POULTRY NOTES

THE BROODING AND CARE OF CHICKS—THIS ARTICLE SHOULD BE READ AND PRESERVED BY PRE-PRESERVED BY OUR POULTRY READERS

Now that Kent and Queen Anne's County farmers have begun in earnest to rear their young, we would suggest that they read this article over carefully and then preserve it for future reference. At the Bramble Poultry Farm we always give this article out in booklet form to all purchasers of chicks, or all of those who are interested. It will help you solve some of your problems at least.

The Baby Chicks

In purchasing chicks from a hatchery one must ordinarily figure that they are from 4 to 10 hours old when shipped. The hatcheries ordinarily pack the chicks in corrugated shipping boxes with sections containing 25 chicks each. The purchaser must figure the approximate time in transit according to transportation facilities to determine the age of the chicks upon arrival unless the box is otherwise marked.

The Brooder House

Before receiving the chicks the brooder house should be put in shape, and the brooder in operation. In selecting the proper building it is well to choose one that is tight and warm on all sides, and free from cracks or drafts. See that the building is on high ground, if possible, so as to be free from moisture caused by rains or other water through the floor. If the building is not located on high ground a ditch should be provided around it so as to carry off any rain or water. It should face a southerly or southeastern direction so as to absorb the direct rays of the sun during the morning and early part of the day, but still not receive the heat of the afternoon. Ordinarily a room 10x12 feet for a flock of 200 to 400 chicks is sufficient. Litter should be provided on the floor to the depth of 1 or 2 inches—clean sand, cut clover, cut alfalfa, cut straw, coarse bran or brokenleaves, which ever is most easily secured, although you should never use dusty litter. Whenever the litter shows any signs of dampness or dirt it should be changed immediately.

Brooding Chicks

There are three familiar types of brooders, viz., hard coal, oil and electric. For early hatches while the weather is cold the hard coal brooder is probably the most satisfactory, as it will supply enough heat to warm the entire building, whereas oil or electricity will supply only about enough heat for the part of the room immediately around the brooder. In warmer weather, the oil or electric brooders are, of course, very satisfactory, as it is possible to maintain a small amount of heat whereas it is hard to check the coal brooder. A good method of ventilation will aid much in controlling heat.

Before the chicks arrive have the brooder operating and the brooder room in condition to receive the chicks. During the first few days a temperature of approximatey 90 to 95 degrees should be maintained under brooder, gradually reducing this as the chicks feather out and the weather moderates. Never put more chicks under a brooder than 50 per cent of its rated capacity.

Keep the chicks shipping boxes in a room free from drafts until evening of the day they arrive. Do not put the chicks under the brooder until after dark. By waiting to put the chicks under the brooder in the evening they will remain quiet over night and by morning are accustomed to their new quarters. Whereas, if they are placed there during the day they become nervous and excited and often crowd in the corner crushing themselves to death.

Fresh Air

It is very important that the brooder room be absolutely free from drafts, as a draft or chill will cause diseases very quickly among the chicks. At the same time it is very important that the chicks receive a constant supply of fresh air.

Feeding

A few "Don'ts" worth remembering.

Do not feed chicks until they are sixty to seventy-two hours old.

Do not feed any table scraps or meat scraps to chicks.

Do not feed hard boiled eggs.

Do not use metal container when feeding milk.

Sunlight

One point of major importance that is often overlooked by the poultry raiser is the necessity of providing the chicks with the direct rays of the sun. When the chicks are 3 or 4 days of age they should be supplied with a protected runway so that they may get out-of-doors regardless of weather conditions, except, of course, during severe periods of storms, and the runway should be so exposed that the direct rays of the sun may strike all chicks whenever they are outside. This will prevent leg weakness. Outside runways should be kept clean and dry.

Range and Green Feed

After the chicks grow and feather out this runway must be expanded to a grassy range that will supply the chicks with the necessary exercise and green feed. It is not well to raise chicks on the same soil more than two successive years as the soil becomes contaminated and contains germ life that is detrimental to the health of the chicks. The range should be large enough to remain in grass through the summer season.

Soil Sanitation

It is well to plow or spade all poultry yards once or twice each year. The yards should be so arranged that one set is under cultivation at all times. Seed these cutivated lot to oats or some similar crop, and many of the most disastrous diseases of poultry may be eliminated in this way.

Lice and Mites

Chicks are often bothered by lice and mites. The common source of these pests in a flock of young chicks is by their coming in contact with older stock or being placed in a building in which old stock has just previously been housed. As soon as detected, measures should be taken to rid the chicks of such pests. A dust bath of hard coal ashes may be provided and their bodies powdered with sodium fluoride used sparingly.

Sanitation

It is absolutely necessary to keep the floor and walls of the brooder room dry and free from moisture. Whenever the litter on the floor becomes damp, musty or dirty be sure to change it immediately. Water fountains and feeders should be kept clean and, if necessary, scalded with hot water. General cleanliness around the brooder room is essential to the growing of good chicks. Many diseases originate from the dirt and filth in and around the brooder house.

Danger of Overfeeding

The egg yolk is retained in the body of the newly hatched chick and it contains food value sufficient for 60 to 72 hours of the life of the chick. It in doubt as to when to start feeding the chicks it is better to wait a few hours than to start feeding the chicks it is better to wait a few hours than to start feeding too soon. More chicks are killed due to overfeeding and feeding too soon than by starving.

White Diarrhea

White Diarrhea is a hereditary disease often found in chicks, but not in as many cases as ordinarily so-called. Most of the sickness along that line is a form of diarrhea caused by overfeeding, dampness, filth or chilling. Because one has purchased chicks from White Diarrhea tested flocks one should not feel positive that his chicks will not be bothered with this disease, for the chicks may get it from some other source. When chicks are found with diarrhea the hard, pasted-up parts on their bodies should be removed and vaseline applied to keep it soft and pliable. However, prevention is much better than any cure. Watch your sanitary conditions, dampness, moisture, overfeeding, chilling and drafts, as they will all cause a diarrhea.

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Cramps and Colic Caused Near Collapse

Baltimore man had weak spells; liver, kidneys and stomach out of order. Now feels "like a fighting cock" and gives full credit to Tanlac

J. J. Holland, a respected Baltimore citizen went through a two-year siege of ill-health. In his home at 1711 Jackson Street he spoke frankly and emphatically of his experience. "Stomach trouble brought about a terrible condition," he said, "and I was ready to give up hope of recovery. I had cramps and colic at frequent intervals, and so acute was the pain that I had to lie down wherever I happened to be.

"Irregular eating hours were probably the cause of my acute indigestion. My liver and kidneys went out of order, too, so that I was nervous, and felt played out all the time. Loss of restful sleep made me very irritable towards all around me.

"I noticed that the pains in my stomach stopped before I was through with the first bottle of Tanlac. By the time I finished the sixth my appetite and digestion were perfect and all the distressful symptoms had gone. Best of all, they've stayed gone, for that is six months ago and I've felt like a fighting cock ever since. I eat and sleep normally again and go through my work without tiring.

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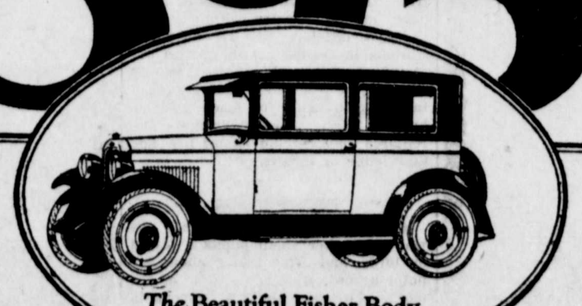

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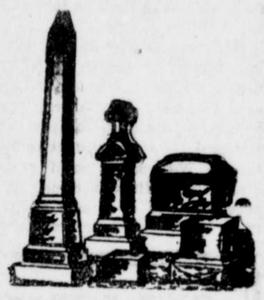

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