THE AMERICAN'S POULTRY DEPARTMENT

SUGGESTIONS OF VALUE TO THE BREEDER

Start With Pure-bred Fowls If You Hope for Success.

There are many important points to consider in the raising of poultry, whether for fancy or profit. First of all, select some pure-bred fowl, according to the particular branch of the business you have chosen. When choosing for the production of commercial eggs one naturally looks to those birds which are classed as the egg breeds. In this class are the Leghorns, Minorcas, Spanish, Anconas and Blue Andalusians of the Mediterranean class, and the Houdan of the French class. Most persons entering the business of raising chickens with the idea of specializing on the production of eggs adopt some one or more of these breeds, and while many have, of course, failed, there are also many who have attained success.

Then, too, there are the American or general purpose fowls, such as Plymouth Rocks, Wyandottes, Rhode Island Reds, Buckeyes, Javas and the now rare Dominiques. These breeds are, it is claimed, more profitable for farm use than are the Mediterraneans or smaller breeds. While the writer does not desire to take away a single merit from any of these American breeds, for they are all good, yet it is his opinion that the man who desires to produce commercial eggs will do better with the smaller fowls than with the American breeds. To the person, however, who desires the larger-bodied fowl it might be well to say that of the American or general purpose breeds the Rhode Island Reds is probably the best and safest proposition of them all. This bird is a fairly good layer and will work during the winter when most other birds are idle. They make good mothers, are tame and sufficiently large to make good table fowls.

But whatever breed you might see fit to adopt be sure to get pure-bred birds. This is the secret of a successful start. Secret number two is the placing at the head of the breeding pen a pure-bred cock and as good a specimen as you can get. In puchasing a pure-bred fowl, one does not have to buy show birds, but only those that are uniform in size, color and shape, according to the requirements of the particular type he may adopt.

By getting uniformity in your flocks you naturally get uniformity in the products that they yield and this will materially increase the profits of your business when properly conducted. Another very important matter with the raising of pure-bred fowls is the feeding. Care and attention are also necessary to the proper development of the business, as, without this, no breed, no matter how good, will yield a profit. Mongrels should be avoided at all costs. The same number of pure-bred fowls given the same care and attention as mongrels will yield a much greater profit, and at the same time will be a greater pleasure to keep.

After the birds have been properly cooped, both for comfort and health, the proper feeding for egg production should be looked after. Next to this comes the building of a strain that will make you a profit. This is only attained by the proper mating and breeding. If the smaller type of fowl has been chosen it will be necessary to incubate by artificial means. There are many different makes of incubators on the market, all of which are said to be good. This, however, is not nearly so important as the brooding of the chicks after they have been hatched. The proper method of brooding may well be said to be, after all, the hardest question in poultry culture to solve and one best learns through experience.

Poultry Pointers of Interest to Fanciers

Here is a novel way for preventing fence flying: Take good strong string, and tie a knot about thre inches from the end; then take the end nearest the knot and put it around the tip of one wing, and tie a slip knot below the knot in the string, so it cannot pull up too tight on the wing. Then pass the other end of the string under the other wing and have it just loose enough so that the chicken can keep its wings folded naturally, and tie the same as the other end. After it has been on about six weeks the string may be removed, and your chicken will stay in just as though it had never flown over a fence.

It is characteristic of the laying hen to be quick in her movements, and more or less of a nervous disposition. When a hen is lazy, and moves about in a careless, indifferent manner, she is pretty sure to be a poor layer.

Hardy parents beget hardy offspring. If we neglect in this particular, each succeeding generation will be more delicate. No fowl should be used in the breeding pen that has a case of serious illness. No matter how sure we may feel that full heatlh has been restored, there is still some taint of disease remaining in the fowl which will be immediately inherited by the young. Inbreeding has caused more weakened constitutions than anything else we know of.

The Hen That Work Will Lay the Eggs

The hen is naturally industrious, and she should not be compelled to remain idle by being cooped up in dark, filthy quarters, where drafts are prevalent, the floor without some good litter and surroundings otherwise unhealthy. Rather encourage her to work by providing her with good comfortable quarters.

Construct a good scratch shed, but if this be impossible then construct a dropping board under the roosts and place the litter upon the floor of the coop. Permit all the light possible. Scatter the grain food in the litter and let old biddy scratch for it to her heart's content.

Avoid feeding moldy food and provide drinking water in plenty. During the bitter cold weather slightly warm the water for the convenience of the fowls. Remember, the working hen is the one that will shell out the eggs, while the idle one will not lay.

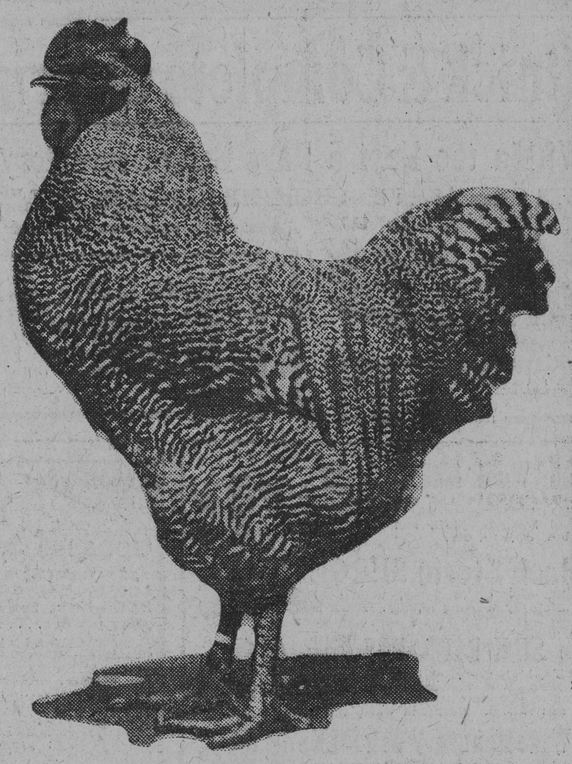
Turkey Tit-Bits.

The hen turkeys sell first, and medium-sized carcasses sell best in market. The market turkey should be shorter in legs and neck than is ordinary the case, and very full in the breast, with a compact body, meaty and fat, rather than of a large size and coarse structure.

The proper way to kill a turkey is to tie its feet together, hang on a pole, then cut the throat and allow to bleed freely. Dry pick, leaving head and wings on. After picking, dip in hot water and then in cold. This will give the skin a fresher look.

Turkey breeding stock should be changed about every three years. Nature protest against inbreeding by giving warning with club-footed and ill-conditioned chicks.

MARYLAND BIRDS THAT ARE PRIZE-WINNERS

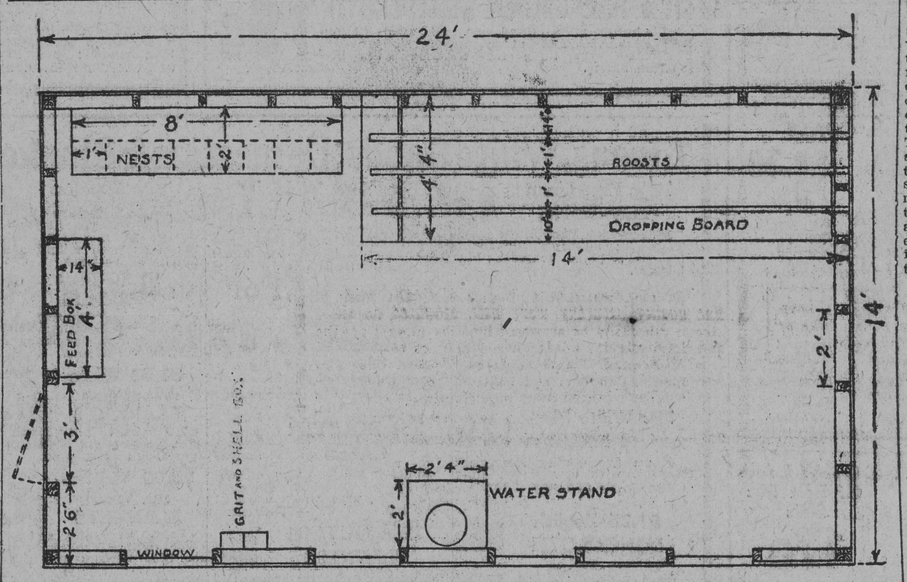


There is shown in the above cut the first prize Barred Plymouth Rock Cock at Baltimore, owned by C. C. Boileau.

The first prize Brown China Gander, Sensation, exhibited by the Maryland Waterfowl Farm.

Packing Farm Fruits.

It is a good plan to write to your commission merchant in advance of shipment and ask his advice as to the best method of packing, as he knows his market much better than you do.



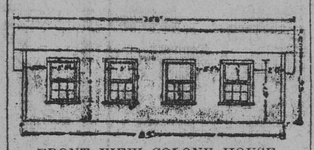
FLOOR PLAN OF A COLONY HOUSE ADAPTED TO THE USE OF SEVENTY HENS.

PLAN SHOWING COLONY HOUSE CONSTRUCTION

It Should Be Plain, Well Lighted, Dry and Draft Proof.

The average farmer's flock of poultry varies in size, but in the designing and building of the farmer's colony house herein described, 70 laying hens will be taken as a basis.

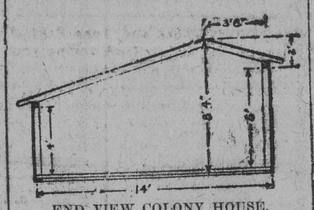
The house, 14x24 feet in dimensions, is built on a wall 6x8 inches above the ground, which is filled in to the top, making the floor dry at all times of the year. The south or front side is 6 feet 8 inches high, the back 4 feet 8 inches, while the plate and sills are made of 2x4 inch material, thus making the studding 6 feet long in front and 4 feet in the back, these being placed 2 feet apart. The combination tight roof being comparatively flat. The flat having 1 foot rise to every 3 feet horizontal run, is covered with a special prepared roofing. With this house a shed or single span roof could be used to an equal advantage.



FRONT VIEW COLONY HOUSE.

The front is of the muslin front type. It consists of four windows, each having for its upper sash a muslin frame 2 feet 4 inches by 1 foot 11 inches, which slides up and down, while the lower sash is a six-light 8x10 inch glass window. There is approximately 16 square feet of muslin to 336 square feet of floor space, or 1 square foot of muslin to every 21 square feet of floor space, and also an equal amount of glass.

The muslin frames are of a convenient size for the control of ventilation, it being possible to open as many as necessary to supply the required fresh air, varying the number with the nature of the weatehr, and by placing the muslin frame as the upper sash there is no draft on the birds on the floor. During the coldest weather one of the frames, and often more, is kept open all day in order to keep the birds in a healthy condition. The windows are placed as high as desirable for the most efficient lighting of the house. The roosts, located on the back side 3 feet 8 inches from the floor, are made of 2x4 inch material placed on edge, the upper corners being rounded off. They are merely set in notched boards at each end and can be easily removed for cleaning purposes. About one foot beneath are the dropping boards.



END VIEW COLONY HOUSE.

Located on the back wall is a section of nests, and on the end is a feed box 4 feet by 14 inches, with a 16-inch front and a 24-inch back, which is divided into two parts for the holding of whole and ground grain. This is a simple, convenient house, and has given excellent satisfaction.

Portable nests greatly facilitate cleaning, while darkened nests not only afford a feeling of security on the part of the hen, but also tend to reduce the amount of egg eating.

Provisions should be made for a dust bath in every house, for the problem of dealing with lice is greatly reduced by its presence.

In order to keep the drinking utensils in the colony houses clean and sanitary, it is desirable to use water stands about 16 or 18 inches hign, to prevent straw and dirt from collecting in and about the pail.

Contents of Eggs and Their Value as Food

Many persons often ask what an egg is made of, but strange to say few ever find out to their entire satisfaction. A test at the Department of Agriculture shows that the white of an egg is nearly seven-eighths water, the balance being nearly pure albumen. The yolk is slightly less than one-half water. This is true of the eggs of chickens, turkeys, ducks and geese. In comparing the eggs of these various birds the Department of Agriculture quotes the following figures:

Hen eggs, 50 per cent. water, 16 per cent. protein, 36 per cent. fat.

Duck eggs, 46 per cent. water, 17 per cent. protein, 36 per cent. fat.

Goose eggs, 44 per cent. water, 19 per cent. protein, 36 per cent. fat.

Turkey eggs, 48 per cent. water, 18 per cent. protein, 33 per cent. fat.

Of course, farmers understand that protein goes to make muscle and blood, while fat is fuel for running the machinery of the body. Thus it will be seen that eggs, though half or nearly half water, are extremely nutrituous, containing all the elements required for the building and support of the body. There is no truth, however, in the old saying that an egg contains as much nutriment as a pound of steak. It would be nearer correct to estimate a pound of eggs as being equal to a pound of lean steak in nutritious value.

Coop for Poultry.

The cheapest and best coop for a hen and chickens or for a brooder we have been able to devise is made out of a dry goods box and our nest boxes are made out of this waste material. Much of the material is given us for hauling away. We store it till the stormy days of winter when the men take it to the shop, knock it to pieces and remodel it into coops, nest boxes, feed hoppers, apple boxes and crates. Our apple boxes hold one bushel and a half and are a convenient and cheap package in which to store apples over winter.

Plant Food From Waste.

To utilize the now wasted sources of plant food is the purpose of an increasing number of patents—a most excellent sign of the times. One of the latest schemes is the garbage converter. This process extracts the grease and some of the other carbonaceous matter from city garbage; the residue is burned for making producer gas to be employed in generating electric power. The escaping nitrogen is caught in the form of sulphate of ammonia, and the ash remaining after combustion is rich in potash and phosphoric acid.

FEED IN ITS RELATION TO THE EGG YIELD

When and What to Provide For the Laying Stock.

In continuing our article from last Sunday relative to the feeding for egg yield, particularly during the winter months, it is necessary to touch upon the time for feeding. On this point many differ, but much success has attended the following method:

Feed a mixed grain ration as early in the morning as the hen can see to pick up the grains. A good balanced ration for the morning meal will be found in a mixture as follows: One-fourth wheat, one-fourth hulled oats, one-fifth cracked corn and the balance of millet seed, barley and buckwheat. Scatter this in the litter, which has been provided in a quantity which they will clean up by noon. At the same time give them some form of green food, such as cabbage, turnips, beets or mangels. The mangels contain a good deal of water and will not taint the eggs, as do the oher vegetables if fed in too large a quantity.

If it is impossible to feed either of the vegetables mentioned, then sprout some oats and feed them. Indeed, it will materially help matters to feed the sprouted oats in addition to the vegetables. They are good and at the same time cheap. If you cannot get either the vegetables or sprout the oats, then the green food may be supplied by the feeding of clover or alfalfa leaves and these are, indeed, splendid substitutes.

After the hens clean up the grains scattered in the litter the noon day has arrived and now is the time for the mash feed. This is prepared by mixing equal parts, by measure, of wheat bran, middlings, cornmeal, ground oats and one-fifth beef scrap. This is equally good if fed dry or moist. If mixed moist, or what is commonly called wet mash, it is well to use hot milk or water, but in no case have it too hot nor too wet. Wet mash should be mixed to a crumbly consistency and only warm. If sour milk or buttermilk can be obtained it will add greatly to the value of this feed. Place the mash in troughs prepared for the purpose and under no circumstances throw it upon the ground, as it will become dirty and more or less of it wasted. This same mixture may be fed dry. When given in this form it should also be fed in troughs or in hoppers prepared for the purpose.

The evening meal should consist of grain food exclusively and in this feeding the proportions of corn should be increased to nearly one-half of the mixture. Especially is this true when the weather is extremely cold, as it serves to warm the body while the hens are roosting overnight. Never feed whole corn to the laying stock; have it cracked. The whole grain is all right when fattening, but should not be given to the laying hens.

J. W. McFarland
POULTRY EDITOR.

CONTESTS THAT PUBLIC DESIRE

COULON SHOULD DEFEND TITLE OR QUIT THE RING.

CANDIDATES FOR THE CROWN

Kid Williams, Eastern Frankie Burns and Western Eddie Campi Would All Be Tickled to Death to Get a Crack at the Windy City Boxer—Clamor for Return Match Between Ritchie and Wolgast.

BY W. W. NAUGHTON.

Supposing that the rules and regulations for the fostering and furthering of boxing contests made it incumbent upon promoters to give special attention to the matching of such pugilists as the public wanted to see get together which would be the red letter bouts on the 1913 calendar?

This was the question put to the writer a few days ago, and it is not by any means a difficult one to answer.

Starting on the low register, the secretary of the promoters' protective association would write to inform Master Johnny Coulon that he would have to commit himself to a real bantam championship match within a specified time or else submit to being placed on the retired list.

Whether through inclination or stress of circumstances Johnny is harder to corner than a flea in a sandheart, and it is high time that he was forced to toe the mark.

There are quite a number of youngsters willing to take a fling at him, among them Eastern Frankie Burns, Kid Williams and Western Eddie Campi.

Finding an opponent will be one of the easiest things in the collection once Coulon is prodded into a fight "humor." And this ought to be done at once.

A bout between Featherweight Champion Johnny Kilbane and Johnny Dundee would find a place on the preferred list. It is understood, however, that Uncle Tom McCarey, the Los Angeles matchmaker, is attending to this matter, so there is no occasion to say anything further about it.

In Featherweight Class.

Just as soon as Willie Ritchie has had a surfeit of the footlight glare patrons of ring sport will clamor for a return match between the lightweight champion and Ad Wolgast. If for any unforseen reason this cannot be arranged a clash between Ritchie and Joe Rivers would fill the aching void equally as well.

It so happens that the topliners do not mobilize the interest in the lightweight class, which, as ever, is the best peopled division in pugilism. With Harlem Tommy Murphy, Joe Mandot, Leach Gross, Knockout Brown, Bud Anderson, Jimmy Duffy and others so close to championship rating that there is no telling when one of them will command public backing as a challenger for the title, the fight handlers have splendid material to work on. Lightweight conditions are such, in fact, that it would be a dunce of a promoter who could not select an attractive match.

And how about the foreigners?

Freddie Welch, who has bobbed into the limelight again by outpointing Australian Hughie Mehegan in England, is due to arrive in this country shortly, if he has not put in an appearance already. Freddie is advertising himself as the "real, undisputed" lightweight champion and is doing so all unconscious of the fact that he is being laughed at for his pains.

In building up an argument to sustain his position Freddie says:

"They substituted Willie Ritchie for Wolgast when I stood for them to box for the world's championship. I defeated Wolgast's substitute, which was equivalent to defeating Wolgast."

Keeps Himself in Limelight.

This is ridiculously lame logic, but let it go. It is good for trade, if nothing else. Freddie, who has always displayed shrewd intelligence in keeping himself before the public, has gained a place among the "best sellers" again, even if his methods of gaining publicity are devious. He will be in demand among American matchmakers and the first bout he figures in in this country will attract attention. What will follow will depend upon how he acquits himself.

Hughie Mehegan, according to inside information, did not peg back to any extent on account of losing to Welch. I had a letter from a gentleman who witnessed the bout—a man whom I know to be a judge of boxing and a fair-minded sportsman—and he wrote me that he considered that Mehegan did the better work of the pair. He said that Mehegan, who was handicapped by the English rules, was aggressive throughout, while Welch went in for parlor boxing and safety maneuvers.

Mehegan, if he carries out his original plans, will come to this country soon and it can readily be seen that the arrival of the Australian champion will increase the interest in lightweight operations.

By the way, a formidable rival of Mehegan has come to the front in Australia during Hughie's absence. This is Herb McCoy, whom some of the Australian critics have dubbed "a second Griffo."

Not all the sporting writers out yonder, however, subscribe to this view of McCoy's cleverness. Some of them snort at the suggestion that a second Griffo ever will be uncovered. They admit that McCoy is away above the average in boxing skill, just the same.

There is some talk of McCoy coming to America and if he puts in an appearance during the present year it will mean added importance to the bouts. With the other foreigners mentioned on the ground the promoters should be able to map out events that will result in producing a champion whose prowess will be acknowledged the world around.

Middleweight Situation.

Talking of matches that should be arranged without delay, how about the one between Packey McFarland and Jack Britton?

If for no other reason than to put a crimp in Manager Morgan's tirade department, these men should be sent together.

The middleweight situation is one that needs to be approached on tip toes and in stockinged feet. Never a clear, defiant yell has emanated from one of these fellows in a year, and from the look of things the leading 158-pounders have formed a "mutual forbearance society."

If Klaus and Papke go to Paris to inaugurate a series of contests on the Sam McVey-Sam Langford principle in Australia, the bottom will fall out of the middleweight division. What the public would like would be to see Klaus remain in this country and box Eddie McGoorty. This fellow Jack McCarren, too, has done well enough to be listed with the men the public want to see in action.

The Luther McCarty-Bombardier Wells-Jesse Willard complication will straighten out in a satisfactory manner before long.

For the rest the public would like to hear of Jack Johnson and Sam Langford getting together in some distant clime and deciding who is really the boss black man of the universe.

CRACK FOOTBALL SQUAD OF THE IDLEWILD KLUB

North Baltimore aggregation that won the 130-pound championship of the city the past season. Those in the group, left to right: Back Row—H. Pryor, assistant manager; W. Vogedes, R. Mullan, R. Martin, E. Butler, Joe Shirkey, and Wilmer J. O'Brien, manager. Front Row—L. Pryor, L. Donaghue, Herbert Payne; J. Shadrick, captain; E. Mullan and F. Crimmins.

MORAN IN FINE CONDITION

Clashes With Jem Driscoll in London Tomorrow Evening.

Special Dispatch to The American.

London, January 25.—Owen Moran is in fine condition for his battle with Jem Driscoll, the Cardiff lightweight, which is to take place at the National Sporting Club on Monday night.

Moran has used the American style of training for his bout with Driscoll and has boxed hard with three sparring partners, working three rounds with each. Owen looks rugged and is showing the best form of his career in his workouts at Worcester.

Although the sporting people have made the Welshman favorite at odds of 3 to 5, Moran is confident that he will win.

Banquet of Swimmers.

The banquet committee of the Maryland Swimming Club announces that the annual feast will be held at the Hotel Caswell next Saturday, at 8 o'clock. Circulars have been sent to the members, and from indications the affair will be as big a success as last year's record-breaker.

POULTRY

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"Your money back if it fails."
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Overcomes the debilitating influence of Moulting—brings back the Scratch and Cackle—tones up the dormant Egg Organs, puts them to work and compels each hen to make her daily contribution toward the breakfast table. Not a stimulant, but a tonic.
GUARANTEED. Use Dr. Hess Roup Remedy.
Sold in Baltimore by
GRIFFITH & TURNER CO., 205-207 N. Paca St.
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Ask them for free sample of Dr. Hess Poultry Pan-a-ce-a (enough for 12 hens for two weeks). Get Dr. Hess Poultry Book also.
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INSTANT LOUSE KILLER KILLS LICE

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As Directed
To get big crops you improve your land. To get plenty of eggs you must improve your hens' feed. To make feed perfect mix
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with it and your hens will lay more eggs. For 2 cents for each hen you can use it every day for a month and make big money. Try it on a few hens and "get eggs" while the price is high. Sold by Griffin & Turner Co., 205 N. Paca st.; J. Bolgiano & Sons, N. E. Cor. Light and Pratt sts.; Wiseman-Downs Co., Inc., 34 E. Pratt st.
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All bags bearing Park & Pollard Lay or Bust trade-mark—Dry-Mash, Screened Scratch Feed, Growing Feed, Etc.—are good for 10 cents each in exchange for any of their goods except feeds.
See special circular in each bag of feed, or send for one by mail, free.
Full line of Park & Pollard supplies on hand at all times. Return your bags through
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Rhode Island Whites America's "best yet" breed. Every way desirable. Great layers. Eggs for hatching. Send 10 cents for Good Poultry. Tells how to make poultry pay; quotes prices and gives valuable record covering three months work with poultry. SHOREWOOD FARMS CO., Saugatuck, Michigan. Slt

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