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CARE OF HENS DURING MOLT

How to avoid unnecessary loss of egg production during the molt is a vital problem with poultry raisers. Many progressive poultrymen make a practice of culling during this period. Some hens lose nearly all their feathers at one time, while others molt gradually. Hens in the same flock exhibit every state of condition.

During the feather growing period the fowls are apt to be feverish, nervous, irritable and restless. The stronger individuals impose upon the weak. It is suggested, therefore, that aside from humanitarian considerations, separation pays.

The hens may be graded as follows: (Grade 1) Hens showing little or no signs of moulting and having red combs. These may be kept in their usual quarters and need not be disturbed. (Grade 2) Hens which have red combs, but which are well started in the molt. They should be culled out at night, as quietly as possible, to avoid disturbing the others. (Grade 3) Hens very ragged with molt and showing pale, wilted combs.

The latter class is apt to display a falling off in appetite and should be coaxed to eat by means of a moist mash, fed several times daily. Green feed is very essential for moulting hens. Alfalfa, barley, Swiss chard, Chinese cabbage, kale and stock beets are relished.

Warm quarters, free from drafts but well ventilated, with a dark corner in which the birds may huddle at will, are suggested by one breeder. Free range, rest and quiet also are valuable considerations.

All these precautions are merely humanitarian, but they also represent "good business."

SELECTING BREEDING HENS

The observing poultryman should be quiet well acquainted with the characteristics of a hen after she has laid for 12 months, and should know whether her kind is worth reproduction. And when a hen has been used as a breeder and the progress of her offspring studied until the next season, her real worth should be apparent.

The hens should be examined often; it is easy to handle them at night by lantern or electric light. The breast of a breeding hen should be plump and firm, but the abdomen must be soft and pliable. Thickening or hardening of the abdomen shows accumulation of internal fat. This also will be indicated by accumulated fat on the pelvic bones. Early discovery of this tendency is necessary for once it is established the remedy is difficult.

If a hen's abdomen hangs down lower than the rear end of the keel (breast bone) it is best to discard her from the breeders, as this indicates a vital weakness of the ovarian or reproductive system. There is little danger of a pullet accumulating excess fat until after her first year, when the danger grows with age. Excessive internal fat retards laying, interferes with fertility and is one of the causes of chicks dying in the shell; it often causes the death of hens in hot weather.

Hens chosen for breeders should be leg banded and given special care and feeding during the moulting period.

TURKEY POINTERS

Success in turkey raising requires patience, watchful care and "mothering" of the young turkeys. They must be kept warm and dry, the latter requirement being very important.

Young turkeys must have plenty of green feed. After they are three days old start feeding them green stuff cut in small pieces or tender leaf blades with their regular ration of either hard-boiled eggs, bread and milk, bread crumbs or corn-bread and buttermilk. Never give young turkeys old alfalfa cut up, for a post mortem will reveal fiber in the gizzard as the cause of their early death.

Be sure to provide fresh water daily, as well as shell, charcoal, grit and bone meal. A dish of bone meal should be kept where they can pick at it as they wish, for it will help to make the strong frame necessary for subsequent growth. It is not wise, however, to leave nothing but bone meal before them, as they will fill up on it, indigestion resulting.

A little mash is good for young turkeys; it is necessary that they have something bulky, but green stuff is preferable. Too much mash sours in the crop. A small portion of fine grain should be fed to them after they have had green feed. However, they should never be allowed all the grain they can eat.

MEXICANS HEAVY LOSERS

Foreign claims filed with the Mexican Government for losses suffered during the revolution total \$111,000,000. Claims were presented by five thousand individuals.

EXPRESS COMPANY HELPS IN EUROPEAN RELIEF AID

Among the numerous agencies throughout the country co-operating with Herbert Hoover, chairman of the European Relief Council, in his effort to raise \$33,000,000 by means of a national collection for the relief of incipient starvation among 13,000,000 children in war-stricken countries of Central and Eastern Europe are the American Express Company and the American Railway Express Company.

Through the authorization of G. C. Taylor, president of both organizations, "Invisible Guest" certificates, certifying that the purchaser has salvaged the life of one or more of the little war victims have been placed on sale at 25,000 of the company's offices throughout the United States. The cost of saving one child until the acute condition has been relieved by the next European harvest is \$10.00, but donations of smaller sums are welcome, and a contribution of only \$1.00, under the economical administration of the council will keep life in a little body for a month.

"Invisible Guest" certificates which can be purchased for any amount from \$1.00 up, are on sale at the Torrance office of the American Railway Express Company—C. H. Mueller, Agent.

NEGRO BANK OPENS

A Negro State Bank, the first of its kind in the state, was recently opened in Chicago. The bank is operated for and by Negroes and has a capital and surplus of \$125,000.

SEND CORN TO EUROPE

The farmers of America, through the American Farm Bureau Federation, declare they are willing to furnish 25,000,000 bushels of corn to the starving of China and Europe if the railroads, milling and corn products interests and others will transport it to the famine victims.

FIND BOOZE IN BULLRUSHES

German scientists have discovered that the roots of the ordinary bullrush contain as high as 30 per cent of cane sugar. Secondary processes yield alcohol and a nutritive cattle food.

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