

## Market Better Eggs

Egg producers in the South should know the value of grades and secure the advantages of marketing on a graded basis. Producers wonder sometimes why their eggs cannot be sold in large quantities on Northern markets for fancy prices.

As fine eggs can be produced here as in any other part of the country, but there is a great lack of uniformity of the eggs bought by our consumers.

### Fundamental Steps

Fundamental steps in management that will produce eggs of high quality follow:

- 1—Produce healthy birds, bred to lay large eggs.
- 2—Feed a well balanced ration to get good yolks and whites in eggs.
- 3—Produce infertile eggs, especially during the hot months.
- 4—Gather eggs two or three times daily.
- 5—Cool eggs well before placing in cases or cartons.
- 6—Place eggs in containers, large end up.
- 7—Keep in a cool, dry place.
- 8—Don't wash dirty eggs. Clean with steel wool or sandpaper.
- 9—Market eggs at least twice a week.
- 10—Grade eggs at the farm. Use small, abnormally shaped, dirty, or cracked eggs at home.

Large eggs are required to get the best prices on large markets where grades have been established. Since egg size is inherited, flock owners should know the breeding back of their birds. It is important that well-balanced rations be fed to produce firm whites and yolks of good color.

### Handle as Perishable

Eggs are perishable food and must be handled as such. When laid they have a temperature of around 102 degrees. If fertile, the germ in the yolk is active and the egg will incubate at a temperature above 70 degrees. To prevent this, the egg must be cooled below 70 degrees. It is better to have it go below 60 degrees as soon as possible.

During the hot months, eggs should be gathered two or three times daily either in wire baskets, or spread out on a wire screen, laid on a clean shelf in a cool cave, room, or cellar. If fertile eggs remain long above 70 degrees the germ disc on the yolk enlarges, a "heat spot" appears and the quality drops to a U. S. grade or standard. Such eggs are now quoted five to seven cents or more below U. S. specials and extras on the New York market.

While the food value of the egg is still all right, its market value is greatly reduced; and those who buy from producers may have to sell these grades at a loss. It is, therefore, important to everyone connected with the egg industry that eggs be quickly and carefully cooled on the farm.

### Candling Important

It is important that only infertile eggs be produced during the Summer. Unless the rooster is a valuable breeding bird he should be sold since he will eat considerable feed before another year. Valuable breeding birds should be penned to themselves during the hot weather.

When possible, all eggs sold on the markets should be candled, especially where a trade is built on special, fancy or extra grades. Candling permits location of blood clots, meat spots, or watery whites. While these do not interfere with the food value, they affect internal appearance and are not wanted by particular consumers.

Candling is a simple operation and can be done by anyone having a lamp, candle or electric bulb, with the light passing through an opening 3-4 to 1 inch in diameter.



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