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Poultry Notes

Real Breeding Season Now On In Earnest—Brooding And Feed

A recent ruling by the United States Post Office Department states that no state law or embargo prohibits the movement of baby chicks by parcel post. Doubtless, this news has been, and will be received by some with sighs of relief. Apparently, therefore, there is no legal restrictions on interstate shipment of baby chicks in-so-far as the embargo is concerned. This announcement has cleared the way for many hatcheries and buyers of baby chicks. No outbreaks of the European Fowl Pe. have occured in Maryland poultry flocks as yet.

Good return in egg prodution in fall and winter when eggs are high priced will depend principally upon the flock of pullets, since most hens will be molting. This requires well- developed pullets of substantial body development as well as sexual development. Pullets intended for layers should be hatched by June 10, in order to get a good start before real hot weather, and to allow sufficient time for good body development. Usually, five to six months are required to obtain the proper body development to accompany sexual development in order to get a highly productive type of pullet.

Hatch lighter breeds not later than July and general purpose breeds not later than about the same date. The heavier breeds require a little more time for body development than the lighter breeds.

Chicks hatched earlier are stronger, thrive better, and have the advantage of a longer growing season.

Hot weather retards the growth of chicks, which with the presence of lice, mites, and greater prevalence of disease causes millions of chicks to die every year.

Well-developed pullets in both body and sexular respects produce eggs in fall and winter when most hens are molting. Early layers will usually brood early the following spring.

Surplus cockerels from early hatches bring best prices as broilers, since the market is well supplied in late summer and prices are much lower.

Many make the mistake of overcrowding the brooder house and stove. Most stoves will comfortably accomodate about one-half their rated capacity. Besides this, most experienced poultry raisers have found that the greatest percentage of good birds can be raised most economically in medium sized flocks—250-300 chicks.

It has been wisely said "It is better to raise 100 good birds than 200, 150 of which are culls." Experience has proven that it doesn't pay to overtax the capacity of the brooder house, especially when weather conditions do not permit outdoor range, or range is limited. Range the chicks on runs whch have been sown to oats, kale, or some other green growing crop. Land cultivated in the rotation of crops, and which is in a clean and sweet condition, is preferable. Old sod land or old uncultivated runs upon which manure and other filth have accumulated for a few years is a continual source of danger to young chicks from gapes as well as "hold-over infections" from disease in previous years.

Clean houses regularly and never allow manure to accumulate in any quantity nor floor to get and remain wet from drinking vessels. Keep vessels for feeding and drinking clean, washing them at least once daily.

Keep the windows of the house epen enough to allow a supply of fresh air at all times without drafts. Heat around the hover is the only heat that the chicks benefit by. Over-heated air in the top of the house should be allowed to escape and be replaced by fresh pure air.

Always get chicks outdoors on clean sweet ground as soon as weather will permit. They grow and thrive better with an outdoor run.

Feed nothing until chicks are at least two full days old. The first few feedings may be of rolled oats or oatmeal, mixed with hard-boiled eggs (Infertile ones from incubator may be used) with shell and all finely ground in a food chopper, or bread crumbs moistened with milk, or other delicate and easily digested foods. Give sour milk in small troughs or fountains at all times, and give water to drink. Feed the soft feed about five times a day on pieces of paper or small boards, removing all uneaten food after chicks have ceased to eat. Never allow the uneaten food to lie around where it will be run over and "fouled."

Mash and grain feeding may commence after chicks are eating well and are active—usually about four or five days old. Mash in shallow troughs is to be given about the middle of the morning and the middle of the afternoon to replace the soft food at those times. The grain feed is to be fed morning, noon and night, gradually replacing the soft food, which may be continued once or twice a day as a relish until chicks are seven to eight days old.

Regulate feeding so that chicks are hungry at each feeding time, but never take feed away while chicks are still eating in any numbers.

Provide tender green feed in small quantity at least once a day, if out door runs does not provide it.

Give milk to drink at all times if available, sour milk preferred. Milk has no superior as a food for chicks.

After about three weeks, the above mash may be given in outdoor hoppers once daily about noon, and the grain feeders reduced to morning and night, if chicks have a good range with an abundance of insects, etc.

Rapid development of combs and feathers would indicate too much protein. This may be controlled by reducing the meat scrap in the mash. especially if milk is fed and the range furnishes much food.

Provide greens in some form every day, if range does not provide it.

Keep clean fresh water available at all times. This is very apt to be neglected.

If milk is limited or meat scrap contains no bone, it is well to put a small amount of ground or granulated bone in the mash, or in a small hopper nearby. It is safest to provide some bone, as this will often prevent leg-weakness caused by a lack of sufficient bone-forming materials in the ration.

Attention to fine details counts heavily in rearing young chicks, but it will pay in the end.

WASHINGTON COLLEGE

While exploring some ancient encyclopedias in the Pratt Library in Baltimore. Dr. Albertus Perry. Vice-president of Washington College, recently unearthed the hitherto overlooked life history of one of Washington's most illustrious sons and one of the last century's most distinquished Methodist Churchmen.

It appears that the Rt. Rev. John Emory, tenth Bishop of the Methodist Church, was born in Spaniard's Neck, Queen Anne county and, as he states in his autobiographical note, "on the left bank of the Chester River on the Eastern Shore of Maryland." He took some private school work in Easton where he prepared for college. His father having four sons, chose for each his life career; merchant, farmer, physician and lawyer. John had, it seems, been picked for the last named profession and, to that end, he was graduated from Washington College in 1805. The Rev. Colin Ferguson, a Protestant Episcopal clergyman, was at that time president of the institution and John Emory speaks very highly of him in the autobiography. On graduating, he entered the law office of Richard Tilghman Earle, of Centreville. and was admitted to the bar in 1808. But he never practiced the legal profession, having subsequently made the decision to enter the ministry. The Methodist Church South and the Methodist Protestant Church had at that time, of course, not been organized. Mr. Emory joined the Philadelphia Conference in 1810 and began preaching in Cambridge. Later, while pastor at Annapolis, St. John's College honored him with the degree of Master of Arts. Three years later his Alma Mater recognized his unusual scholarship by conferring upon him the degree of Doctor of Divinity. In the Church he became very prominent in furthering its educational program and he was, in consequence of his activities along this line, offered the presidency of several colleges. These offers he declined.

He took an active and official interest in the Methodist Book Concern which lately has become the largest book store in the world. In 1832 he was elevated to the episcopacy and served three years when he was accidentally killed while journeying from his Eastern Shore farm to Baltimore. The Church owes him much. The story of his life, written by his son in 1840, is most fascinating reading and any student (either of the Church or of education would find it inspiring and profitable.

The Methodist Church also owes a debt of gratitude to Washington College for of the one hundred and eleven bishops of that great denomination, the tenth was a product of the farm and of the only college on the Eastern Shore.

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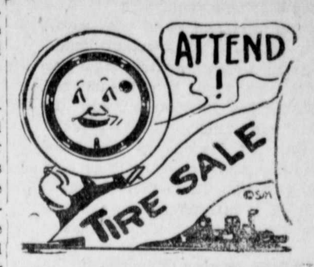
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