the pullets got into the habit of roosting in the laying house. Nice secluded nests should be arranged, as a few precocious pullets will begin laying in this month. Sow wheat and rye for winter green foods.

**October.**  
Pullets will now begin laying in considerable numbers. If you have fancy trade keep their eggs, which are small, separated from the larger stock. Any remaining old hens that are not to be kept through the winter should be disposed of. Runt pullets and all young male birds not needed for breeding stock should also be sent to market.

**November.**  
This month should find the laying flock nicely installed in their winter quarters. November eggs are high in price and scarcer than at any other time during the year. The poultry fancier will now select his birds and get them ready for the shows. As the nights grow colder use judgment in closing up the poultry house. If it is closed tightly the hens which have been roosting in the open air will catch cold, and roup will be the result. Keep a careful lookout for this dread disease and take immediate steps to correct things if the symptoms of roup appear.

**December.**  
December is the height of the poultry show season. The fancier will be a very busy man. His birds must be cooped, trained and prepared for the shows. The poultryman himself may be away at shows, and some one else will have to look after the flock at home. By all means layers must not be neglected. Not only are December eggs highly profitable, but layers that do not start in this month will be very liable to keep in the background until the warm spells of March.

## Methodist Shakedown

Friday evening of next week an old-fashioned Methodist shakedown will be given by the Epworth League at the residence of W. S. Acheson. This will be the second in the series of entertainments to be given by the League for the purpose of raising funds to pay for the new piano.

A jolly good time is promised all who come Friday night. Old and young, strangers and homefolk, come and spend an hour or two in getting acquainted and refreshing yourselves at the bounteous board. The only requirements are that you bring not less than fifteen pennies and SMILE. It will give you the most enjoyable evening that you've experienced for a long time.

### Bring Your Lunch and Stay all Day.

The Secretary of the Fair Association wants it known that the sale of tickets to the Fair grounds will start at eight o'clock each morning. This allows those who want to come and stay all day the opportunity. Tie racks for horses are being erected and careful attention will be given to the welfare of all who come.

### Alliance Man Not a Sucker.

A prominent Alliance gentleman recently received a printed letter from "Captain" Walter I. Rand, of Boston. Rand was looking for suckers and for the small sum of one dollar offered to send a mysterious lucky stone which he had secured in India.

However the Alliance man happens to be one of those people who believe that brains and energy bring better luck than lucky stones and his answer to the letter was a masterpiece. It is worth a dozen good laughs. If the captain didn't throw a fit on receiving it he is a dead one. For a piece of humor it had Bill Nye beaten a mile. We wish we had the space to print it.

It is quite likely that the "captain" will need to use the lucky stone himself when the postal officials get after him.

### Farewell Party

A farewell party was given last Monday evening at the home of Mrs. M. E. Bernhardt, in honor of Miss Mary Bowles of Hastings. She has been spending the summer with her sister, Mrs. Harry Johnson, and made many friends while in Alliance.

A short program consisting of vocal and piano solos and readings was given by a few of the large number of young people who were present. Mrs. Bernhardt proved herself to be a very entertaining hostess. Refreshments were served after the young gentlemen had "found their matches." Miss Bowles, accompanied by her sister, Mrs. Johnson, who expects to make a short visit in Hastings, was escorted to the station by those present at the party who were all sorry to part with such a jolly friend.

### Carload of Peaches Arrives.

Alliance people are great fruit eaters for they're used to good living and when the opportunity comes, as it does this week, to get fine extra fancy Elberta Peaches from California, the housewives take it up. A carload arrives today and will be on sale through the local merchants Friday and Saturday also. Now is a good time to can them.

### Triumph of a New Idea.

About the quantity of reading matter furnished in the average Sunday newspaper there is no reason to complain—unless it be on the score of too-muchness—but the quality often leaves much to be desired. The only exception to this rule is the Chicago Record-Herald. Its Sunday Magazine is filled with first-class fiction, able articles, choice pictures and a wide range of good miscellany, all by popular or really famous authors and artists. When writers such as Conan Doyle, Anthony Hope, Rudyard Kipling, Jack London, Sewell Ford, Cyrus Townsend Brady and Roy Norton are counted among the contributors to a Sunday paper its triumph can no longer be doubted. The Sunday Magazine of the big Record-Herald is far and away the best literary treat offered to newspaper readers in the United States today. The largest monthlies and independent weeklies cannot surpass it in quality or sustained interest. Its short stories are among those of the delectable Sherry McCabe, can't be surpassed.

Adam critically regard Eve. "Her attire is a bit primitive," he said, "but I prefer it to the hobbie skirt."

Seeing no occasion for appending an explanatory diagram to his remark, he let it go at that and resumed his gardening.—Chicago Tribune.

"What's the matter with the lady who just went out of the store?" asked the grocer.

"She found fault with the potatoes," replied the clerk.

"What's the matter with them?" "She didn't like the color of their eyes."—Yonkers Statesman.

I have had my old barn entirely remodeled and fixed up. I will do a feed and sale business and solicit your patronage.—SIMON SPRY.

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### Attention

The following are the superintendents of the different classes for the County Fair. Any one desiring information about anything in the several classes, or who has anything which he, or she, expects to exhibit in any of these classes, will please communicate with the superintendent of that particular class.

- LIST OF SUPERINTENDENTS**
- For the convenience of persons who may wish to exhibit at the Box Butte county fair this year we give the following list of class superintendents:
- Class A, horses, L. F. Smith.
  - Class B, cattle, W. H. Swan.
  - Class C, sheep, G. W. Nation.
  - Class D, swine, Wm. Rust, Sr.
  - Class E, poultry, Fred Mollring.
  - Class F, grain, seed and vegetables, Frank McCoy.
  - Class G, domestic products, Mrs. W. D. Rumer.
  - Class H, fruits, Mrs. I. E. Tash.
  - Class I, flowers, Mrs. L. H. Highland.
  - Class J, needle and fancy work, Mrs. W. E. Cotant.
  - Class K, machinery, etc., L. N. Worley.
  - Class L, discretionary, Mrs. Dr. Churchill.
  - Class M, school work, Miss Della M. Reed.

**EARL D. MALLERY, Sec.**

Old Maid—Why should I want a husband? I have a cat that stays out all night.

Matron—Yes, but you won't be a widow till he loses all nine lives.—Judge.

### A Solace for the Sick



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