POULTRY

RECORD OF FLOCK REVEALS PROFITS

Facts on Production an Aid to the Poultryman.

By C. J. Maupin, Extension Poultry Specialist, North Carolina State College. WNU Service.

"How much profit am I making? What return can I expect from my laying flock next month? Next year?"

These are questions constantly coming before the poultryman. The only way to find the answer is to keep records on the flock. Without records, there is no way of determining just what the flock is doing.

Good records show the cost of feeding the flock, the gross and net returns, and the average egg production. Records made with the aid of trap-nests also show the production of individual birds.

A poultryman must know these things before he can tell whether his system of feeding and management is getting proper results.

Records often show when the flock needs to be culled. If a large number of hens shows no profit, the low producers should be sent to market. Properly used, the record will tell the story from month to month.

If the birds are being fed well and are in good health, yet do not lay satisfactorily it may be that they are not of a good breed or strain, or it may be that type of birds is not suited to the farm where they are located.

Don't buy a highly advertised breed of chicks, then trust to luck that they will produce profitable quantities of eggs.

Grit Only Poultry Feed That Has No Food Value

Although grit has no definite food value in the poultry ration, tests completed recently at the National Agricultural Research Center by the Bureau of Animal Industry showed that it cuts the volume of feed needed in making economical gains when fed with a mash ration or field peas.

The reason is simple and was discovered some time ago. The gizzard serves as a "grinding" mill, so that the chicken can utilize carbohydrates, proteins, and especially fats. The insoluble grit in the gizzard merely helps the grinding process.

The value of grit was more apparent when field peas were fed. This pointed to the need of grit when coarse and granular feeds make up a large part of the ration.

Field peas alone did not constitute a complete diet for birds in confinement, although digestibility was sufficient to justify the use of the legume in poultry feeds. Despite having a generally lower protein digestibility than corn, field peas contain approximately 60 per cent more digestible protein per pound.

Heavy Breeds as Layers

That heavy breeds can be bred to produce eggs practically as well as the light breeds is shown in egg-laying contest records. In two of the past five years, a heavy breed has held first rank, while Leghorns have ranked first in the remaining three years. In recent years, pens of Rhode Island Reds, Barred Plymouth Rocks, White Rocks, and Leghorns have fought fairly even battles for first place. The highest record made in United States contests since the point system of scoring was adopted was made by S. C. Rhode Island Reds. — Successful Farming.

Buff Plymouth Rock

The Buff Plymouth Rock is distinguished from the other Rocks by the color alone, which should be an even shade of golden buff throughout. Shafting, or the presence of feathers having a shaft of different color from the rest of the feathers sprinkled with lighter color as though powdered with meal, is undesirable. As deep an undercolor of buff as it is possible to obtain is desirable.

Queen's Endowment

In ancient Egypt a queen's endowment consisted of donating to the priests 15 loaves of bread daily, 15 vessels of beer monthly and three oxen annually. And the queen undertook that this would be continued by her children and children's children forever on penalty of being slain by the sword if they failed the bequest.

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