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Chestertown, - - - Maryland

P. S.—Michigan Cars are making the route.

Poultry Notes.

Written for KENT NEWS by Kent County Poultryman.

CARE OF YOUNG CHICKS.

(Continued from last week.)

Little chicks should not be fed for at least 48 hours after they are hatched and are better off if they get nothing but water and a little grit until they are full three days old. About the best thing for the first feed is the clear eggs tested out on the 7th day boiled hard and then ground up fine, shell and all.

Little chicks should be fed small quantities every two hours for the first week and it is better if they get no grain feed at all or at most one meal a day during this period.

A mixture of ground oats 6 lbs, corn meal 3 lbs, bran 3 lbs., red dog flour 2 lbs, middlings 2 lbs, gluben meal 3 lbs, beet scrap 5 lbs, moistened with warm water is probably as good a feed as you can use; this should be mixed fresh every meal using as little water as possible and feed on a clean board.

After the first week you can gradually reduce the number of feedings until at four weeks old you feed only three times a day; morning and noon using the mash and at night a good commercial chick food. At from 5 to 6 weeks old you can feed the grain food morning and night and leave the mash in a dry state in an automatic hopper before them all the time. Be sure that they have grit, charcoal and plenty of clean fresh water before them at all times. Many poultry raisers advise mixing the grit and charcoal with the feed but we prefer to feed it separate from the start.

If you house your chicks you still have the question of green food to consider and in that case the addition of 3 lbs of alfalfa or clover meal to the mash is advisable. The question of green feed as we have said is a difficult one; if you have a grain sprouter you are in a position to partly solve it, but they need vegetable food in addition even to this. Lettuce is a very good thing and cabbage, but the latter should be cut up fine, also lawn clipping and an excellent method is to put large sods of green grass in the houses every morning. Almost any green food is good and potatoes and turnips, etc, should be fed frequently, they should be cut up fine, or better still run through a meat cutter. You cannot over do the supply of green and vegetable food and the greater variety you offer the better.

The advocates of the various so called systems of raising chickens in close confinement are many, they are firm believers in their various methods and rightly so. These systems if strictly followed give excellent results, they are in part the only logical ways of raising poultry in towns; but farmers do not live in towns. Free range for mature poultry during the spring and summer months is unquestionably the best. The eggs from hens on free range will run from 5 per cent. to 15 per cent. more fertile and the chicks from these eggs will prove very much more healthy and are considerably less susceptible to white diarrhoea.

A happy medium between close confinement and free range for young chicks is best. Have a small run or large open coop to every roosting coop and confine the hen, but let the little chicks run; if you keep your roosting coop clean and it is of fair size and well ventilated but at the same time wind and rain tight you will have no trouble during rainy spells; then and little ones will always be found there when a storm comes up. For the first week or so the chicks will not go far from the open coop, but after that they will wander farther afield and by the time the hen is ready to start and lay they will not need her either as a hover or to call them at the approach of danger, but will return to the coop by themselves.

The location of your coops is a matter that requires a little thought. Using a permanent grass plot for this purpose is *not* a good plan, this is possibly the most frequently adopted method and it is to a great extent the cause of the prevalence of "gaps." The edge of a pasture field with free access to freshly cultivated land is good, and in summer the ideal location is the corn field close to grass. Little chicks cannot stand too much run anymore than they can stand too much rain and corn forms protection from both, and above all be sure you select the high place and avoid holes.

Perhaps you don't believe in using hens to hover your chicks, but use artificial methods? Are they as good? You think that by taking the chicks away from the hen and putting her back into the laying house she will start to lay sooner? Time a few and convince yourself of this fallacy.

When your chicks are from ten days to two weeks old, the hen should be thoroughly dusted with insect powder again and the chickens very carefully examined for head-lice. Choose a warm sunny day for this and do it thoroughly, pure lard is the best thing to use and the neck and head should be thoroughly greased, useing the minimum of grease. If at this time the hen is properly dusted and the chicks carefully treated there should be no more trouble frum lice of any sort provided always that you keep your coops clean. If you intend to mark your chickens this is a very good time to do it. The use of a toe punch is possibly the simplest method and as it gives 16 different markings will as a rule cover all your hatches for a year.

There is no one best way to raise poultry or if there is, it is not reduced to a "System" If the methods you employ at present produce good results stick to them. If you have tried two or more of the much advocated "systems" you will have found that—in your case at least—they fail to get the maximum returns in one or more points. Take the best or most available points from wherever you find them and evolve a system of your own; but follow it, don't start out with one method and change it every few days. Do your poultry chores regularly and by the clock, and biddy will lay her eggs on the same principle. Keep an accurate account of the number of chicks you hatch and of those that die; count them once in a while to see if you are losing any you don't know of. And when your chicks are mature see if you have raised 60 per cent? *But try it before you bet on it.*

Paul Holsinger & son, proprietors of the Summit Poultry farm, have set and hatched this season up to the present time 17,255 eggs, equal to 50 bushels. Of the chicks from these eggs, 4700 have been turned out on their poultry farm. The remainder have been distributed in more than 90 homes. All records were broken this week, when a chick was hatched for County Treasurer Carroll in just 24 hours after his large setting had been placed in the incubator.

Mr and Mrs. H. H. Klinefelter have about 700 little chicks.

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$12.00 Buggy Harness,	$8.75	1 yd wide Floor Oil Cloth,	21c	$3.50 Bed Springs,	$1.75
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Horse Collars,	99c up to $3.50	1 yd wide Kregs Carpet,	32c	Linseed Oil,	59c
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