POULTRY

POULTRY GOOD AS A FARM SIDELINE

There are many ways in which a farmer can get started into the poultry business, and now is the time to begin to plan for a spring start, thinks D. H. Hall, extension poultry husbandman, who makes the following suggestions:

If you have a few pure-bred chickens in your flock, you mate these pure breds and hatch from them. This may seem a little slow for a start, but it pays to start slow in the poultry game. At the end of the year you can have a pure-bred flock by selling all the mongrels off the place.

Another way to get started in the pure bred business is to sell fifteen or twenty mongrels and use this money to buy pure-bred poultry. You may be able to purchase but three hens and a male as a result of your mongrel sale, but it will be one of the best moves you have ever made. After purchasing pure breds be sure to hatch only eggs from this purchase stock. This way is probably the best as you begin to get a cash return from your pure breds at once.

You can also get started by purchasing pure-bred eggs. You can finance the purchasing of these eggs by selling a few mongrel hens. Pure-bred eggs from a reliable breeder will cost you more than mongrel eggs, but they will pay for themselves in better poultry.

Another way to get started in the poultry business is by the purchasing of baby chicks. This way is probably better than buying eggs, as you do not run the chance of obtaining a bad hatch. Baby chicks can be bought from any reliable hatchery about as cheap as you can hatch them yourself.

Poultry House Should Be Thoroughly Cleaned

At some convenient time of the year, give the poultry house and yard an exceptionally thorough cleaning and disinfecting. If a dirt floor is used, dig down six or eight inches, cart the dirt to the field, and replace it with clean gravel. With a cement floor, remove the litter and loose dirt and sweep the house to remove all dirt and cobwebs. A thorough application of two parts of stock dip and three parts of kerosene to each and every corner, crack, and crevice of the floor, roof, walls, nests, dropping boards, and roosts will do more than any one thing to start the year right. An application of air-slaked lime once a week is a worth while precaution in keeping the ground free from contagion. Have clean litter cover the floor six or eight inches deep. A sloping top to the nest will prevent an accumulation of droppings.

Moist Mash Excellent for the Tardy Pullets

As soon as pullets are bodily matured they should start laying. Fully matured pullets that are not laying may often be brought into production at this time by using a moist mash. The usual laying mash may be moistened with sour skim milk, buttermilk, semi-solid buttermilk and water, dried buttermilk and water, or water fed regularly at noon or some other convenient time. It must be fed at the same time each day and should be crumbly moist, not sloppy. Let the pullets consume all they can in twenty minutes and then take the mash away and thoroughly clean the trough. As soon as production reaches a satisfactory point, the moist mash may be discontinued.

Find Hostess to Pests Makes Poor Egg Layer

A hen cannot feed worms and lay eggs. Poultry infested with worms are thin, droopy and emaciated and walk with an abnormal and stilted gait. On examination four kinds of worms may be found. They are: Large and small round worms, long tapeworms and nodular tapeworms, G. S. Vickers, poultry specialist at the Ohio State university, says.

All of them live in the intestinal tract of the hen. Treatment suggested for round worms is nicotine sulphate. If the hens are heavily infested it is recommended that each bird receive a nicotine sulphate capsule. In other cases 2 per cent of tobacco dust in the dry mash for a month is satisfactory. This should be repeated every other month.

Kamala is the most satisfactory treatment for tapeworms yet discovered. The University of Wisconsin recommends half-gram capsules for individual treatment. Birds weighing a half to one pound should be given one capsule, those weighing one to two pounds two capsules, three capsules to those over two pounds.

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Barred Rocks (per hundred)	$14	$15	$16
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SPECIAL OFFER TO POULTRYMEN

On all orders of a thousand chicks placed before January 1st, for delivery up to July 1st, we will give free one Royal Brooder Stove. Twenty per cent of purchase price to accompany order. Brooder to be shipped at once. On all five hundred chick orders, the same as the above date, a credit of twelve dollars will be given on the purchase price of a stove.

Our breeding stock is range reared, culled for vigor, stamina and sturdiness; matings accurately made to produce steady layers. All stock is disease free.

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FARM POULTRY

VARIOUS ENEMIES OF YOUNG CHICKS

Young chickens have many enemies such as hawks, crows, owls, rats, foxes, skunks, weasels, cats, and dogs, all of which have about the same tendencies, for, once they start to harass a flock, they will not stop until the chickens are full-grown. The best way to cope with them generally is to prevent them from catching the chickens.

A fence around the poultry yard about four or five feet high with fine mesh at the bottom and with the bottom buried in the ground three or four inches will provide protection against many animals including dogs, foxes, and skunks. If rats or weasels bother the chickens, any refuse or tall grass where they might hide or breed should be removed, according to poultrymen at the New York State College of Agriculture at Ithaca.

It has sometimes been found necessary to cover the chicken yard with two-inch mesh wire for protection from hawks and crows. At the Maine experiment station, however, and on many poultry farms, streamers tied a few feet apart on twine strung across the field or the chicken run prove successful and no overhead cover was needed.

Owls may kill chickens which roost in trees or exposed places, or they may even enter open windows of brooder houses. To avoid this danger, it is well to keep the chickens in the houses at night and, perhaps, screen the windows.

Poultry Facts

More than mere abundance is needed in the poultry ration.

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Much early molting is caused by improper feeding as well as by poor laying quality.

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One should encourage chicks to roost at the earliest opportunity. As long as they roost on the floor, danger from crowding is ever present.

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Never let your drinking founts get slimy. Scald them out and give a good cleaning every few days.

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The greater the egg production per hen the greater the labor income, cash receipts, and cash returns above feed.

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Hens that lose in weight usually go into a molt. Therefore it is essential to watch the weight of the hens and see that they are getting sufficient feed to maintain their body needs.

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On the larger farms culling is carried on rapidly in the fall and the poor birds go to market by the crate.

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There is no other fowl or stock that will deteriorate as quickly as turkeys with inbreeding. This is one of the great faults and the hardest lesson many have had to learn.

Little Money Is Spent in Aiding Poultrymen

A recent analysis by the United States Department of Agriculture shows that less money per $1,000 valuation of the commodity is spent by the government in aiding poultry and egg producers than of any other farm crop.

On the basis mentioned, poultry interests receive 14 cents, tobacco 42 cents, cotton 50 cents, pork and pork products 65 cents, Irish potatoes 79 cents, vegetables 84 cents, small fruits $1.08, orchard fruits $1.66, dairy cattle and products $1.80, citrus fruits $2.46, beef cattle and products $2.85, sheep and sheep products, $3.27, and bees and bee products $3.61.

Poultry and eggs, the fifth agricultural interest in the United States in value, affect more producers and dealers than any other industry and receive proportionately less federal agricultural appropriation. The appropriations made for poultry are divided among various bureaus. In the Department of Agriculture alone, nine different bureaus handle poultry funds.

Table Gives Relative Size of Turkey Breeds

The following table will give the relative sizes of the breeds of turkeys:

	Bronze Pounds	White Holland Pounds	Bourbon Reds Pounds
Adult tom	36	28	30
Yearling tom ..	33	24	25
Young tom	25	20	20
Hen	20	18	18
Pullet	16	14	14

These are the standard weights and show the White Holland to be the lightest of the three breeds, but we find that there is a great tendency for the White Holland turkeys to run over the standard weight somewhat. Of the three breeds the White ones are considered to be the most domestic and will usually range closer to home than either of the other breeds. The Bourbon Reds would come between the other two breeds in regard to ranging habits.

Chicken Paralysis Is Causing Heavy Losses

According to Dr. L. P. Doyle of Purdue university, chicken paralysis is now recognized as a distinct disease which is widely distributed and is causing heavy losses. He maintains that worms do not cause paralysis in chickens.

Birds affected with this disease continue to have good appetites and die in an emaciated condition because they cannot reach a food supply. When this disease is present in a flock, there are nearly always mature fowls showing a peculiar type of blindness in which the colored part of the eye turns almost white. No cure has been found. Avoid hatching eggs from flocks so afflicted.

Comb of Laying Hens

It is comparatively easy to tell which hens in the flock are laying. Probably the first point to observe would be the comb, which in a laying hen is usually of good size and bright red, while in a hen not laying the comb will be pale, small, dry and covered with a white scurf.

The next point to observe would be the vent, which in a laying hen is moist, soft and expanded, while in a non-laying hen the vent is dry, hard, and puckered.

BABY CHICKS

Barred Rocks, R. I. Reds, White Wyandottes and White Leghorns. Bred from pure bred, free range birds. Our breeders are under State Supervision, having been culled and inspected by competent men. Four hatches each week. During October and November with each 500 chicks we will give 50 Lbs. of Chick Starter Free. With 1000 chicks we will give 100 Lbs. of Chick Starter Free. We use and recommend this Chick Starter. Prices on request.

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