POULTRY NOTES

Egg Laying Contest For Maryland Other Notes Of Interest

Through the interest and efforts of the Maryland State Poultry Association and the University of Maryland, a State Egg Laying Contest is to be held at College Park, under the supervision of the University of Maryland Poultry Department, beginning November 1st. This contest will provide for the entry of a pen of ten pullets with an extra pullet as alternate, of any standard breed of chickens. Entries will be open to the world, with Maryland entries receiving preferences when 20 of the 100 pens provided for, are applied for by poultrymen from other states.

Such a contest is really a test of performance, which not only will benefit a contestant in many ways, but will stimulate interest in better breeding, to say nothing of the statistical data on egg production which will accrue as material for study and as a source of light on the problems of egg production, the most important phase of the poultry industry.

All Maryland poultry raisers are eligable to enter pens until the 100 pens are applied for, any standard breed being permitted to compete.

Interested persons should send for Experiment Stattion Bulletin No. 273 which contains rules and regulations and entry blanks for the contest. The number of pens is limited to 100. The order is "first come first served," therefore applications should be made early.

A certification department of the Maryland State Poultry Association has been organized for the purpose of improving the production and breeding of the flocks for production and breeding characteristics, and periodic inspection of yards and premises to insure proper sanitation and management practices. Members complying with the rules and regulations of this department will have their chicks or hatching eggs advertised as being "From Certified Stock."

The culling and inspection work will be supervised by the Poultry Department of the University of Maryland State Poultry Association. Any producer offering eggs, chicks, or stock for sale in any quantity, or contemplating doing so, cannot afford to let this opportunity go by, unheeded. This work is expected to get under way September 21st and applications should be made by August 1st. Interested poultry raisers should write to Mr. Aaron Fell, Secretary-Treasurer, Bethesda, Md., for a booklet containing rules and regulations and application blanks. Act quick in order to get in line by August 1st

There has been much complaint from producers, shipping eggs to New York as well as to other markets, regarding eggs being graded as "Pullets." No doubt one factor can be pointed to as being largely responsible for this "small egg" problem. Many poultry raisers never stop to consider the rate of body condition in relation to sexual development in a flock of pullets. They do know that heavy feeding of growing mash makes rapid growth, and that a pullet will commence to lay early—very early sometimes—if fed heavily on mash. But how about the qualities of the pullet in regard to substance of body, or body condition, as to fleshed-out qualities, and physical condition?

Experienced poultry raisers learn in a few years—often at a heavy cost—that continued heavy feeding of pullets 3 or 4 months old, on growing mash similar to that used when the pullets were a few weeks old, promotes a very rapid growth of frame and muscle, followed quickly by a development and functioning of the reproductive organs. Such pullets often lay well for a while, but when winter comes, are very often subject to a winter molt. At the same time they are likely to lack the body substance to continue heavy production over a greater portion of the year, and their small eggs are due to "forced sexual development."

The consumption of large amounts of protein furnished by the meat scrap, milk, gluton feed, etc. in the mash is responsible for this rapid development of frame and muscle followed by early egg laying. These ingredients are highly stimulating if fed in large quantities and make what is known as a highly concentrated or rich ration. Pullets fed mash in which the protein is not reduced from the proportion used earlier in their growth and in unlimited quantities in such ways as in a self-feeding hopper, open at all times, are very apt to be sexually premature. Such mashes should be considered reduced in late summer and very early fall or else the protein ingredients considerably reduced, after the frame is well developed and the pullet's combs begin to develop. Abundance of mineral matter such as should be available as well as plenty of grain and grain by-products. The hens will furnish the minerals necessary to the strengthening of the body bone and tissues, while the grain and grain by-products will furnish the fat forming materials for filling out the body flesh and improving the physical condition of the pullets before they begin their long year of egg production. Pullets should be well fleshed before being placed in the laying house on laying rations. Pullets usually putting on this flesh can condition themselves to best advantage in the cool weather or early fall, and can prepare themselves better for a year's laying in cold weather than during the hot months.

WORTON

Mr. and Mrs. Goldie Jones and Miss Elizabeth Crowding spent Tuesday in Wilmington.

Mr. and Mrs. Irvin Kroll, of Forest Park, spent the week-end with Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Dwyer .

Mrs. George Williams spent Tuesday with her mother, Mrs. Thomas Van Dyke, of Kennedyville.

Miss Gladys Hickman, of Betterton, is spending the week with her sister, Mrs. Preston Crowding.

Mrs. Nelson Towers and brother, Ansmon, of Forest Park and Miss Clara Smoot, of Washington, visited Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Dwyer on Monday.

Mrs. Walter Mann and baby, of Baltimore, are visiting Mr. and Mrs. Harry Williams.

Mr. Charles Crowding and son, Mr. Maxwell Crowding, and Mr. Rasin Gears attended the fair at Harrington, Del. on Tuesday.

Mrs. John Thomas, who has been ill, is much better at this writing.

Mrs. Moore, of Galena, is spending the week with Mrs. Charles Miller.

Miss Esther Dwyer has returned home after spending three weeks with friends in Forest Park.

Miss Neva Nichols is spending the week with her grand parents in Greensboro.

Mr. and Mrs. Ernest Taylor and children have returned to their home in Philadelphia after spending some time with his sister, Mrs. Charles Joiner.

Miss Jane Wolf, of Baltimore, is visiting her aunt, Mrs. Marion Rash.

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