Poultry Notes

Free range is a matter of a good deal of importance. Chicks running at large where they can get plenty of green stuff and insects and grit and where they can run freely under shade or out in the sun as they please will grow much faster than those shut up in close quarters in the back yard. They get much stuff that seems vital to their best physical interests that we can't furnish them in close confinement. The open air life is good for them the same as it is good for the boys and girls and for you and me.

Beware of the lice in every form. With free range the chickens and fowls will be likely to keep these pestering and murdeous parasites in subjection. They will find some good place to roll in the dry sand and soil and literally smother the lice hordes. This is Nature's way of vrotecting the birds. Give them a chance for themselves or else come occasionally to their rescue with lice powder. You will have to keep this in mind with young chicks especially.

This is a good time of the year, also, to do a little painting up on the buildings and fences and coops of various kinds. Begin "brightening the corner where you are" and you will like it so well that you will keep on till you will have a ranch that everybody will be enthusiastic about.

In these days when the purchasing power of the egg is less than it was back in 1921, when the general price movement of that commodity is likely to be down rather than up, the holes in our business must be stopped if we expect to weather the storm. All enterprises travel in cycles, with their periods of prosperity and depression. Tremendous profits usually due to low production, invite much competition anl soon the demand is more than cared for. A short time must elapse before the inefficient producer wakes up to the fact that the goose is no longer laying the golden egg and seeks more fertile fields. Economists tell us the poultryman is headed for the trough of the wave rather than the the crest and there is apt to be a period when he will see little light.

Search the world for the hen that lays an egg every day and a good big one at that. Quisenberry tells of a hen that made the world's record by laying 335 eggs in 365 days. She made another world's record by laying an egg every day for 132 days in succession. Her eggs were so valuable because of her great ability as a layer that every one of them could easily be sold for $25 a piece! Yes, America wants a hen that will do things just the same as it wants men and statesmen who can and will DO THINGS Search for the "egg a day" hen and make the eggs large and well formed. We don't suppose there ever will be a flock of hens of any size that will average in laying ability up to the hen referred to above.

The fowl whose fame is strong and normally shaped in all its sections is generally the one possessing stamina in all other sections of its anatomy. A strong frame is indicative of good feeding and general management on the part of the fowl's attendant during the rearing season. There is no reason why every chick that is born into the world with a strong frame should not continue to have a strong fame for the remainder of its natural life. But many chicks are annually born with weak frames, and no amount of skill on the part of their owners can convert them into strong boned subjects. The chick that is born with a weak frame is the one that will have the latter deformed, sooner or later in after life, irrespective of the good attention bestowed upon it. To what are weak frames in baby chicks traceable, when it is known that the breeding stock is strong and vigorous? It is traceable to carelessness in the selection of eggs for incubation. So long as poultry keepers put thin shelled eggs to incubate, so long will chicks with weak frames crop up. The shell of the egg contributes to the building up of the embryo chicks frame during the period of incubation. Only the inner layer of the shell is used for this purpose and if that is deficient in substance the frame of the embryo chick will lack substance also—that is if it survives the process of incubation.

Give the Chickens cool quarters. They will lay and grow better.

—More encouragement is apparent in the work of oyster conservation. The results, so far, of shell planting forecast success in that work. The scattering of shells over the depleted bottoms or natural rock is no longer considered an experiment but is done now with a feeling of assurance of a bounteous return for the money expended.

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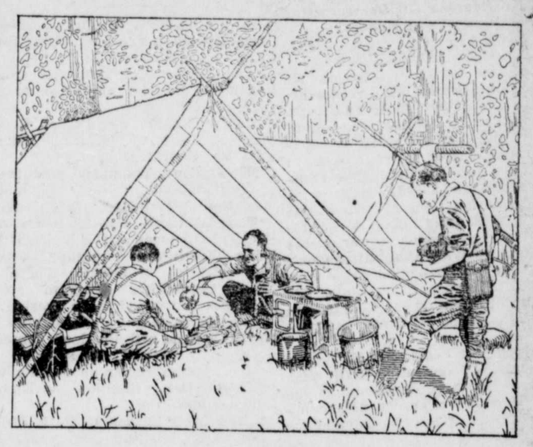
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