

# Where Town And Country Meet

## Better Hens Key to Egg Production

Proper Goal Should Be to Raise Average Yield Rather Than Individual Laying Records.

### Baby Chicks Need Care

By R. N. HOUSER, County Extension Agent. On the average Nebraska farm where poultry is kept as only a part of the farm enterprise the aim for any improvement should be to raise the average egg production of the flock, rather than to produce a few phenomenal layers.

Possibilities that lie in breeding better birds should not be overlooked or neglected even though a part of the solution of the problem of increasing egg production rests in the rearing, housing and feeding management of the flock, he brought out.

### Males Important

Breeding pens in which the responsibility for results can be centered in one or two carefully selected male birds have proven to be the most satisfactory, most farm poultry breeders have decided. In a majority of cases, well-grown, vigorous cockerels mated with healthy yearling hens have given the best results. Summers has found:

One male to 12 to 15 hens of the leghorn breed and one male to nine to 12 of the heavier breeds, is a good proportion for mating when it is necessary to confine the birds. On free range, one male to 25 to 30 hens of the lighter breeds as leghorns, and one male to 15 to 20 hens of the heavier breeds as Plymouth Rocks, Rhode Island Reds, etc., will give good fertility.

Immature or unfit birds should be removed or the pen separated from the rest of the flock three weeks before the eggs are used for setting if the hens have been previously mated. If no male birds have been with the flocks, the eggs will be all right to set in three to five days after the pen is made up. Hatches during February and March of the heavier breeds and during later March and April for the light breeds give the most satisfactory results both from the standpoint of marketing the surplus as broilers and of producing good stock for next year's work.

### Eggs Need Attention

Considerable attention should be paid to the individuals in selecting the pens but as much attention should be given to the kind of eggs she laid (size, shape and color) as to the egg production record of the mother of the male bird. Hens should be in good flesh and in healthy normal condition. The size, shape, and color of the eggs that each hen lays should be taken into consideration as well as the number she produces in selecting hens for breeding purposes in the poultry flock.

A comfortable house with plenty of floor space and nest room, and unrestricted range, if possible, are two desirable conditions to be worked for in the management of a breeding pen. Scratch feed and a laying mash with part of the animal protein left out to prevent a forced, and unnatural egg production, together with a constant supply of green feed or vegetables will be a satisfactory ration for a breeding pen.

In building up a flock through a number of years' work, the chicks should be marked by hatchings either with leg bands or toe marks, and the early maturing, vigorous chicks should be given preference in selecting birds for the next year's breeding pen. By breeding year after year from the best birds, it will be possible to make a steady advance in the quality of the flock and to increase the egg production average, Summers stated in closing.

### Accredited Flocks

Three Saunders county poultry raisers are planning to take up accredited flock work for the year 1925. They are: Mr. C. E. Baustian, Valparaiso, White Rocks; Mrs. Ben Nelson, Ashland, Single Comb White Leghorns; and William Grio, Ithaca, Rose Comb White Minorcas.

The value of this project is evident. Besides giving the flock owner a cost account record of his own flock, it gives him comparative figures with all other accredited flocks of the state. Production and feed cost accounts are kept and submitted monthly to the state agricultural college, where all for the state are compiled in an interpretive form. At the end of the year, flocks which have met certain requirements in production are awarded certificates and then become generally known as reliable sources of breeding stock. The accredited flock project extends over a period of five years and only standard bred flocks, meeting certain requirements, are eligible. Increasing percentages of production are demanded each year in order for certification.

### Sunshine Needed

It has been found by experiment that direct sunlight is an absolute essential for vigorous growth, and getting the chicks outside into the sun or letting the sun into the house through an open window is a preventive of rickets and leg weakness in the small chicks.

As soon as the house becomes crowded, the culls and all the

## Backyard Farm Views on Farrington City Homestead



## Back Yard Farmers Now Active

City Dwellers Are Dusting Off Rakes and Spades; Garden Brings Big Rewards.

### Model "Farm" Is Visited

Back-yard farmers are getting in action as spring advances. Here and there one can see them scratching over the winter-ravaged plots as they clean off the ground and make ready for early seeding.

Mrs. F. J. Farrington, 2218 North Fifty-sixth street, was one of the early ones this season. Here is what she is doing with the few square rods she has dedicated to backyard farming. She raises a beautiful flower garden, has a plot devoted to vegetables, a wonderful vine and berry patch, keeps a flock of fine single comb white leghorn chickens, and raises greenhouse plants. Besides, she keeps a dairy herd, of one cow.

### Proud of Farm

"Certainly, I garden, raise flowers, poultry and manage a dairy herd," says Mrs. Farrington. "Now I don't claim to be the real thing in farming. In fact, my actual farm experiences have been confined to living on the farm during the summer."

"However, I get great pleasure out of backyard farming. Without our garden I would be lost. Just come in here and look at my little greenhouse. This is my own domain. I attend to the flower culture myself. "I have been getting ready for my outdoor planting for six weeks. See those little beds there? They contain the flowers and vegetables which will later grace that plot just saw behind the garage."

### Pleasant Work

Mrs. Farrington, in company with hundreds of other women, who live in the city, follows the outdoor work largely for the pleasure derived. However, as she explained, the flowers and vegetables are an additional source of revenue which one should not overlook. It is a real feeling of satisfaction to serve fresh vegetables raised by one's own hands. It gives a feeling of pride beyond expression to say to one's friends, "I raised these flowers myself."

### Dairy Herd

There stood a beautiful purebred Jersey cow, happily munching alfalfa hay. The bovine creature, a princess of her own society, looked at us with contented eyes. One would never have suspected her of leading a lonesome life. Yet she must at times get lonesome for she was "the dairy herd," of the Farrington array. Mrs. Farrington explained in defense of her claims as a dairy owner. "You should see the whipped cream I can prepare from that little beauty's rich milk. Just come out in June, when those straw berries over there get ripe and I'll show you what I mean."

### The Backyard

The backyard of the Farrington home is a typical American institution. It makes a real farmer's heart throb with that sympathy which is born of love for growing things. Cockerels that can be distinguished should be taken out so that the pullets will have a better chance to develop. Roosts should be provided as soon as the chicks no longer need the hover



Above: Private greenhouse on the Farrington estate, 2218 North Fifty-sixth street. Mrs. F. J. Farrington is shown at work in her little "backyard farm." Below: A snap-shot of the back lawn. Fine poultry and a real garden are part of the Farringtons' home assets.

## St. James Orphanage Boys Learn Chicken Raising



Paul Desanti (left) and Henry Colombo (right) are the two chief caretakers of the 1,100 White Leghorn hens at the St. James orphanage now. The boys get about 700 eggs daily from these hens.

By ARCH JACOBS. Few persons in Omaha know that the chicken industry is one of the largest industries in Nebraska, and few fewer realize that St. James orphanage is playing an important part in this industry.

St. James orphanage has one of the largest chicken egg laying plants in Douglas county, for Father John, director of the orphanage, who is an old time bird fancier, teaches his youngsters how to double the production. Father John uses his older boys in such work, in this case teaching the boys a business that will help them when they leave the orphanage.

The orphanage has about 1,100 White Leghorn layers now. April 1 they will get 2,000 chicks from St. James (Nebr.) at the same time disposition of the 2-year-olds. The chickens lay about 700 eggs daily, half of them being used by the

## All Standard-Bred Chicks Profitable

Care in Selecting Chickens Important as Choosing Breed Desired.

Standard-bred poultry are those which have met special requirements, typical breed and variety descriptions as prepared in the official standard of perfection which is published by the American Poultry association.

Such flocks are more uniform than common mongrels. They have been mated to reproduce true to type. The products, both eggs and table poultry, will also be uniform. The revenue gained from raising pure strains of standard breeds of poultry is increased by the sale of eggs for hatching and of breeding stock for the beginner.

No matter what breed one may select, the important thing should be to know that that breed came from standard bred flocks. It is a waste of money to keep weak, sickly run down stock. The "border chicken" is just as unprofitable as the "border cow." The foundation of a good flock of chickens costs so little in comparison with the possible return upon original investment that it seems foolish for one to start with cheap stock.

The selection of a breed is, however, not so important as selection of individuals of the breed desired. Be sure and get the right type, those which conform most nearly to the standard of perfection, when starting a flock.

## Omaha Hens Leading in National Egg-Laying Contest in Arkansas

The national egg-laying contest, which is being staged by the State Agricultural college of Arkansas, the pen entered by Ralph Peters, president of the M. C. Peters milling company, is taking the lead. The cup below was won on the first month's lap. The contest began November 1, 1924, and will end October 31, 1925.

December Record. In December, the first month of the contest, the hens raised on the Red

Five Highest Pens for December, 1924.	
Pen No.	Variety
10	S. C. Rhode Island Red
24	S. C. White Leghorns
4	S. C. White Leghorns
12	S. C. White Leghorns
1	S. C. White Leghorns

Feather poultry farm, won the trophy offered for high pen. They were



showing against many high producing classes. The Red Feather farms have S. C. Rhode Island Reds.

The detailed record of the five high pens given below shows the unusual achievement of this pen of show hens. They were the only breed, besides S. C. white leghorns to place in five highest record class.

January Good. In January the red feather hens were still holding their own in the national contest. Forty-four hens out of the total number of the contest laid 21 eggs each for January. Out of the M. C. Peters' pen of five pullets four finished with 21 eggs or better.

Breeding Plus Feeding. Ralph Peters contends that feeding and breeding go hand in hand, one just as important as the other. "I believe we are demonstrating, out on our farm, that the breed of hens commonly known as dual purpose, can be selected and handled so that they will hold their own with the best of them. "I have taken great pride in my show hens and expect to demonstrate that, scientific management coupled with intelligent breeding will build up a strain of producing hens which will also go out and win in the fancier classes. The hens that finish the contest will be given pedigrees by the national association. This special honor or being won by the Omaha hens is all more remarkable when one considers that the hens have been showing under a foreign climate and under conditions different from their home environment.

## Flowers, Small Fruits, Poultry and "Green" Talk

By C. H. B. Have a hedge around your lawn or garden. Spiroa Van Houttei (bridal wreath) makes a splendid, graceful drooping spray which will break forth with beautiful white flowers. It is one of the queens of shrubdom. Make it into a screen and enjoy the delightful aspect its beauty adds to your backyard farm.

Remember the annuals need reinforcement. In planning your garden beautiful, think in terms of home building rather than in original outlay of dollars and cents. A plain, unplanned riot of flowers will not satisfy the real garden fan. Permanent designs can be worked out by starting the perennials this spring.

Do the work yourself and gain an additional source of pleasure from the garden. Get the kiddies out there during the long spring and summer evenings. They will be delighted to have a share in building your backyard farm. The boys will swing a hoe over a patch of strawberries if the final goal is to be a dish of big, luscious berries dashed under with a spray of whipped cream.

The berry patch should receive attention now. Watch the mulch, clean off all old dead grass and refuse just as soon as the weather will permit. Berries and vines can be propagated upon the same plot. Lay-out your little vineyard with the berry patch as a border effect.

Your backyard poultry project should be more than a fad. Select proper laying feeds, keep in touch with the latest scientific information about baby chick culture. Science is making baby chick raising a wonderful industry.

"Greens," remember how we used to go out in the deep wood and pick lamb-quarter, mustard, crowfoot and other varieties of wild greens? That is unromantic now. We go out in the backyard and select chard, the Swiss variety. Or perhaps it is spinach. Lettuce grows quickly and is very hardy. Don't forget the rare varieties when planting the "greens."

Kale is one of the early varieties of plants which can be utilized for green diet. It grows rapidly and has a flavor similar to cabbage. Plant along with some later maturing kinds, thus making a perpetual source for the summer cook.

The old standby vegetables, radish, cabbage, tomatoes and potatoes, should be planted in relays. Start a small plot for early use just as soon as the last blizzard goes over the hill. Then later relay another plot for late summer use.

Why the Whiskers? That is the theme of a new film produced by the United States Department of Agriculture, upon the subject of strawberry culture. The film stresses the importance of handling the berries properly, careful picking and crating. It claims that the berries should be picked early in the day. Infection from black mold is due largely to bruises and cuts on the berries, and the growth of the mold is much more rapid in warm air than in cold, declare the subtitles on the film.

Nicotiana affinis is a near relative of the tobacco plant. It has large white flowers of pleasing fragrance and is easily grown. The plants can be taken up in the summer and potted for the window garden.

## College Cow Sets Milk Record



The college of agriculture, University of Illinois, is proudly displaying Fiebe Bonheur, a purebred Holstein developed by the college, as an example of what scientific methods can accomplish. Fiebe has just set a new state record in milk and butterfat production for junior 2-year-olds of all breeds, by producing 20,309 pounds of milk and 712 pounds of butterfat in a year.

## WORLD CHAMPION WHITE WYANDOTTE

In a recent 45-day test, a pure White Wyandotte hen owned by Fowler Bros. of England, laid 321 eggs. This is almost a perfect record. It is the world's record to date, and the record is all the more remarkable when considered from a utility standpoint for it is said that the hen represents the best type of all around poultry requirements.

There are two types of Wyandottes, one the long, clean, leggy and narrow-bodied kind; the other is mottled upon a pattern of depth and cobby conformation. The world's champion is of the latter type. Writers describing her say, "the legs are strong and well placed. The tail is tight and short, not the kind admired by fanciers; her eyes are large and bright, as large as a she button. Her breast is deep, full and wide, well balanced upon a large abdomen."

Fanciers are looking for body capacity, with large-intestinal digestive possibilities. The Wyandotte should have a broad body, with legs well apart, and should show plenty of constitution for utility work.

## More EGGS

THIS system of feeding has been worked out from results obtained through experimental work on our own poultry farm.

REDEATHER LAYING MASH WITH BUTTERMILK is an easily fed, scientific, economical mash feed for summer use. Rich in digestible animal, milk and vegetable proteins it supplies each hen with materials that produce blood, bone, muscle, skin and feathers. It is so clean and wholesome that the hens will eat every particle, which means further economy through absence of waste. Feed it regularly in open mash hoppers, cut down the amount of grain you are feeding one-half, and you will have a healthy, efficient flock that will more than pay for your feed bills and be in splendid health.

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