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POULTRY

EARLY PULLETS SHOULD NOW BE LAYING—HENS IN FULL MOLT NEED PLENTY OF FEED—OTHER NOTES CONCERNING POULTRY

Pullets that were hatched out early should now be bringing in a profit to their owners and should continue laying in fair stride right through the winter. Of course, one cannot expect them to do as well as in the spring, which is the natural time for a hen to lay, but, at that, the eggs from these early-hatched birds will be worth more money. Consequently, there will be a larger profit from the eggs than when they are more plentiful. You can read all you want to about hens laying in four, five and six months—and this is not impossible—but it takes seven or eight months before a bird gets laying eggs that will bring in a profit to the owner. It is a great deal of trouble to hatch out chickens when the snow is banked about the yards, and the temptation is great to sell the eggs when the price is high in early winter. but, even considering these handicaps, these are the birds that pay.

Hens are now in full molt, and have begun to fall off in laying to such an extent that their eggs are hardly profitable, even at the high price of the same. This is a most dangerous time for the hens and many are unable to get through it. It requires considerable energy to shed a set of feathers and grow a new set, and many die during the process from numerous causes. It is a good idea to give the hen plenty of corn and some wheat during this period and keep them in as good condition and with as much flesh as possible.

The price of eggs is now on the rise and the summit will not be reached until near Christmas. The public believes great profits are made from the poultry industry during this period, which is, of course, a mistake, as but few poultry raisers are getting many eggs. The price of eggs is controlled largely by supply and demand. The demand for fresh eggs is brisk at this time, while the supply is gradually diminishing, day by day.

The erection of four new poultry houses, 16x40, at the Bramble Poultry Farm, gives them a capacity of about 1500 laying hens for this fall and winter. Their early hatched pullets, S. C. White Leghorn, Barred Plymouth Rock and S. C. Rhode Island Red, are now laying in good profit, producing about 250 eggs per day and gradually increasing. Their new houses are modern in type, concrete floors and concrete foundations.

A laying fowl uses up the surplus fat in her body, largely for the building up of the yolks of the eggs. This loss of fat with the yellow fatty pigment is clearly shown by lack of coloring matter in the beak, shank and also in the skin around the vent. These parts grow lighter and lighter in color as production increases. Hens that have laid few or no eggs will have bright yellow shonks and beaks and the color of the skin around the vent will be normal.

Experiments conducted with leghorns at Cornell clearly demonstrated that the highest producing females lay the greatest number of eggs during their first laying season, while the poorer producers lay fewer eggs the first season than they do the second. But as a matter of fact those that lay heavily the first year lay more eggs during the second year than do the poor layers of the first year, in spite of the fact that the production of the latter increases in the second year.

No laying fowls, with the possible exception of those of the lighter breeds such as the leghorns or anconas, should be kept for more than two years; and it is important that those that are held over for the second year are the high producers, with an abundance of strength and vigor; and there should be only a sufficient number to furnish breeding stock, unless there is more housing rooms for layers than there are youngs birds to be housed. Under such conditions enough yearlings should be saved to occupy the available room in the laying houses. It must be borne in mind that though the pullets yield the most profit, that the eggs obtained from the older fowls are well worth the time and care devoted to them.

How to cull out the poor layers at the end of the first laying season and select the high producers for the next year is a problem that confronts the average farm raiser of poultry in Kent county and the whole country. It is practically impossible to have trap nests on the farm. The amount of work that is required to handle them is so great that it would be absolutely impossible in a great majority of the cases. About the best way that we know of is to go over the flock one by one inspecting the pelvic bones. If closed tightly, discard them; if opened sufficiently to insert one finger or more keep them for breeders.

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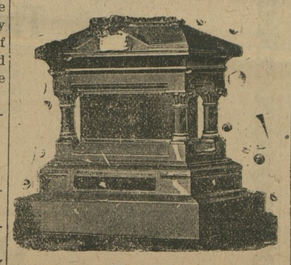
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50c 36-in. Half Wool Shepherd Plaid for only	19c	$2.75 Men's or Ladies' Dusters	$1.25
40c 32-in. Percale	19c	75c Men's Chambray Shirts	49c
30c 27-in. Percale, 3 yd. wide	19c	40c Leather Palm Gloves	20c
50c Summer Silk	19c	20c Men's Jersey Gloves	12 1-2c
40c 32-in. Khaki Cloth	19c	15c Ladies' Hose	81-2c
40c Turkish Towels	19c	15c Children's Hose	5c
50c Ladies' Knit Pants	19c	15c Men's Socks	8 1-2c
50c Ladies' Knit Shirts	19c	50c Ladies' Union Suits	29c
40c Fleescher's Wool, per ball	19c	40c Men's Shirts or Drawers	25c
40c Children's Muslin Drawers	19c	$4 Extra Heavy Rockers	$2.98
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90c 36-in. Serge	59c	$12 Felt Mattress	$7.25
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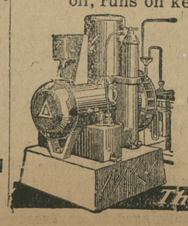
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