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POULTRY NOTES

ITEMS THAT WILL HELP OUR READERS SOLVE THEIR POULTRY PROBLEMS

Mites are often troublesome occupants of a poultry house at this season. A little spraying with a good coal tar disinfectant, or painting the roosts with a mixture of crank case oil and coal oil every few weeks, is very effective against them. Clean dropping boards and clean littel on the floor help in keeping down parasites.

Body lice on fowls are troublesome and expensive to feed, and are apt to become prevalent during the hot months. Clean quarters also help to keep them in check, but other treatment may be necessary at times. sodium Fluoride (obtainable at most drug stores) is very effective against body lice. The powder should be put in pinches on the spots where lice harbor. Under the wings, base of tail and underneath the vent are places which lice frequent most, and which should receive the powder. A salve made of 1 part 30 per cent. mercuric ointment and 2 parts lard or vaseline is also effective.

Rhode Island Whites are not a new breed, being originated in Rhode Island years ago, but were not offered to the public until later. Their high standing and popularity today is due to merit, and not to any advertiseing boom. The Rhode Island White Standard as fixed by the club is similar to the Reds, except for color. The weights are: Cocks 8½ pounds; hens, 6½ pounds; cockerels, 7½ pounds; pullets, 5 pounds. Their plumage shall be pure white; beak, shanks and toes, yellow; comb, face earlobes and wattles, bright red; eyes reddish bay. The back shall be broad long and carried in a horizontal position; the tail carried at an angle of forty degrees, fairly well spread, and of medium length. The breast should be broad, deep and well rounded. The body shall be long and deep, with fairly long keel bone, extending well forward, close feathered and fluff fairly full.

For years, chicks have crowded into the corners of the brooder house and no one seemed to know the reason for this peculiar action.

Poultrymen at the Wisconsin College of Agriculture have now hit upon a novel idea to eliminate this crowding, which often causes heavy losses. A strip of galvanized metal is bent in the form of a half circle and has legs attached to it so that it cannot fall over onto the chicks.

For the small brooder stoves, such as the 500-chick size, a strip of galvanized metal six feet long and eighteen inches wide is used. For the larger brooders a strip eight feet long and eighteed inches wide is used. This guard is set on the side away from the wall of the house. As the chicks grow, this device, known as a "Chick Guard" is moved farther away from the brooder.

Its distance from the brooder also varies on cold and warm days. The value of the "chick guard" lies in the fact that it eliminates the floor drafts which practically all brooder houses are subject to.

"Whether portable colony houses were better than permanent houses" for brooding chicks, experiments were conducted by the Nebraska College, writes Y. P. Bhosale, and adds Portable houses which can be easily moved to clean, fresh ground each season are proving life savers to many chicks." Up to two years ago, all the talk regarding brooding was is favor of the portable colony house, but at least here in the East, that is not all the talk today.

It is said that line breeding is inbreeding. This is very true, bue to inbreed one must begin with vigor as his first quality. Vigor bred to vigor can stand inbreeding, but one should never breed a fowl that is lacking in good health from its conception. In order to build up a line-bred flock, one must begin with closely related fowls of well known vigor. Once split this family of fowls and make two matings of them, then one can add, not only to their type, production and vigor, but to the general appearance of the flock, one much alike the other. This, in time, will give the strain the kind of makeup that will beget like most every time. To build such a flock one should always cull very closely for the three essentials, vigor, type and production.

Mashes that are too finely ground do not make an ideal feed. Some of the best authorities claim that hens must have a roughage that will aid their digestive organs to assimilate the feeds. The cow will take more roughage than any other animal, and the pig less than the hen. Experiments along these lines are constantly being made, but one must always consider the big question of range. If a hen is on a range where she can get a goodly amount of "fodder," then her feeds can be more concentrated. Feeding fowls is the work of always observing conditions. One cannot set the amount of roughage that a hen can consume. The hen with the bare yard needs more roughage than the one that runs at large.

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