POULTRY FACTS

MORNING LIGHTING BEST FOR LAYERS

Definite Schedule Is Urged by Poultry Expert.

By J. C. Taylor, Associate Extension Poultryman, New Jersey State College, WNU Service.

To obtain the greatest efficiency from artificial lights, poultrymen should adopt a definite lighting schedule and adhere to it throughout the lighting period.

One of the most common systems of lighting is the morning light. Under this system the lights are turned on at 4 or 5 a. m. and turned off at daylight so that the birds have a 13-hour day. The reason for the popularity of morning lights for layers is that no system of dimming the lights is required.

The time of the year when lights should be started is a very important question. The answer depends upon certain essential facts. The time pullets were hatched, present production of the flock and whether the yearling hens are to be used for breeding are factors that influence the time at which the flock should be given artificial lights.

If egg production of the pullets is low, the use of lights will increase it. It should be remembered that artificial lights are a regulator of production and, therefore, should be used with caution.

Moisture for Hatching Eggs May Be Necessary

Whether eggs in the incubator should be sprinkled or not depends upon the type of incubator, the amount of moisture in the air of the room where the incubator is kept, advises an authority in the Rural New-Yorker. Some incubators are provided with water pans for providing the needed moisture; others depend upon there being sufficient moisture in the air of the cellar or room where the machine is operated, and this may be increased by keeping the floor beneath wet if need be.

It is best to follow the directions given by the makers of the incubator used, as they have done the experimenting and, presumably, know what method is most satisfactory with their particular hatcher.

Duck eggs require more moisture than hens' eggs and are usually sprinkled with water at room temperature daily during the latter half (14 days) of the hatch. An incubator for duck eggs may also have a water pan as an additional help in supplying needed moisture.

Poultry Disinfectants

Poultry may be deloused very satisfactorily with a water disinfectant made of one ounce of sodium fluoride to one gallon of water. Hold the bird by the wings and plunge it into a full tub of the solution, leaving the head out, and ruffling the feathers with the hand to allow the solution to penetrate to the skin. Also, poultry mites cannot survive a strong contact disinfectant like coal tar. Such a remedy may be placed on the perches. It will penetrate the wood and hold its strength for a considerable time after being exposed to the air. Carbolineum and undiluted sheep dip are especially good for this purpose.—Pathfinder Magazine.

Hens Have "Corns"

Hens are subject to "corns" and "bunions," due probably to infection from slight injuries to the feet. Large, firm swellings, not sore or disabling, appear as "bumble-foot," usually ascribed to jumping from high perches to hard floors, or other sources of injury. If these swellings remain firm, without suppuration or pus formation, they apparently give the fowls no trouble. If pus formation occurs, the remedy would be free incision to permit the pus to escape with soft, absorbent dressing applied and a soft, clean floor covering.—Rural New-Yorker.

Capons in Demand

There are never enough capons to meet city trade. Careful planning could produce capons the year around. The choicest capon is a bird seven to ten months old, weighing six to nine pounds. The market offers the highest price during the months from December to February, according to a writer in Hoard's Dairyman. The market on pullets is best during fall and winter months, pullets being preferred above males of the same age.

Contents of the Egg

The egg's value has been found through chemical analysis. The egg is divided by the eye into three parts: The shell, white and yolk. The white of the egg consists of 84 per cent water, 12½ per cent albumen, 2½ per cent sugar and 1 per cent mineral matter. The yolk, which is the part greatly recommended raw by dietitians, contains 45 per cent oil, 1 per cent each of mineral, albumen, and color—the remainder being water.

Iron and Copper Needs for the Poultry Flock

Chickens, like mammals, need both iron and copper for building hemoglobin, the content of red blood cells. The question has arisen whether practical laying rations contain enough of these elements to prevent anemia, or whether they could be improved by adding supplements of iron and copper.

Tests at the Wisconsin experiment station indicate that a practical laying ration will supply enough iron and copper to meet the needs of hens without supplementing the ration with extra amounts of these elements. At any rate, feeding additional iron and copper in the tests failed to increase either the hemoglobin content of the blood or egg production.

The pullets in these tests were of the White Leghorn breed and received whole wheat and corn as scratch feed, along with a mash consisting of 100 parts of yellow corn, 50 of oats, 50 of barley, 100 of bran, 100 of middlings, 75 of meat scraps, 25 of dried milk, 25 of alfalfa, 5 of iodized salt and 5 of sardine oil. The pullets also were given free access to oyster shells and water.

When Chickens Sneeze

Infectious bronchitis is one of the most dreaded of poultry diseases for four reasons. It is difficult to cure; it is infectious and it is usually fatal, besides being very distressing to the patient. One of the common signs that the birds have this disease is their coughing and wheezing in trying to get rid of excess mucus and clotted blood in the larynx and trachea. Here are other symptoms: The lining of these organs becomes swollen. There is difficult breathing as in cases of gapes. The neck is extended to facilitate breathing; there is a loud wheezing. Fowls violently shake their heads; there are paroxysms of coughing that terminate in death of the fowl. Laying flocks that become infected always suffer a sharp decline in laying and usually 30 days or more will elapse before they get back to normal.

In the Poultry Yard

Eggs are high in food value, but rather low in fuel value.

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Improper temperature causes deterioration in egg quality.

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Plan to keep the pullet laying flocks closely housed during the winter season.

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Small amounts of salt are desirable in meat rations for laying hens. Salt aids in digestion.

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During the past ten years a big improvement in quality of eggs has been noted in the Northeast.

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R. I. Reds are good producers of both eggs and meat. The roosters make fine capons.

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Poultry is a billion-dollar business in the United States and always will be growing in importance.

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There are two varieties of the Rhode Island Red which are identical in color and type, but one of which has a single comb and the other a rose comb.

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Chicken lice bite the birds rather than suck blood. Mites suck blood.

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A clean range is conducive to the production of disease-and-parasite-clean chickens.

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The difference in the color of the yolks of chicken eggs is controlled largely by the feed.

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Geese, like ducks, will start laying at almost any time of year provided conditions are right.

Old Greek City, Hippos, Was an Important Place

Hippos was one of the cities of the Decapolis in Palestine, its precise location being uncertain. In the Talmud it occurs under the name of Susita, and the Greek name Hippos is probably simply a translation. It was the rival of Tiberias, and the two towns stood opposite each other on the sea of Galilee, notes a writer in the Cleveland Plain Dealer.

Hippos is spoken of as an example of a heathen city in the midst of the land of Israel, but it seems to have been an important place, for the whole region around it was called after it, Hippene.

The Jewish encyclopedia says of Hippos:

"It was conquered by Alexander Janneus and afterward freed by Pompey, thus becoming one of the independent towns of the Decapolis. Later Augustus presented to Herod, after whose death it was again wrested from the Jewish dominions. From that time on Hippos was designated as a Greek city. After the outbreak of the Roman war, the Jews, led by Justus of Tiberias, devastated Hippos; but the inhabitants avenged themselves by massacring the Jews.

"In the Christian period Hippos became an episcopal see. A coin has been discovered bearing the name Hippos. It is of the time of Nero, having on the obverse side Nero's head and on the reverse a horse" (Hippos being the Greek for horse).

Rottweiler Dog Product of the Ancient Romans

The ancestor of the Rottweiler dog was developed in ancient Rome. When Caesar's legions crossed the Alps to conquer southern Europe, refrigeration was unknown. So they carried their meat supply "on the hoof." To guard and drive their herds, the Romans "went to the dogs," says a writer in the Washington Post.

Taken to what is now the town of Rottweil, Germany, one group of these dogs remained there after retreat of the legions, and became most popular there. Hence the name.

In Rottweil, and later, in other European towns, the Rottweiler continued as a guardian of cattle. In the Middle Ages, when highway robbery was so common, they assumed a new task.

Merchants, forced to transport large sums of money, used the dogs for this, tying purses around their necks. Few highwaymen dared molest them. They would die before breaking their guards.

One of Muddiest Rivers

The Colorado river has its headwaters in Colorado and Utah, and in the winding Green river of Wyoming. It flows through Utah and Arizona, forms part of the boundary between Arizona and Nevada, the entire boundary between Arizona and California. Seventeen hundred miles long, it drains a thirteenth of the area of the United States, passes eighty miles through Mexico and empties into the Gulf of California. The gulf once extended much farther north, into California, and in prehistoric days the Colorado river emptied into its eastern side. The river is one of the muddiest in the world; its burdens of silt built a huge delta through the middle of the slender gulf, separating its upper end from the ocean.—Literary Digest.

Self-Conscious People

Self-conscious people are invariably very observant, possessed of keen perception and sensitiveness, and have analytical minds, asserts a writer in Pearson's Weekly. Though seemingly unable to assert authority by reason of their shrinking natures, many of them have been known to rise to high office along various walks of life because of their special abilities. It is possible for a self-confident man to make mistakes all his life and not realize them, but self-conscious people usually "go slow" and so can improve themselves very quickly.

Taming Mothers-in-Law

Part of the ritual through which every young Australian aboriginal must go when he is initiated to manhood is to have one of his front teeth smashed out with a stone. The tooth is kept until he marries. Then, with due ceremony, it is pounded into a powder which his mother-in-law must swallow. Thereafter, she is forbidden by tribal law to speak to her son-in-law. She must, in fact, avoid him utterly. If she happens to be upon a trail along which he is traveling, she must hide so that he will not see her.

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The Buffalo

The buffalo never has been regarded as a smart animal, but he had the sense of self-protection. He was known to the Indians as a prairie animal.

From the Indians the pioneers learned that the buffalo provided the redskins with fresh meat, dried meat, tallow (marrow kept in bladders), and dried tongue. From the skin the tribesmen made robes with the hair on; clothing and bedding. Dressed without the hair, they built tepees and boats by sewing the green skins and stretching them over a wooden framework. Shields were made from the thickest parts; bags for use in traveling the trails and clothing of many kinds. Even coffins, then known as "winding sheets," served for the dead. From the sinews the Indians made ropes, thread and bowstrings. The Indian and buffalo taught the pioneers a lot of lessons in being provident.

Words of War

Only two and three generations ago Europe still considered Americans a raw and primitive people and her diplomats talked to us as they wouldn't dare talk to each other. In the year 1850, for instance, a British subject was put on trial for murder in New York and the British premier dared say: "The President should understand this—that the British nation will never permit a British subject to be dealt with as the people of New York propose to deal with this man . . ." and so forth, even to words of war.

Hearty Eaters

If certain celebrities really ate what legend says they did, the wonder is that they managed to do so much work. Dumas, they say, was insulted if offered less than three steaks for a meal. Balzac consumed 100 oysters, a dozen lamb cutlets and a sole or two at a sitting. But don't feel inferior if you require only a ham sandwich for lunch. Isaac Newton lived on a scanty diet of bread, water and vegetables.

The Three-Mile Limit

The 3-mile limit, as recognized and practiced by the majority of countries, was adopted between Great Britain and the United States. Toward the close of the Eighteenth century Bynkershoek, in his "Dominion of the Sea, 1702," had adopted the principle of self-protection. Since fortresses can give effective protection within range of their cannon, he argued that respect was not due to the presence of cannon, but to the fact that the state was in a position to enforce respect, says the Literary Digest. This could be done from any point along its shore. Hence his well known doctrine: "Terrae dominum finitur, ubi finitur armorum vis" (A nation's power ends at the limits of its arms). The maxim became international law, for the protection of shore fisheries and for neutrality.

Ancient Derbies and Plugs

In the eighties the lining of the $3 derby or the $6 plug often decided its selection. There were wonderful red, blue, orange, green, and pink satin linings with the hatter's name stamped thereon in gold and the purchaser likewise was entitled to his initials in gold letters gummed inside. A very popular hat was the pearl gray "plug" worn with a gray frock coat. The white plug was greatly in favor with the political clubs and brown derbies reigned in different shades from soft fawn to a rich crimson color.

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