

OF INTEREST TO FARMERS

PROGRESS IN POULTRY

It is probable that greater progress has been attained in increased productivity among poultry during the past decade than was accomplished in the previous half century. This increased production has been the result of three very definite factors. First, increased knowledge of the principles of feeding has made it possible for the average poultryman to feed his flock intelligently. Great strides have been made in compounding high-quality feeds, especially laying mash, and these are within the reach of every poultry handler. A second factor is the work done in selection and breeding. Knowledge acquired at the beginning of the past decade, developed the relation between external characteristics and productivity, thus enabling poultry keepers to weed out unprofitable birds. Coupled with this has grown the tendency carefully to select and make the breeding stock, for production as well as breed characteristics, all of which has meant increasingly better birds in succeeding generations. Lastly, there is the important fact taught by our egg-laying contests—that hens differ greatly in their individual ability to lay eggs. Systematic trapping at our more than 25 egg-laying contests has shown the industry that individual records of 300 eggs are not uncommon. The number of 300-egg hens increases year by year and the average production of contest flocks also is creeping up. Applying to culling and breeding the fact that individual hens differ in productive ability has made the 300-egg hen possible. To what limits egg production will ultimately attain it is hard to say, but by following the principles set forth, every poultry keeper can gradually advance the average lay of his flock. This will be the result of a higher production from certain individual birds, and also through a higher average production obtained by the elimination of low producers and the substitution of heavier layers. No poultryman should be satisfied with a flock average of less than 150 eggs per bird per year, and it should run nearer to 200.

INSULATED LAYING HOUSES

In speaking of comfortable laying houses we are too prone to think of comfort in winter; we sometimes forget about making the laying houses comfortable in summer. There is little trouble with damp houses in summer, except in a prolonged rainy spell, but there is frequently trouble with houses that are too hot. It helps considerably to open up the house as much as possible, particularly by means of wind-rows under the droppings boards so breezes will blow on the floor. But making use of insulation as we do with refrigerators also would help to make a cooler house in summer as well as a warmer one in winter. Insulating the house with building board or fiber board along the ceiling and the sides will serve to protect the interior from the heat of the sun and will result in several degrees lower temperature inside than out. When the temperature outside drops in the evening, the temperature within the house will not fall so rapidly. One poultryman takes care of this fact in his long laying house by having several large fans and openings in the rear wall. He turns on the fans for 10 minutes after the sun goes down and suck all the warm air out of the house. The fans also remove the dust. Fans are not necessary, however, when the house is insulated as long as some means of ventilation is provided. Openings in the roof that can be kept closed during the day and opened in the evening will help, or a carefully worked out ventilating system can be installed.

FEEDING BEEF CALVES

With the increased growing demand for baby beef on the market, the owners of a beef herd can well afford to give some consideration to feeding the calves grain during the summer while on pasture with the dams. Experienced producers state that one of the points to be kept in mind in baby-beef production is never to let the calf lose its baby fat. Most beef calves will begin to eat grain when they are from three to four weeks old. Calves should be encouraged to eat some grain as soon as they show an inclination to do so. There are a number of combinations that can be fed, but a simple ration is preferred. A combination of four parts of ground corn, two parts of crushed oats and one part of linseed-oil meal, or six parts of shelled corn and one part of linseed-oil meal or cottonseed meal will prove satisfactory. If the calves are kept with the cows on pasture, a creep should be built in which the feed can be put daily. The creep should be conveniently located, preferably where there is some shade and near the watering place for cows. The feeding of grain in a creep to the calves during the summer will add to the expense of developing the calves, but they will pay well for the feed in increased gains, and such calves will have the additional advantage of being ready for market at an earlier age than the calves that receive no grain during the summer.

THE HAND DUSTER

Horticultural enthusiasm runs high about the time seeds are being planted in the garden and foliage on vine, bush and tree is developing. Then come the plant lice and other seasonal pests of early summer, and with them problems of control. Plant lice and mildew on roses, bugs and blight on potatoes, insects and diseases on apples, small fruit and grapes, all contribute to the problems of the home garden and orchard in town or country. Spraying is still considered the best treatment in some instances. However, there are several objections to spraying around the home and garden. In the first place, the opinion that spraying is an unpleasant and

WATCH LAMB PASTURE

Stomach worms are one of the bane of a sheep grower's life. The cheapest and altogether the most satisfactory way to fight stomach worms and other sheep parasites is to adopt preventive measures and so avoid having them. Sheep parasites make their way in the world largely by living over in the ground or under such cover as the pasture affords them, making their contacts the following year. They lurk in damp buildings and yards and in wet, swampy land. Lambs with stomach worms, and with most other parasites, appear listless, lack the brightness of eye of the healthy lamb and show a dullness of fleece

laborious task is quite general, and in a way justified. In recent years hand dusters and dusts have been so improved that dusting can in a great measure be substituted for spraying around the home. Even fruit growers with large power sprayers and dusters find a good hand duster very useful. We have four hand dusters especially useful in dusting roses, sweet peas, grapes, currants, berries, potatoes, vegetables and fruit trees less than 15 feet in height. The work can be done in less than a quarter the time required for spraying. Early morning or evening is the most satisfactory time for dusting. Dusting may not be quite so effective as spraying in the control of certain diseases and insects; in fact, it is not recommended in scale control. With few exceptions the results are very satisfactory if the dusting is done often enough and the work is thorough. Because of the simplicity of application, dusting is much more apt to be done on time than spraying.

POULTRY HEALTH PROGRAM

Ravages from diseases and parasites continue to distress the poultry industry. Every poultryman should study this problem in order to reduce his losses and insure a profit. Records show that where the following recommendations were practiced, chick mortality was reduced to 14 per cent, whereas the average loss where the points were not followed was more than 20 per cent:

1. Hatch or purchase chicks early. Early chicks are most easily brooded, are healthier, and mature more quickly into large birds, capable of producing high priced late summer and fall eggs.
2. Keep the brooder house clean. The brooder house should be thoroughly cleaned before chicks are placed in it. Regular twice-a-week cleaning until the chicks are 12 weeks old and once a week thereafter will reduce the spread of disease and parasites.
3. Provide clean range. Rotated ranges are essential if soil contamination is to be eliminated.
4. Keep old and young stock separated. Old birds may act as carriers of disease to the growing stock.
5. Build a separate manure shed. Droppings should be regularly removed to a storage place where flies cannot enter, if tapeworms are to be controlled.
6. Wire in the droppings boards with 16-gauge wire of inch-and-a-half mesh. Such a practice will save eggs and prevent the production of dirty eggs. Most important is the fact that it prevents the spread of disease and parasites.

COWS NEED VACATION

A successful dairymen reports a loss of \$1,500 on the annual sale of milk due to a failure on the part of cows in his herd to freshen at regular intervals. Several reasons might account for this difficulty. The health of the herd would naturally be the first consideration, but attention is called to the cows' being in good health and to the heavy production of milk which they are making. Again, one might consider the rations, but in view of the fact that ample rations supplemented with minerals are provided, the difficulty does not seem to lie in this part of the management. It is furthermore stated that sires are in use which have proved potent, and with good management and approved management the difficulty is not easily understood. It is generally regarded necessary to give cows at least six to eight weeks' rest at the end of each lactation period and prior to the time of freshening. In observing this rule one may well take into consideration how regularly cows have been bred to freshen at intervals of approximately 12 months. Cows which freshen at such intervals get the benefit of rest periods that are not infrequently neglected. Long lactation periods and less frequent rest periods may result in serious breakdowns. With some cows it appears that the reproduction of offspring and of freshening is almost habitual, and breeding and having cows develop this habit is worth while and will insure rest periods at proper intervals. In herds which are free from disease and in which careful attention is given to an ample supply of feed and to good management, it may be observed that cows which freshen and freshen with regularity are the cows which make the most profitable lifetime productions of milk and butterfat.

EWES FLOCK PROFITABLE

Commercial sheep breeders have been able to increase their inventories in substantial manner by the high lamb market of the past winter and spring. That market has stimulated demand for ewes, especially the yearling type, all over the country. At farm sales \$20 to \$22 dollars a head has been paid and 10 could have been absorbed where one was available. Last winter's prices would speedily create an excess supply of lambs if the breeding stock needed to expand the industry was available and consumption could not be increased to absorb production, but there is a marked shortage of young ewes all over the Western sheep raising area, and without constant replenishment from that source farm flocks cannot be successfully maintained. Advancing cost of beef is responsible for popularizing lamb, probability being that any possible expansion will be readily absorbed at slightly lower prices, as whenever wholesale carcass cost of lamb exceeds 30 cents a pound the product meets sales resistance. Cattle and sheep conditions are somewhat analogous; slaughter of yearling heifers and ewe lambs in recent years having effectively repressed rehabilitation of both branches of the livestock industry. A flock of healthy ewes promises to be a profitable investment for a lengthy period.

Amethyst, cairngorm, chalcledony, opal, jasper, agate and some other precious stones are forms of quartz.

A change of pasture, which forces their enemy to die from a lack of opportunity to graff his living from some innocent lamb, will solve the problem. Two years of rest without sheep grazing will usually clear a piece of land from sheep parasites, and a single free year on land reasonably well drained will usually make a pasture fairly safe.

FEEDING BROOD SOWS

Naturally a sow nursing a big litter of pigs loses fat rapidly and should be fed plentifully on nutritious milk-giving feeds. This feed is not wasted because it all goes to making the growth of the youngsters.



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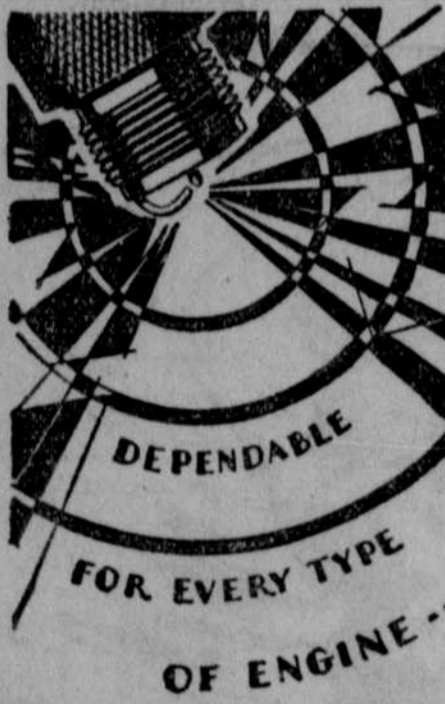


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