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POULTRY NOTES

THE VALUE OF ELECTRICITY AND ITEMS THAT WILL HELP SOLVE THE POULTRY PROBLEMS.

The use of lights in hen houses as an aid to increase fall and winter egg production constitutes one of the most extraordinary advances in scientific poultry culture. Egg prices are high in the colder months of the year because of the scarcity of eggs. Production records show the peak of egg production is normally reached in the spring months, fromMarch to May. From May until November there is a steady decline in egg production caused by hot weather, summer parasites, succulent shortage and the normal molt. All these combined cause a cessation of laying. From November on, egg production increases, but not rapidly until about the first of March.

For many years, the length of the lighted day was not considered directly related to egg production. The lower temperature was held largely responsible for low winter egg production. Only a few years ago, it was estimated definitely that the short feeding day, together with the fast of the long night, was even more responsible for low winter egg production than the cold weather.

The underlying philosophy of artificial lighting is, therefore, simply a feeding problem. The varying daylight periods of different seasons actually regulate the amount of food a hen can and will consume, since the hen cannot secure food except between dawn and dusk. Any decrease in the supply of raw material available for the egg organs is likely to curtail production. This is just what does occur in the winter time.

Electricity, according to many authorities, makes the best light. It is most convenient, probably the cheapest in the long run, and has the least fire hazard.

In using electricity for lighting the hen houses, use one 40-watt Mazda lamp for each 200 square feet of floor space. Hang the light 5 or 6 feet off the flpor, and midway between the front wall and the front edge of the dropping boards. Equip these lamps with suitable reflectors. In large pens, space the lights at uniform intervals.

Artificial illumination enables the poultrymen to regulate to a greater extent seasonable egg production, which makes it possible to secure greater egg yield when market eggs are highest in price, partcularly from November to February; also to get hatching eggs when desired, almost regardless of season or weather conditions; to lower egg yield in the spring when prices are lowest; to have a more uniform supply of eggs throughout the year with steadier prices, which reduces the average cost to the consumer and thereby stimulates increased consumption of fresh eggs; to control or avoid the fall molt with early hatched pullets. It, furthermore, actually increases the total annual yield per bird and likewise increases the profit per bird and improves the health of the bird through a feeding program more closely adjusted to the requirements of the birds.

Pullets of the light breeds, such as Leghorns, will be ready to lay at from five to seven months of age, if they have been given good care during the brooding and growing periods. Heavier breeds, such as Plymouth Rocks and Rhode Island Reds, require about one month longer to mature than do the light breeds. Since eggs are always highest during the fall and early winter months, it is advisable to hatch the pullets early enough so that they will be laying not later than November.

As soon as the earliest maturing pullets begin to show red combs, the pullet flock should be moved from the growing range to the laying houses. It may be necessary to keep the pullets confined for several days to get them used to their new quarters but healthier pullets will result if they are not confined any longer than is necessary to train them to return to their new home. Liberal feeding of green stuff helps to keep the pullets in good condition during the period it may be necessary to confine them.

Florida Branch of American Poultry Association has recently adopted a resolition calling attention to the fact that there are some questionable real estate enterprises in Florida which are featuring poultry farms. Persons who are planning to engage in poultry keeping in that state are therefore advised to make certain that the sections where they propose to locate are suitable to their purpose. The excutive committee of the association and the Poultry Extension Department of the State College of Agriculture at Gainesville offer their services without charge in helping newcomers to get properly located. The association committee can be addressed trough Howard C. Hull, Secretary of State A. P. A., Winter Haven, Florida. The address of the State Poultry Extension Department is State College of Agriculture. Gainesville.

According to reports of the United State Department of Agriciture, the cold storage supply of turkeys is considerably less than half of what it was last year and only a little more than half of a five-year average. This should relieve the turkey market of the disturbing influence exerted in recent years by the comparatively large cold storage stocks on hand in the fall, and should contribute to satisfactory prices this season.

The Extension Department of the Ohio State University has recently summarized records from 1217 poultry flocks in the state, which records show that these flocks reached an average annual production of 137 eggs per hen, which is nearly twice the state average. Interest in poultry keeping in Ohio is increasing rapidly but, according to the department, eggs and poultry products are still being extensively shipped into the state, showing that the home market is far from being supplied. Moreover, most points in the state have comparatively easy and low-cost, compared to the high-priced eastern markets for extra-quality-poultry products, or to relieve local markets when necessary. R. E. Cray, Poultry Extension Specialist in Ohio, is convinced that "no other state has so many advantages to poultrymen."

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