

# WOMEN WHO MAKE POULTRY PAY

## BY EDWARD I. FARRINGTON

### ILLUSTRATIONS FROM PHOTOGRAPHS

Holds and places the screw  
Releases Automatically



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**T**HE TWO FIRST chickens my wife hatched," says L. K. Feleh, nestor of poultry judges, "she kept in a bird cage." Imagine a man going to that trouble! Yet, Mrs. Feleh was well rewarded; one of the chickens sold later for one hundred dollars and the other for ten dollars. They came of aristocratic stock.

Women are fitted to excel as poultry keepers, because they are patient, enthusiastic, less scornful of details than most men, gentle and devoted. Many a well-known fancier has his wife to thank for much of his success. And some of them will even admit the fact.

If American poultry women have been kept in the background, they are now fast coming to the front. There are women judges even, like Mrs. S. H. Graves of Massachusetts, who has traveled all up and down the Atlantic coast to attend the big shows. Mrs. Graves has been exhibiting for years and has enough blue ribbons in her parlor to make a generously-proportioned bed quilt.

In the South—at Meridian, Miss.—there is a woman's college where poultry keeping is studied scientifically. The plant has a 120-foot breeding house, a modern brooder, an incubator cellar with twenty machines, and numerous colony houses. Leghorns and Orpingtons are the breeds kept, and there is also a large flock of Indian Runner ducks. The best birds are entered at the shows and have a long list of prizes to their credit. The young women in the college come from well-to-do families all over the country, and it is safe to say that many of them, when they go back home, will not lose their interest in, and admiration for,

twenty-five birds of the show type as with three hundred common hens; so that the cost of buildings, equipment and feed will be correspondingly less, and offset the foundation stock's higher cost.

When it comes to keeping hens for eggs, women are thoroughly at home. Many a hard-pressed farmer has breathed a sigh of relief when his thrifty helpmate has produced her egg money. And more than once a few hundred hens have made it possible for a woman thrown upon her own resources to live comfortably and well. There is Miss Eva Storer, down in Maine, who has bought and paid for a farm in a comparatively few years, and whose mainstay is her poultry. There is Mrs. Andrew Brooks of Auburn, N. Y., not at all the kind of woman one thinks of as living on and operating a farm, but who is known to have made \$1,100 out of market stock in one season. She began in a small way, urged on by the need of money; she gradually built up a fine flock of fowls, then added Indian Runner ducks—the English penciled kind, wonderful layers—commenced to advertise modestly, and presently found herself at the head of an enterprise that many a man might envy.

"I am going back to the farm," said a young Ohio woman to her office companions a few years ago. And back Miss Elsie Chisholm went. But not without a plan. First, she aroused her father's interest sufficiently to permit her making an experiment in poultry raising. Then she went methodically to work, with the result that in a few years a handsome flock of five hundred White Leghorns had been built up and her stock was becoming known far and wide.

Several years ago Mrs. A. Basley moved to California from one of the states farther east—it is remarkable how many eastern poultry keepers finally migrate to the golden west—and established a poultry plant which won her fame among people chickenly inclined all up and down the coast.

Poultry women were strong in the great international egg-laying contest held during the past year at the Connecticut Agricultural College. One of them, Mrs. Harris Lehman of Midway, Ky., is being talked about wherever poultry breeders congregate, for she owns the

hen which laid two hundred and fifty-four eggs in the course of the year—the high score. Mrs. Lehman also had the second best pen of Single Comb Rhode Island Reds. Another woman whose record is one to boast about is Mrs. Mary Norris Walden, a Maryland breeder whose pen of Barred Plymouth Rocks stood at the head of that famous breed.

Miss Susie Abbott, whose White Leghorns averaged one hundred and eighty-seven eggs for each hen, has been placed on the high road to prosperity by this contest. She can not begin to supply the demand for hatching eggs, day-old chicks, pullets and cockerels of her strain, which had been practically unknown before. It is only necessary to get a reputation, you see, whether one be selling hens or automobiles.

Poultry women alive to their possibilities have discovered a new way of making money, although the men awoke to it first. When a chick is hatched, it contains in its little body the yolk of the egg in which it was imprisoned, and this yolk will supply all the nourishment needed for as long as fifty-six hours. That being the case, it becomes a simple matter to enclose the youngster in a corrugated pasteboard box, along with a dozen of his little brothers and sisters, and to ship him a hundred miles, more or less, to some poultryman or woman who wishes to avoid hatching troubles. This business of shipping day-old chicks has developed wonderfully during the past few years. Small poultry keepers have fairly tumbled over each other to get their orders in first. Mammoth incubators, capable of hatching thousands of chicks at a time, are going up all over the country. Why should n't a woman find profit in this line of work? She can operate an incubator as well or better than a man, and it is by no means necessary to have a machine of mammoth size. An equipment making it possible to hatch out two or three thousand chickens in the course of a season will be sufficient to add several figures to her bank account. Of course, she will need to become thoroughly familiar with artificial hatching before she attempts to work on a large scale.

"Ask me," said an expert, "why so many people fail as commercial poultry keepers, and I will give my candid answer; it is because they try to run—to say nothing of trying to walk—before they have learned to creep." Perhaps fewer women than men actually fail, but the experiences of some women have been pathetically unfortunate.



A woman fancier with buckeye rooster



A poultry house built by two sisters with their own hands

standard-bred poultry. There are great possibilities for women in poultry keeping—greater now than ever before. But success is not to be won without honest effort, and some women who take up the business are bound to fail. It is necessary at the start to get rid of all embarrassing kid-glove tendencies. The poultry woman is obliged to do things which might not be considered exactly "nice." The dropping boards must be cleaned; unrelenting war must be waged on lice, and perhaps on rats and mice.

The biggest rewards come to the women who are able to breed and to sell fancy fowls. Yet, several years of experience are necessary before any woman can hope to breed birds that will win prizes and sell at from five to five hundred dollars. Also, it is essential to have first-class stock with which to make a start. It may seem almost sinful to pay fifty or a hundred dollars for a trio of birds, but such a beginning may lead to an annual income of many hundred dollars. On the other hand, the money may be as good as thrown away.

Actually, the investment need not be much greater when a woman breeds fancy poultry than when she goes in for utility stock. As much money can be made with



A flock of geese being fattened for market

Your risk is small—the advertiser's great.