

# WOMEN AS MANAGERS OF POULTRY FARMS

By MRS. B.F. WILCOXON

**T**HE successful management of a poultry farm depends primarily upon the natural taste for the business sufficient to embrace a love for as well as an interest in fowls. The woman who succeeds must have a capacity to manage details—ability to direct hired help if such is necessary.

She must have power to understand the market and good judgment in regard to the merits of the different breeds. There are many notable examples of women who have succeeded with poultry raising. I know many who are good fanciers, many good commercial poultry raisers and they are all energetic. They know how to push aside the difficulties that arise in the poultry business.

During a trip I once took I visited a real poultry farm where a woman was hired on a monthly salary for taking charge and performing all the labor connected with the farm. I know many who have large turkey farms, many own large duck farms. Ducks have come to stay and the breeder who gives them special attention will realize a good profit from them. There are great possibilities in store for duck raisers.

Poultry farming is a hobby of mine. I know it to be one of the healthiest outdoor occupations that women can enter. Women perhaps need hobbies even more than men do; their lives are more circumscribed. Woman is often held at home by a thousand ties which she would not loosen if she could and could not if she would. Let her have a hobby, then, which will direct her thoughts from her small cares.

Some time ago a man said to me, "Chicken raising is nothing but a fad." Even so; it does one good to have a hobby to ride if they only get there. It will pay to ride a safe hobby and there is nothing more profitable than the "fancy fowl fad."

Did you ever attend a poultry show and notice how many exhibitors there are? There is just as good a chance for a woman to win a prize on her poultry as men. It's simply a matter of knowing how.

A great many women when they want to increase their income just add to the number of their flock, and if you want to sell out your stock you can do so any time of the year. The hungry public buys our poultry products greedily and at any time.

A great many have a taste for country life and natural capacity for the management of a farm; with poultry raising the raising of fruit can be combined profitably. Who is adapted? The woman who may become a good manager of a household has the qualities which insure success as poultry raisers and women would not be poultry raisers if they did not have a strong taste in that direction.

If she is endowed with that taste all else follows naturally. If we care for poultry we like to see it and this trains the eye to recognize types and to estimate a correct value from it; it enables one to detect the conditions which in the beginning may make the difference between success and failure.

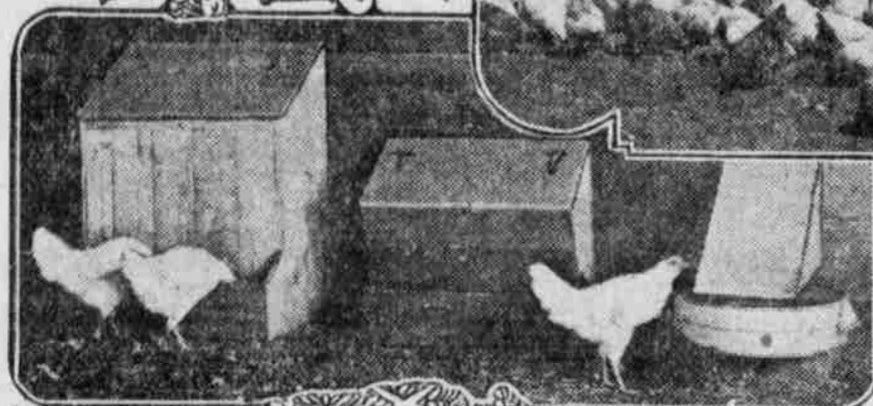
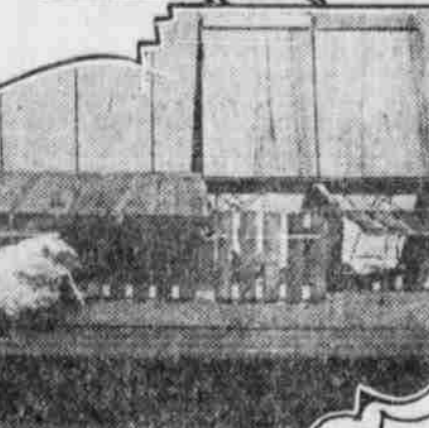
A prime requisite with poultry is that it be kept. The sympathetic nature in woman leads her to provide for comfort. Her care for appearance has real value in the market, which is the final test of her ability to produce. It is in this place where we differ from women in all other callings. We are not handicapped by our sex.

We have never had a discount proposed because poultry was owned by women, while on the other hand, no matter how well we teach, clerk, etc., we find an inevitable discrimination against us in the pay offered our ability in those lines.

Poultry farming affords a profitable outlet for intelligence and energy with independence. If we are fitted for this work we will find a perpetual charm in poultry farming. It also gives us an opportunity to maintain a home where others may find refuge. There is no monotony in such a life. We have the poultry papers, the fairs and shows—these keep the mind alert and the interests engaged.

The woman engaged in it finds the business of poultry raising projected on such a generous scale that she has no fear of others in the same business. Then, too, the poultry farmer is her own boss. Poultry farming has many features which would appeal to woman. She is mistress of the situation. The business is hers.

Don't be an amateur in the work. Spend all your ability in becoming a professional. If the woman who half starve trying to teach, clerk, etc., would only employ their time raising poultry for the market they would make fortunes. If nine-tenths of the actresses would put as much time and study on the characteristics of a hen as they do studying Lady Macbeth



A Fine Flock of Plymouth Rocks—Some Young Ducklings—Trap Nests—Simple Feeding and Drinking Devices—White Wyandottes.

they would be walking on velvet instead of beating the hard pavement looking for a job.

If nature intended you to do this work, do it. A successful foundation with poultry is first made by going into details in regard to the little things that in the beginning seem to be so insignificant.

Women have greater aptitude than men. The present-day farmer is the man of the hour (man or woman), who has already made a success in cattle and hog raising. You will not find a practical farmer who has already made a success, fail if he or she undertakes poultry. Why? Because they go about it on businesslike principles with no thought of failure.

There is nothing about poultry farming but what can be learned by any bright woman and there is no part of the work woman cannot do if she is so minded. I see women in poor health reaping a good harvest both physically and financially in the poultry business, and I wonder why more women do not indulge in this health-giving business. Often women are left companionless on the farm. Why not try poultry raising instead of moving to the city to find something to do to eke out a mere existence?

They write me, "What branch of the poultry business shall I take up?" You will have to decide for yourself; as so much depends upon the location, the demand, the market, etc.

Business methods will pay. Profit or loss can be known only by good bookkeeping. We cannot overestimate the importance of keeping records of our hens. Upon these records depends the success or failure of our business. Under present conditions with the increased cost of everything which enters into the production of a dozen eggs comes the necessity for the application of stricter methods of economy and a closer attention to every detail.

We must get out of the old ruts and open an account with the hens, giving them credit for what they produce and charging them with what they consume.

But some one says, "That is too much work! We cannot afford to spend the time keeping these accounts!" I dare say some of you will find some surprises awaiting you when you begin keeping an account

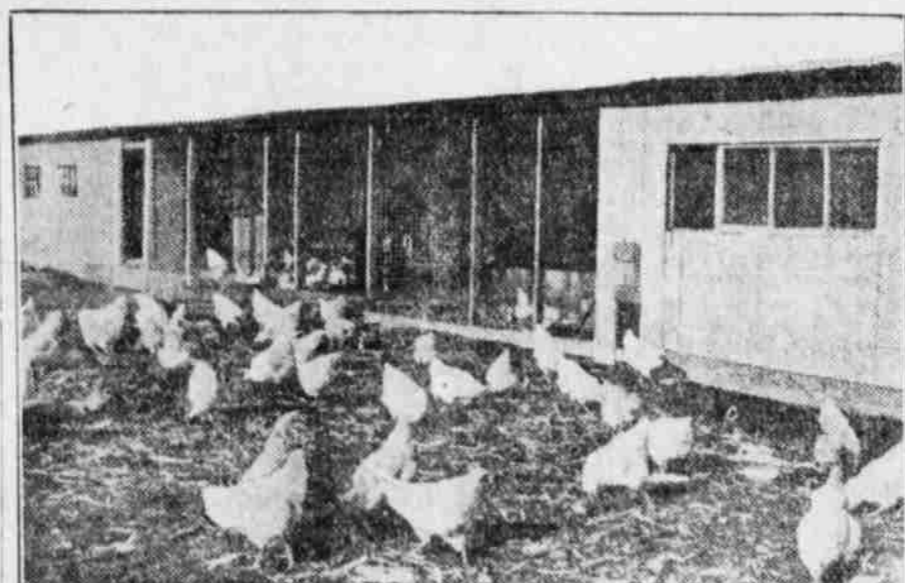
of your flock. The hen owner has, by the use of the trap nest, determined the egg production ability of the hens and has taken the first step in discovering the difference between a profitable hen and an unprofitable one.

The question often arises "What is a profitable hen?" The only direct answer must of necessity be a general one. A profitable hen may be defined as one that will produce enough

to pay for feed, care, interest on the necessary investments and some profit besides. The cost of keeping a hen will vary according to locality and cost of feed and labor.

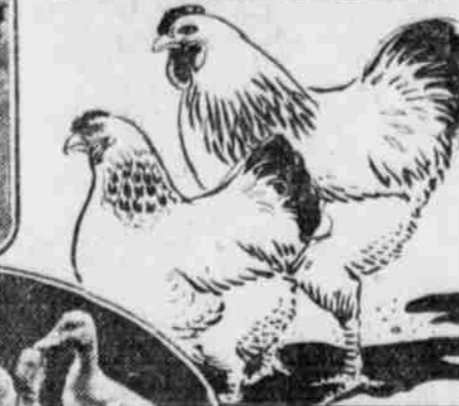
In a great many localities the laying hen is receiving her share of attention. For a great many years in the past she has been a side issue. Very few have realized the importance of the laying hen and the prominent position she is filling in the agricultural affairs of the United States.

With the land increasing in value rapidly the farmer is now beginning to wonder how he can make the greatest amount of profit and interest on the amount invested. By this I do not advocate the farmer turning his entire attention to poultry, but just a hint to the farmers' wives and



A Fine Healthy Flock of White Wyandottes.

Vacation of English Judge. The judges who are to have their holidays curtailed may look back with a sigh to the good old times of a century ago. The four law terms into which the year was divided lasted only a few weeks each, while the long vacation was of three months' duration. Then there were a liberal number of royal birthdays and saints' days which furnished an excuse for a holiday. But against this the courts opened punctually at 10 every morn-



Mrs. Wilcoxon and Her Flock of Chickens.

daughters who have to go away from home to find something profitable to do for spending money.

You can more than earn spending money at home by raising poultry with 300 hens, the profits from which would assure you a larger income than the factory hand and not so many hours' work per day and this mostly in the open air. You would be in no danger of "losing your job," for the hens are capable of producing from 200 to 250 eggs per each year.

Good, pure-bred stock is one of the features for the most rapid improvement. Too many do not give enough thought to the breeding side, and even the matter of production receives but little attention. On undertaking any enterprise in whatever line it is extremely necessary to consider if what we are doing is to result in success.

First, determine the breed desired. I would strongly urge the necessity of choosing at the outset one of the best breeds and sticking to it. If rightly managed a flock of 300 hens will bring in not less than \$500 a year. I have read of some making \$500 with only six hens and a cockerel. These persons receive fancy prices for their products. I am just talking about the ordinary prices that the majority of farmers obtain.

Let me tell you that this cannot be done with scrub stock. This is where the mongrel fails and the pure-bred wins. A farm full of laying hens is a great help because they are a daily cash income.

About the first step to make is to go right out to the hen house. Don't figure on paper. Sit right down among them and see if you can find wherein you can make improvements for this season's work.

You can make money with poultry if you love the chickens and start out with the intention that you are going to make a living at the business and if you are not afraid to work and will apply yourselves to the task of looking after and caring for the fowls.



A Fine Healthy Flock of White Wyandottes.

ing, and never took a half holiday on Saturday, and sat after dinner, some times well into the night—a remarkable feat when we remember that lawyers of the period were nearly all "three or six bottle men."—London Chronicle.

Firmness of Purpose. Firmness of purpose is one of the most necessary sinews of character and one of the best instruments of success.—Chesterfield.

## POULTRY FACTS

TELLING THE SEX OF GEES

Not Easy Matter to Make Distinction in Toulouse Variety as Birds Are All of Same Color.

It is not an easy thing to distinguish the sex of geese, especially of the Toulouse variety. Both sexes are the same in color, but in this variety the male or gander is somewhat larger, has a larger head, longer neck, and carries himself more erect.

The voice of the female is coarser than that of the male, a point that is relied upon quite generally by experienced growers of these fowls.

Gilbert says there is an embarrassing likeness between the gander and the goose, and out of the breeding



Toulouse Geese.

season it is not easy at first to distinguish between them, while the young goslings long baffle conjecture as to their sex.

Yet certain distinctions gradually manifest themselves, as for instance, the noise, the gander's hiss, being more shrill and sibilant than the goose's.

Newman says that when six or seven months of age, or at maturity, the ganders can be told from the geese by observation. In most cases the male grows somewhat larger than the female.

The goose is deeper in the body, a trifle slimmer in the neck, and smaller in the neck. The call of the gander is loud, long and shrill, while that of the goose is merely an answer to it.

There is a curious plan to determine sex adopted in Cambridgeshire, England. All the geese are shut in a stable or a pig-sty. A small dog is then put in. It is said the geese will all lift up their heads and go to the back of the place, while the ganders will lower and stretch out their necks, hissing all the time.

Gilbert refers to the same method, saying the ganders will put their heads down at the dog and hiss, while the geese will keep their heads up and try to avoid the intruder.

## POULTRY NOTES

Work for a reputation.

The fresher the eggs for hatching the better will be the hatch.

Are the quarters provided for the chickens clean and sanitary?

A well ventilated cellar is the best place to operate the incubator.

Sprout your light oats for green food. The hens like them best that way.

If several hens are set in one room it is desirable to confine them in good nests.

Too many people, especially novices, think it essential to build costly poultry houses.

For fattening old or young chickens, nothing beats a wet mash of corn meal and milk.

The best results in natural hatching will be obtained when the hens are set on the ground.

Don't forget to hatch a few hen eggs under hens. They will make big, vigorous breeders when mature.

Free range chickens are never so tender for roasting as those with limited range and fed on pure feed.

All eggs should be tested by the seventh day, which often makes it possible to reset some of the hens.

Keep a chronic setting hen from feeling any warmth under her body and you will break her of the habit.

The humble hen is a big factor in the profits of the farm, but she needs attention just as much as anything else.

The best place for the incubator is the one where the temperature is most nearly uniform from day to day, under natural conditions.

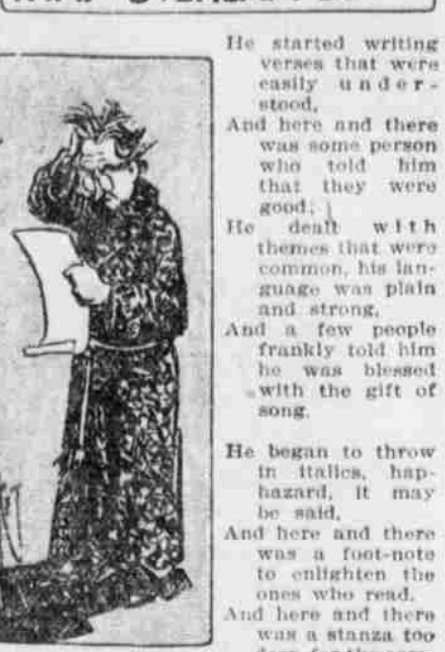
Be mighty careful to see that your setting hen is not overrun with lice in producing louse-free chicks the incubator certainly has it on the hen.

It is always the hen that lays the most eggs that produces the most chicks. In breeders, high fertility is more to be desired than high production.

## The ONLOOKER

HENRY HOWLAND

### THE MIND THAT OVERLAPPED



He started writing verses that were easily understood, and here and there was some person who told him that they were good.

He died with themes that were common, his language was plain and strong, and a few people frankly told him he was blessed with the gift of song.

He began to throw in italics, hap-hazard, it may be said, and here and there was a foot-note to enlighten the ones who read, and here and there was a stanza too deep for the com-

mon kind; The people began to marvel at the mightiness of his mind.

He dropped the common, adopting an allegorical style, and the critics had to interpret his meaning, after a while, and the people were filled with wonder, not understanding a bit, and the poet had fame and riches and fancied that he was it.

His meaning got deeper and deeper, till even the critics themselves were stumped if they read without taking their reference books from the shelves, and his glory kept crowding and spreading, he was hailed as a prophet, indeed; Whenever he wrote a new poem six nations stopped working to read.

Thus, filled with thoughts of his greatness and scorning the simple ways, He wound and criss-crossed and doubled in a metaphorical maze,

Till, clutching his brow, he read slowly his latest, and said with a sigh: "It's so deep that I can't understand it—my God, what a wonder am I!"

Won in Spite of Himself. "Why is it," he asked, "that the prettiest girls generally marry homely men?"

"Do they?" she replied. "I haven't any idea of ever marrying a homely man, that is, as long as you and I—oh, dear, what am I saying? I mean that I wouldn't care for you if you were homely, and—and—I'm so foolish I—let's talk of something else, please, won't you?"

Being a game young man, however, he spoke right out then and succeeded in persuading her to be his.

IN POSITION TO GET FACTS.

"I think," said the poet, "that I shall turn my attention to sociology. It seems to me that a great book might be written on how the poor live."

"Well," his wife said, with a heart-felt sigh, "if such a thing can be done you ought to be able to do it. But I almost hate to think of your biography going out in that form, after the high hopes we've had."

Why He Was Late. "Ah," she cried, pointing an accusing finger at him, as he got home shortly after eleven o'clock, "You forgot that this is the anniversary of our wedding! Don't tell me that you didn't! You wouldn't be getting home at this time of night if you hadn't let it pass clean out of your memory."

"You wrong me, Margaret; honest you do. I remembered it just well as I ever remember anything in my life. Honest. That's reason 'm late. I b'n out tryin' fr'get it. Honest."

The Fitness of Things. He started as a milkman, in quite a modest way; By using water freely He made the venture pay. Becoming a great waggoner, He kept on as before; By making use of water He added to his store. At last the doctors gathered: "Poor man, he died of water Upon the brain," they said.

In After Years. "You told me once," she pensively said when they met in after years, he being a widower and she a widow, "that you never could learn to be happy without me."

"I know it," he replied, "in those days there was an adage that I had not tested."

"What was it?" "Live and learn."

Safe. "Don't you ever get to feeling nervous for fear your husband may fall in love with his typewriter lady?" "Oh, no; not at all. She's my motor."

Evidently Not. "It is said that Japanese babies never cry." "Is that so? What's the matter—don't they use pins over there?"