POULTRY NOTES

ITEMS OF INTEREST THAT WILL HELP OUR READERS WITH THEIR MANY PROBLEMS

BY POLK T. BRAMBLE
(Proprietor Bramble Poultry Farm)

One of the most successful state-wide meetings ever held in Maryland for the breeders, hatchery operators and producers of poultry and eggs, was the one at College Park on Friday, June 8th. Over 200 poultry producers, breeders and hatchery operators from Caroline, Wicomico and Baltimore counties attended the meeting. The program was arranged and presented under the auspices of the Maryland State Poultry Association and University of Maryland.

If your hens are slacking up in production at this time, there are reasons for it. While it is to be expected that production will ease off a bit under the best conditions, there is no justifiable reason for decided drops in production at this season.

The first thought of most poultry raisers when production drops is to cull. However, culling like wall paper may, and often does, cover a multitude of sins. In other words, culling will not produce the eggs that are lacking if the birds do not have an opportunity to keep up good production. It will not clean and disinfect the house and dropping boards, treat the roosts for mites, the birds for lice, supply sufficient green feed and fresh water, ventilate the house to make it comfortable, nor feed the birds properly for good summer production.

Besides being false economy, it is an injustice to both the birds and their owner to cull them without first giving them a proper chance to come back to production after corrections in housing, feeding and management are made.

Six Steps In Maintaining Good Summer Production

Essential Practices for Summer Feeding and Culling are:

1. Keep daily records throughout the spring and summer, beginning at least one week before making any change in housing, feeding or management of the flock. Egg records tell the story of your ability as a manager to get production and without this record you are groping blindly in the dark.

2. Feed properly balanced ration for summer production, making changes not sooner than one week after startiing daily egg records. Feed a good grade laying mash and good quality of grain and put out a fresh supply of mash each day in the hoppers. Feed no more grain by weight than mash, feeding lightly of grain in the morning and heavier at night. Better still, a small quantity of dried milk added to the mash or a daily allowance of semi-solid milk as it comes from the container, will improve both physical condition and egg production of the birds.

To insure that the birds eat sufficient mash, they may be confined to the house till noon, and then turned out to secure green feed. If the birds are thin in flesh due to heavy spring production and low grain consumption, they may be fed heavily on grain for a few days to improve their condition of flesh before making the other feeding changes suggested. The aim of the feeder at all times of the year, and especially in spring, should be to feed the birds so as to secure a reasonably good production without sacrificing the flesh and body weight of the birds. Prolapse of the oviduct in spring is generally an indication of improper feeding.

3. Scrape, sweep and disinfect house, and if necessary, whitewash the inside the same day the feeding is changed for a thorough clean-up job of the house must be made in order to supply proper environment necessary to good summer production. Also it is best to remove all litter and manure to the manure pit or spread it on distant fields. Don't court trouble by piling it just outside the house where the birds may have access to it. Then scrape the dropping boards, floors, etc., to remove all caked manure etc. Sweep down the walls and fixtures such as nests, hoppers, roosts, dropping boards and floors. Next use plenty of good strong disinfectant, giving special attention to the dropping boards, roosts, nests, floors and side walls close to the floors.

If the house is rather dark inside, as is the case many times, open additional windows or doors, and spray white wash on all four walls of the house and on the sheathing and rafters. A good coat of whitewash will greatly aid in keeping the house in good condition at all times of the year. A warm sunny day should be selected for the cleanng and whitewashing, so that the house will dry quickly and be thoroughly dry by evening. All the cleaning, disinfecting and whitewashing should be done at about the same time the feeding practices are changed.

4. Treat the roosts for mites while the house cleaning is in process. One of the cheapest and most effective means of getting the mites is to mix equal quantities of coal oil and old oil from the crankcase of the auto or tractor. Apply this mixture to the roosts, dropping boards and nests with a paint brush, being careful to see that all cracks are well filled with the oil.

Examine a few birds for lice, looking especially on the skin and feathers around the vent and if lice are present in noticeable numbers, give the entire flock a treatment with Sodium Flouride, rubbing it into the feathers carefully, especially around those parts mentioned. Don't miss a single bird, as everyone missed means an early reinfestation of the entire flock. Hens will not do their best laying if mites and lice are present in appreciate numbers.

5. After the housing and feeding are properly adjusted and the birds treated for lice, continue the daily feeding practices and keep the daily egg record over a period of three weeks and observe the change in egg production, if any. After this has continued for at least three weeks, the flock may be culled in fairness to everybody and everything concerned, but not until then. This is merely giving the birds a reasonable and proper chance.

6. Next cull the flock properly, removing the molters and non-producers. It may be that you can arrange a community meeting in cooperation with your county extension agent so that your neighbors may observe the results of the work.

Carry out the practices recommended herein and see for yourself if summer production cannot be maintained at profitable levels.

If you are interested in the results that Summer Feeding and Culling demonstrations may secure for you, get in touch with your county extension agent at once.

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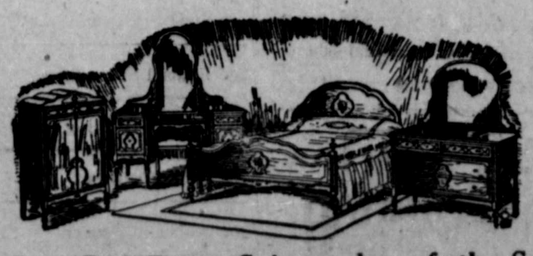

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School Attendance High Past Year

The school year has closed with the highest per cent of attendance ever recorded. The year of 1918 and 1919 shows that 69 per cent of the children enrolled attended school. This year 90.8 per cent of the children of school age in the county have been in the elementary schools every day. The high schools made 92.3 per cent attendance.

The list following shows the attendance made by each school for the entire year.

1.	Skinner's Neck	96.7
2.	Kennedyville	95.3
3.	Lankford	95.
4.	Worton Point	94.9
5.	Worton	94.1
6.	Pomona	93.9
7.	Sassafras	93.6
8.	Hanesville	93.
9.	Betterton	92.5
10.	Chestertown	92.4
11.	Galena	92.3
12.	Broad Neck	92.1
13.	Cherry Lane	91.6
14.	Turner's Creek	91.5
15.	Still Pond	91.3
16.	Locust Grove	90.9
17.	Fairlee	90.5
18.	St. Paul	90.4
19.	Janvier	90.4
20.	Rock Hall	90.2
21.	Lynch	89.4
22.	Massey	88.6
23.	Flatland	88.5
24.	Quaker Neck	88.3
25.	Millington	87.5
26.	Morgnec	87.3
27.	Piney Neck	87.2
28.	Cliffs	86.2
29.	Chesterville	84.9
30.	Swan Creek	84.5
31.	Golt	77.8

High Schools

Galena	93.8
Millington	93.4
Chestertown	92.5
Rock Hall	90.4

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Joke That Became Serious

By DUFORD JENNE

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WILBUR took his mail from the country postmaster and said, "Mr. Stacey, know of any place 'round here where I could work for my board this winter?"

"So you want to farm it, eh?" Mr. Stacey said with his usual twinkling smile.

"Why not? I don't want to go back to the city; and I know that Rhode Island Reds are not apples but hens, and that the young son of a bull is not a bullet."

"Wal, you ought to do a pile of farmin' on that knowledge, my boy, but, howsomever, I'm not the man to stan' in the way of a young man goin' back to the soil. Hum—let's see." His eyes twinkled. "You go up to Laurel Hollow—up to the Hillview farm. They need a man there and need him bad."

"I'm the one they are looking for," Wilbur said as he started off.

"Laurel Hollow," Wilbur mused to himself. "Ought to be about right for a busted-down poet."

He began immediately to walk to Laurel Hollow. He had good reasons why he wanted the job, and right off. The summer in the hills had won him back to fair health after the long grind of his work in the city, but he hated to go back, until he was stronger, to the same routine—and he almost wished he never had to return. Then he was short of funds.

A half hour later he faced the farmhouse on the Laurel Hollow road.

"A wonderful view to feed my soul—and good, old-fashioned food to feed my tummy. Yes, I think they need me badly," he concluded.

The door was opened at his knock, and he was looking into brown, pretty eyes, and a girlish face that was as pretty as the eyes.

"Yes, this is Hillview. Please come in," her clear voice said cheerfully.

He stepped into a room as cheerful as the voice, and he explained his errand.

Her eyes widened, and a little smile crept into the brown depths. "Yes, we—we do need a man to help—us—"

She paused and looked at him, an odd look in her eyes, a look that gave him a queer thrill—the first glance of those who in some mysterious way accept the promise of comradeship.

He agreed to her terms readily, and it was settled without much trouble. He was to come the next day.

His weary feet were light on the way back, and his voice was happier as he stopped in the cross-roads store and post office to tell Stacey of his good fortune.

"Got my job, Stacey!" he announced.

The old man blinked over his glasses. "What's that?"

"I say I'm hired—for the winter and I hope forever; and I'll show you I haven't forgotten what my old man pounded into me on the old home farm."

Stacey gasped. "Why, gosh-a-mighty, man, you can't live up there?"

"Well, why not?"

"Why, I sent ye up thar jest for a joke. That farm was left to the girl, Janice Ransom. She came and opened it up this summer, an' she's tryin' to run it—guess she jest come from some school whar she was studying, only her money gave out, and the old place was left to her by her grandad jest in time to help her out. She's livin' there alone—you can't go up thar with her alone. She agree?"

"Sure. So you did it as a joke?" Wilbur answered, a bit stunned.

"Yep, had no idea she'd take you. Didn't she say nuthin'?"

"She hired me."

"Wal, 'twon't do here. If you's married, be all right."

"We're going to be."

Stacey gasped again. "What's that?" Wilbur told him.

The old man's strangled exclamation followed him down the steps, but outside Wilbur paused. She surely had hired him—that much was certain, and he would go on that basis

The next day, with some doubt in his mind, he hired a team to take him and his luggage to the hill farm. It looked as cozy and as welcome as on his previous trip.

As he stepped into the house, he noted two things: the girl's quick friendly welcome, and an old silver-haired lady who was busy in the kitchen. A load went from his mind—with the old lady on hand, there was no chance of scandal.

His sense of inner happiness deepened as the hours of the afternoon went by. It was a pleasant place; he was competent, although his banter with Stacey indicated otherwise; and the girl—somehow he knew that she was glad to have him there.

He drove down that evening to the store for supplies for the house, a memory of her brown head bent over the slip she made out for him following him the whole way.

Stacey greeted him with a serious face. "She fixed it, I've found out. The minute after you left, she hired old Mrs. Clem to come up. She's a clever one, and I guess she liked your looks."

"You're right. And don't forget, deacon, that I liked hers. And besides, we'll be married one of these days."

Stacey blinked. "This is gittin' to be too fast a world for me. By gad, young man, I believe you!"

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