

Poultry

In beginning the poultry venture at this season of the year it is advisable to purchase either yearling hens or well matured pullets, the pullets being preferable if you can get them. Good pullets that are well developed should begin laying soon and continue through the winter and spring season, while yearling hens, though good, are not so dependable. It is the general rule that fowls lay more eggs in the pullet year than at any time thereafter.

At what age should pullets begin laying? It is commonly acknowledged that Leghorn pullets on the average will begin laying at the age of 5 to 5½ months, Wyandotte and Rhode Island Reds at 6 to 6½ months and Plymouth Rocks around 7 months. Of course, there are exceptions where better records of early laying are made. Much depends upon the care and attention given them during the months of growth and development. If properly fed and housed, they should be in a laying condition at the age mentioned above.

Seasonable Pointers.
If you want winter eggs, house the birds in their winter quarters now. Don't crowd them. Crowding is a very common mistake. Better to allow more than enough space than too little. Four square feet per bird is the least I would figure on. When you get below that you are at the danger point.
Do not permit sleeping on the floor, particularly on cold, frosty nights. Young stock housed with old stock will be less liable to take to roosting, as they are shy in the presence of older birds. By all means house the young stock separately.

Be sure that the litter is dry and that it is changed at the first sign of dampness. Feed scratch feed in a deep litter that is always fresh and clean, allowing about a quart per dozen birds. Keep a good dry mash feed that contains the full 10 per cent of animal protein either in the form of meat scraps, fish scraps, dried milk or dried buttermilk before the birds all the time. Secure a dry mash hopper for this purpose from your local poultry supply dealer and you will save its cost many times over in the avoidance of feed waste. Fowls require plenty of green food at this season.

At this time of the year look out for colds in the flock. You can easily locate this condition as the first signs are very noticeable—sneezing, sticky or watery discharge from the eyes and nostrils or bubbles in the corners of the eyes. When evidence of this kind appears remove the bird or birds thus affected at once, keep them separate from the rest of the flock and disinfect the poultry house frequently and thoroughly. There are a number of reliable cold remedies on the market which will relieve this condition if quick action is taken.

Second Big Essential.
The second of the three big essentials is proper housing. When there is a greater satisfaction in providing a house, the outward appearance of which is attractive to the eye, yet in so far as practicability goes, outward appearance from the artistic standpoint, counts for nothing. To house

fowls in clean, wholesome quarters, well ventilated and dry, with plenty of fresh air and sunshine and space enough for comfort, is the important factor and this can be done whether or not the house is beautiful to look upon. A piano box, old shed or barn, if properly arranged, will fill the bill in this respect; a good coat of two or three coats of paint and outward appearances will not be so bad at that.

Local conditions should control your decision as to the best site for the house. It is advisable, however, to face it south or southeast, as this insures the greatest amount of sunlight during the winter. There are times when exceptions to this rule must be made owing to surrounding influences and slope of land and condition of soil, etc. The ground upon which the house is located should have good drainage so that the floor and runway will be dry and free from dampness. It would be a mistake to build the house in a hollow where cold air settles, as dampness will imperil the health of the strongest and most vigorous flock. Bear in mind this question of house location. It is extremely important and much depends upon your own good judgment. When you come right down to it, poultry raising is as much a matter of common sense as it is law. Make sure you are right at the very beginning and you will save yourself much needless worry and trouble. Where ground space is limited, the house may be raised high enough from the ground to allow of a runway underneath. It is not necessary that the birds have free range or large yards. I know of one big breeder and a very successful one, too, who does not consider yards or runs necessary for growing fowls. This breeder has no runways in connection with the laying houses and results are fully as satisfactory, if not more so, as when yards were provided.

Types of Houses.
There are various types of poultry houses, which though entirely different, seem to give equally good results. The open front house, however, is perhaps the most generally used of all. In later issues I will discuss some of the different plans of house construction in detail.

Many beginners solve the poultry house problem by purchasing the ready built portable poultry houses. There are numerous manufacturers of these houses in sizes particularly adapted to the back-lotter, and insofar as I know, they are entirely satisfactory. I have never received any advice regarding them, and I have used the ready built portable myself with very gratifying results. (Copyright, 1920, by Earl M. Whitney.)

Aircraft Demonstrate Ability to Bomb Vessels
Washington, Oct. 17.—Ability of aircraft to hit battleships with bombs has been amply demonstrated in experiments just concluded with the old battleship Indiana. Naval officials declared a high percentage of hits had been registered from the air on the deck of the ship, anchored in Chesapeake bay.

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By PAUL GREER

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"All other things being equal, people will trade with their friends rather than with strangers or people who have no interest in them," says William Stull, who has built success for himself on that principle. It is his firm belief that the more Omaha does for its neighbors in Nebraska, the better it will prosper.

With that in mind he has urged greater effort on the part of the business interests of the city to push the project for a ship canal from the Great Lakes to the sea as a development that will benefit every part of the middle west. Butter, eggs, grain and all the various products that Nebraska and its neighbors have for export to Europe can then be sent at lower freight rates, the car shortage will cease to menace, and European products can be brought in return right to our doors.

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It's all right to blow your own horn, but you must be able to produce the goods to back up the noise. That's Omaha, all over. It is spreading its market territory in all directions through its combination of friendship and substantial values. The recent automobile trade trip of the Chamber of Commerce took a large delegation of Omaha business men into southwest Iowa and northwest Missouri. Those are districts just as near Kansas City as they are near Omaha. It is in places like these that friendship counts.

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Omaha can give at least just as good service, and just as low prices as Kansas City, and these things being equal, the people there will trade with whichever place gets nearest their hearts.

The enthusiastic reception given the trade tourists in such places as Malvern and Banchard and Maryville showed that the friendly overtures of Omaha were going to be met halfway.

One thinks of Nebraska as the natural market of Omaha goods, and yet Robert L. Trimble, president of the Chamber of Commerce, said that this trade trip into Iowa and Missouri was one of the most successful that had ever been conducted.

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There is a double value in these excursions. Not only is the name of Omaha and its willingness to accommodate advertised, but the business men learn from first hand the peculiar needs and desires of their outside customers. Next summer there will be more of these adventures in getting acquainted, to the mutual profit of Omaha and its customers.

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Omaha is a good town. It has something to advertise. Out on that trip one of the country merchants who greeted the tourists told a story to illustrate the spirit that drives this city on to success.

A newcomer to heaven was amazed, so the story goes, to see a large iron cage in which several other new arrivals were confined.

"What is this," he inquired, "do you have criminals up here?"

"Oh, no," was the explanation, "those are people that have just come from Omaha, and they are determined to go back."

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