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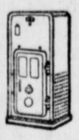
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"The store with a conscience."

POULTRY NOTES

ITEMS THAT WILL INTEREST OUR POULTRYMEN AND HELP THEM WITH THEIR PROBLEMS

The hatchery of the Bramble Poultry Farm begins operation today and will continue until July or August.

It has been the custom from quite early times for certain writers to figure poultry profits, on paper, by the simple method of subtracting only the cost of feed from the estimated gross retail value of all eggs and poultry produced. Most of them have been impatient always with what they term "the mass and mess of other expenses." That method of determining profits may serve well enough where a small flock is kept for pleasure or to supply the family table and other expenses are very small. It is misleading to many novices, however. Unfortunately "the mass and mess of other expenses" have a way of compelling attention where the poultryman engages in the business to make a living or where some one furnishes the capital, hires a poultry manager, and expects to take a profit out of the business. Just as soon as one gets into poultry work of sufficient scope and importance to pay a living wage, the "other expenses" have a way of assuming almost as much importance as the feed bills.

The original hen, the Jungle Fowl, of far India, produced only a dozen or fifteen eggs in twelve months. She could easily gather lime enough in her daily foraging to seal successfully the precious contents of her small "clutch." In these times we expect our hens to lay twelve times as many eggs every year. That stunt will require twelve times as much lime to form shells that are as strong as they ought to be.

The cause of many cracks and breaks in market eggs is this lack of lime to make strong shells. A man who handles many eggs instinctively recognizes by the "feel" a thin and un safe shell. A man who sends many thin shelled eggs to market will lose caste with his customers. They like eggs well shelled. This is a matter of more importance than we think. A thin shelled egg will be likely to break in the nest and so not only start an egg eating habit in the hen that lays it, but lose to the poultryman the value of the egg. Give them plenty of lime, therefore in the form of oyster shells. They like the stuff, it will be an insurance policy on the life of the egg.

I will begin this article by asserting emphatically that line-breeding, as still applied in too many instances to fowls of the recognized high fecund order, is one of the most, if not the most harmful things associated with utility poultry culture. That is a bold assertion, and, doubtless, one that will be challenged by those whose production stock has been line bred for many generations, and which in spite of that, is capable to-day of a numerically higher output of eggs than was the stock originally bred from. How, then, can line-breeding be harmful? Well, it can be, and is, harmful because, although it heightens, by selective breeding, the inborn fecund trait, it accounts at the same time for physical deterioration. When the breeding of higher fecund stock is considered, the minds of too many poultry breeders are fixed on greater egg production, the reproductive factor being entirely ignored. When a hen has laid, say 200 eggs she has done so for the sole purpose of parenting a family of two hundred, since every egg laid contained, in germ form, part of what would have accounted for a perfect living thing had such a hen been mated. The hen, having laid 200 eggs containing two hundred female germs, has done all she could, as regards the germinal factor, towards the reproduction of her species.

Both the pullets and the yearling hens need plenty of grain right now. It enables them to put on body flesh which they need in the laying pen this winter. It is a proven fact that pullets and yearling hens which go into the winter laying season with good body weight, invariably lay heavier and longer than those which go into the winter laying season in a depleted physical condition. Corn is an excellent grain feed, and should be fed quite heavily to both the young pullets and the laying hens at this time. A good scratch ration is composed of 50 pounds yellow corn, 25 pounds wheat, 25 pounds oats. Commercial grain mixtures are also very satisfactory. The best hens of the previous pullet year are just beginning their fall molt. They have come through a long laying season, and are now ready to rebuild their feathers. A good hen requires more than six weeks to do this job. She can be helped materially, by providing an extra amount of protein during this molting period. A few dollars invested in conditioners and regulators at this time will more than repay the investment through a quicker molting time. A good home mixed ration during the molting period is one composed of 100 pounds ground yellow corn, 100 pounds ground oats, 100 pounds wheat.

Subscription to the Transcript $1.50 $1.50 per annum.

AID OYSTER INDUSTRY

LEGISLATION PROPOSED TO INCREASE PRODUCTION IN PAY

A legislative program has been formulated and a committee appointed to aid the oyster and fish industries of the state.

While Mr. Earle has not announced any proposed changes, he is considering a plan to form a commission to co-operate with the State Conservation Department in setting aside bottoms in the bay for annual oyster planting. Should the commission be formed, it would decide with Mr. Earle when an oyster rock was no longer productive and would permit shell planting upon it. A plan to permit shell planting in any part of the bay except a section in the upper part, now reserved as a seed area, will be encouraged, it is understood.

These measures, together with plans to increase oyster production in Maryland, will be discussed with the committee tomorrow.

Speaking of the depleted oyster supply in Maryland, Mr. Earle said there were more than 150,000 acres of natural bars and good bottoms lying idle in the bay.

"It is our plan," he declared, "to protect, rehabilitate and cultivate the oyster bars now producing and to care for any future development by the State or private interests. In New Jersey 30,000 acres of similar bottoms produced, after planting, a crop of oysters that sold for more than $7,000,000. In the Chesapeake, between Sandy Point and Tolchester, known as the head of the bay, we have the finest crop of seed that has ever been grown. In April of this year dredgers were allowed to take 70,000 bushels of the seed and it is safe to say that in another year this seed will produce 200,000 bushels of marketable oysters.

"With such an opportunity in this State it would be almost sinful to permit the present production of oysters to decline further."

Mr. Earle outlined a plan for increasing the production of oysters and to enable Maryland to eventually to assume the leadership of the world in this industry. His plan follows:

"Resurvey the chartered oyster bars and rocks to determine what parts are producing and what have gone beyond the stage of production without aid to nature.

"The producing oyster bars must be protected, cultivated and kept producing.

"The depleted bottoms should be utilized by private planters and private planting should be encouraged on a large scale in order that capital may be invested and greater employment given to citizens of Maryland.

"Utilize the head of the bay both for rehabilitating the natural rocks and for use by private planters within the State.

"The State should have some part of the production of shells, that part to be determined."

Adoption of these suggestions would add to Maryland's reputation as an oyster-producing State, would increase catching and packing interests, would give extra revenue to the State and a food supply not only for this State but many others, Mr. Earle asserted.

Metcalfe Bros.

AN APPRECIATION

In closing our books for the past year we find that we owe a debt of gratitude for the good will and loyalty of our many friends with whom it has been a real pleasure for us to do business.

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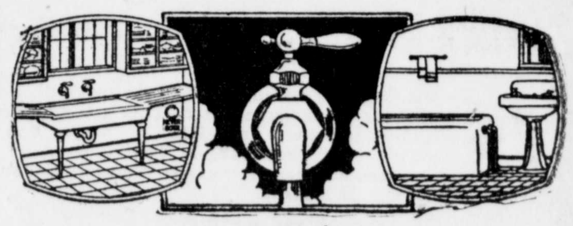


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