TELEPHONE SERVICE TO NETHERLANDS

The Netherlands is the second continental nation and the sixth foreign nation to be brought within speaking distance of American telephones. Telephone connection by transatlantic radio service was opened after January 30th, between Amsterdam, Rotterdam and The Hague from points in the United States, Canada, and Cuba according to a statement just made by W. A. Condit, vice president of the Chesapeake and Potomac Telephone Company, of Baltimore City. Connection will be made via London as in the case of Antwerp and Brussels. Belgium service opened to the public last week using the transatlantic radio telephone line between the two continents.

The rate for conservation to the Netherlands will be $78.25 for three minutes and $27.25 for each succeeding minute thereafter.

Due to the extension of the transatlantic service to two continental nations, the American caller can now reach a total of 1,836,500 telephones across the Atlantic; 1,630.000 in Great Britain; 97,000 in the two Belgian cities of Brussels and Antwerp; 109,000 in the Dutch cities of Amsterdam, Rotterdam and The Hague.

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POULTRY NOTES

ITEMS OF INTEREST THAT WILL HELP OUR READERS SOLVE THEIR MANY POULTRY PROBLEMS

BY POLK T. BRAMBLE
(Proprietor Bramble Poultry Farm)

Sanitation is one of the projects that is being pushed by every county agent in the country and it one of the most important things in the business.

We have all of us seen striking examples of the filthy and germ-filled poultry house with its dirty nest boxes, its bare floors covered with dung, its uncleaned dropping boards and its unwashed drinking vessels.

We know, without being told, that such places as these are incubators of disease and unfit for any live things.

Men who maintain poultry houses of a character such as described do not deserve to be classed as poultry keepers; they cannot have any feeling or respect for their stock nor, by any chance, may they hope to derive any profit from their poultry.

In the Minorca breed we find the largest members of the Mediterranean fowl; cocks 9 pounds, hens 6 1-2 lbs., cockerels 7 1-2 pounds and pullets 5 1-2 pounds are big chickens. Actually Minorcas look even bigger than they weigh because of their long bodies and the length of tails, especially on the males.

Look at the pictures of the Single Comb Black variety as given in the Standard and you will get a splendid idea of these birds except that the male does not seem as large as he should be.

When the breed was young it was called the Red-faced Black Spanish and in those days there were no White nor Buff Minorcas and no rose combs as we have today.

Minorcas are distinguished by long, strong bodies, large combs which run well back on the heads, long wattles and large white ear lobes. The back slopes slightly downward and the large, full tail is only moderately elevated. The birds stand on long, well-boned legs which must be square under the body. The plumage is smooth and fits close to the body.

The Minorca is a showy bird and needs a lot of room in which to "do his stuff."

County Agent H. B. Derrick is a man who really understands poultry problems and certainly does a good deal to help push forward the poultry business in this section. Our people are conservative, and somewhat slow to take advantage of their opportunities in the poultry business. However, we believe the time will come when the poultry business will go forward in giant strides, if not in Kent, then in that more desirable section for poultry raising known as Double Creek. Here we have the ideal poultry land—sand about down to China! You can't beat this kind of land for poultry raising.

Feeding for maintenance varies very little from feeding for growth, with the exception that maintenance requirements vary depending upon the seasons of the year. As, for example, the amount of heat which it is necessary to provide a bird in the form of feed to maintain her body temperature, varies greatly between summer and winter. The birds normal temperature is around 103 to 105 degrees Farenheit. When it is extremely cold and at zero weather, it is well to feed increased amounts of fats and carbohydrates in the form of corn, corn meal, etcetra, which are not fed as heavily in the summer when it is warm. The maintenance requirements are so closely tied up with growth requirements, that it is almost impossible to supply them in an anamatical way. Possibly the best example would be in the case of hens which are not producing, but are just resting, and to show that they require a very small amount of food, and to show that they require a very small amount of feed, only about three pounds of dry matter per day per 100 pounds live weight.

When feeding poultry for growth, as in the case of feeding during the brooding and rearing period, it must be remembered first of all, that the birds being fed are continually on the increase in weight, and therefore the requirements in toal amount fed, are constantly changing. Larger birds obviously require more food nutrients per day than smaller birds. It makes no difference whether the object of feeding is growth or maintenance, the larger bird requires more feed per bird, but less in proportion to live weight. For example, tables developed some years ago.

Breeding is often the weakest link in the management of poultry, probably because it is necessary to plan ahead in order to get results. The only flocks that are likely to respond quickly and without careful planning to improvements in breeding, are those where little or no attention has been paid to selecting for egg production the birds that have been bred. Such flocks can usually be quickly improved by securing a pedigreed male from high producing ancestors to head the flock, or the flock can be improved a little more slowly by carefully selecting the hens that go into the breeding pens. The man who has a reasonably well bred flock must lay his plans in advance and watch results carefully if he wishes to effect worth while improvements.

The poultrymen interested in reproducing poultry fall into two classes. First there are those who wish to produce chicks for themselves or for sale, but do not wish to undertake trapnesting and pedigree breeding. Usually the reason is that the poultry is not sufficiently important to warrant the expense or the main effort is devoted to reproducing on a large scale rather than to improving the stock. Such poultrymen can maintain the productive qualities of their birds by rigid selection and systematic handling, or by selection combined with the purchase of pedigreed males of known high producing ancestry. The latter method is likely to prove most satisfactory and can be done economically if care is taken to place orders with reliable breeders well in advance of the time when the eggs or stock are required. It may be well to point out that the poultryman who is breeding without the aid of trapnests and who is not pedigreeing at least some of his chicks, cannot except to improve the laying qualities of his stock except very slowly since he is not using the proper tools and methods. To ensure the quality of his stock, he must either do the necessary work himself or pay someone else to do it.

Poultry is an important revenue producer on an increasingly large number of farms. In some cases the hens are a "side line" that serves only to augument the farm income slightly in other cases they rank with crops and the larger farm animals as a source of revenue. On still other farms poultry producers all or most of the income.

All of these farms have one problem in common, the problem of how to make their chickens show a profit at the end of the year. That this will depend to a considerable extent on the average number of eggs laid by each hen is brought out in a recently published bulletin based on data from surveys of poultry farms compiled by the Poultry Department of the University of British Columbia. On farms where the average egg production, based on both hens and pullets, was 108.7 eggs each, the receipts amounted to $1.21 per bird above expenses; on farms where the average egg production was 162.2 eggs each, the receipts amounted to $2.38 per bird above expenses. In other words, the receipts over and above expenses were nearly doubled by an increase of 50 per cent. in egg production. It was further shown, as was to be expected, that the proportion of pullets in the flock had an efect on the average egg production but that the number of birds kept did not have any influence in this case, where the number of birds in the flocks ranged from 200 to over 2000 birds.

These figures for returns on poultry farms show that it is important to secure a reasonably good egg yield from the flock. To do this, it is necessary to have well reared, well fed and well bred birds. Feeding, rearing and general care and management are usually are a part of the daily routine and hence of immediate concern. It is of course important to give consideration to general management since the care given the birds is all too frequently a limiting factor.

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