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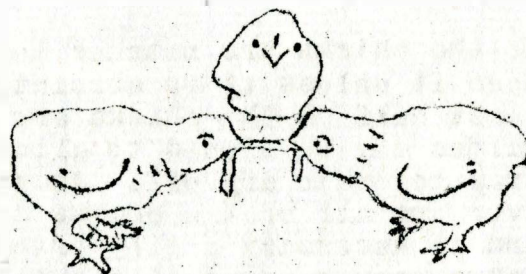
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PHASES OF POULTRY
(Care & Feeding)
of young chicks
by

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1.

CARE OF BABY CHICKS

If baby chicks can be carried through the first four weeks, very little trouble and few losses will be had from then on, unless the losses come from hawks or animals that catch the chicks when they are on range.

HEN HATCHED: If hatched under hens, leave the chicks until the hatch is completed unless the hen becomes restless. In that case put the chicks in a box or basket that has a warm lining and keep in a warm place until the hen can be moved to the brood coop. If the nest is deep enough, or covered so the chicks can not fall out, the hen will usually stay unless she is disturbed.

**INCUBATOR
HATCHED:**

If the chicks are hatched in an incubator do not open it unless it is absolutely necessary until at least half of the chicks are hatched. Then the slides may be opened to allow them to drop into the tray below to dry off. As soon as the hatch is over and all of the chicks dry, open the ventilator and if necessary a tiny crack in the floor, about large enough to admit a match. Keep the incubator dark, at a temperature ranging from 98-100 degrees, until the chicks are about 36 hours old, when they may be taken to the brooder.

**TEMPORARY
BROODER:**

If, for any reason the brooder is not ready, a box or boxes about 1-1/2 feet to 2 feet square and from 10 to 12 inches deep may be used by cutting a hole about 3 inches high and 12 inches long at the bottom for the chicks to pass in and out.

Cut a piece of cloth to fit this opening slitting it in four or five places to within a half inch of the top. Cover the top of the box with an old blanket or quilt, and if the outside temperature is below 70 degrees, use bottles or jugs of hot water to keep chicks warm. A brooder heated by jugs of water only is sometimes used during the entire time with fair success. The coal burner is considered safest by most farmers and poultry men. Less loss will follow if the brooder has been regulated before the chicks are placed in it.

TEMPERATURE:

If the chicks are early hatched, the temperature 2 inches above the floor heated by a coal stove brooder should be 110 degrees, later when the outside temperature is higher, it should be about 100 degrees. Early chicks need the heat for about 8 weeks, later ones 6 weeks, gradually lower the temperature at the rate of about 5 degrees each week after the first two weeks. When the chicks no longer need the brooder heat, place them on range where some shade is available if possible.

Commercial chick feeds are good, but more expensive than home mixed and often contain objectionable weed seeds.

The following rations differ somewhat, but are very satisfactory.

FIRST WEEK

Scratch Feed

Dry Mash

50 lbs. finely cracked corn	Wheat bran
40 lbs. finely cracked wheat	
10 lbs. rolled oats	

Sour milk all of the time. Clean dishes each day.

SECOND TO EIGHTH WEEK:

Scratch Feed

Dry Mash

60 lbs. finely cracked corn	20 lbs. bran
40 lbs. finely cracked wheat	10 lbs. middlings
	10 lbs. corn meal
	10 lbs. ground oats
	5 lbs. meat scrap or tankage
	1 lb. bone meal

If sour milk is available all of the time omit meat scrap or tankage

EIGHTH WEEK TO MATURITY:

Scratch Feed

Dry Mash

200 lbs cracked corn	200 lbs. bran
100 lbs. oats or wheat	100 lbs. middlings
	100 lbs. ground corn
	100 lbs. ground oats
	75 lbs. meat scrap
	5 lbs. bone meal

Sour milk at all times. Green feed enough to keep chicks satisfied. Cabbage, beets, mangels, sprouted oats, alfalfa or green grass.

A good recipe for a baked feed:

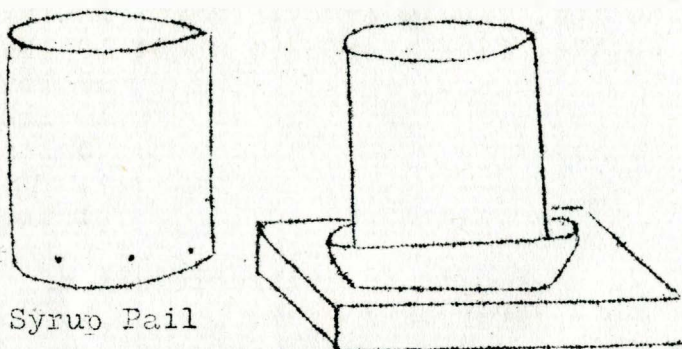
Johnny Cake

1 quart corn meal
 1 or 2 infertile eggs
 1 teaspoon soda

Mix with milk to make a stiff batter and bake until dry. This may be enlarged to suit the amount needed for the flock.

For summer shade if there are no trees, plant mammoth sunflowers. The seed makes excellent feed, when used with grain. Cut off the sunflower heads when ripe, tie in bunches and hang them where the mice cannot get at them. In the winter throw two or three of these heads in the poultry house each day.

FLOOR: Cover the floor with sand, fine cut alfalfa, clover or straw. Change this litter often enough to keep it clean. Cleanliness is one of the greatest factors of success in growing chicks. When possible move to new ground to keep down diseases. Before putting the second hatch into the breeder, if it is to be used twice, disinfect thoroughly and leave it open for a day or two if possible.



Syrup Pail

Showing pail set in shallow pan on a 2 inch block

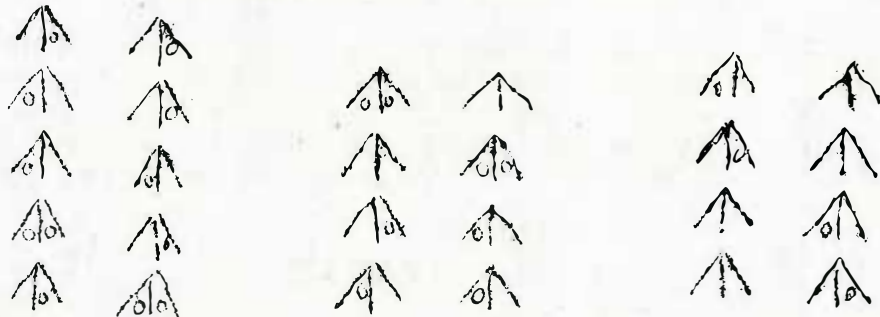
DRINKING FOUNTAIN: The drinking fountain should be a covered one so that no chicks can get into it. A simple one can be made by taking a tomato can or a syrup pail, punch holes a half inch from the top, fill with water, place a pie tin or shallow pan over it bottom side up, hold firmly, then tip upside down. If this is placed on a block about two inches high it can be more easily kept clean. The fountains should be cleaned each day as filthy water is one of the causes of disease. The drinking water is also one of the most common ways of spreading disease.

**SEPARATING
COCKERELS
AND PULLETS:**

The cockerels and pullets will do much better if they can be separated just as soon as the sex can be distinguished. Unless the cockerels can be kept for breeding stock it is more profitable to sell them as broilers providing they can be placed by themselves and fattened. The lighter breeds such as the Leghorns, are much more profitable if sold when they weigh from 1-1/2 to 2 pounds than when kept until fall.

MARKING:

Chicks should be marked as soon as they are placed in the brooder or brooder coops. If they are likely to be placed in an exhibit a chick punch, or chick leg or wing bands should be used. If not, an easy way is to cut the web between the first and second toes on one foot, using an ordinary pair of scissors. If a sharp knife is used place the chick's foot on a board or block then cut through the web. The selection of next year's breeding stock should begin almost as soon as the chicks are hatched, for the first ones in a hatch are usually the strongest, most vigorous birds of the flock. They usually show the most rapid growth and should be marked before the others catch up with them at maturity.



A few simple ways of marking chicks. Others may be worked out.

FEEDING

The feeding of little chicks is of such importance that the future productivity of the flock depends directly upon it. If we remember that nature has provided the chick with food for 48-60 hours by enclosing the yolk in the abdomen just before it emerges from the shell, we will not bring on indigestion with its attendant bowel trouble by feeding too soon.

KIND OF FEED:

Besides being chosen with regard to the needs of the chicks, the food should be sweet, clean, and appetizing, and should have enough variety to induce them to eat as much as possible.

METHOD:

At the end of 48 to 60 hours the chicks may be fed for the first time. In the meantime they have become accustomed to the brooder or coop, and have been pecking at the sand and fine charcoal which is scattered over the floor.

WHEN TO FEED:

At the end of 48-60 hours begin to feed a little at a time at least five times each day, morning, 10 o'clock, noon, 2 P.M., and in the evening feed usually between 4 and 5. At the last feed let them eat all they will. If too much is fed at first the chicks lose appetite and become weak and stunted.

GREEN FEED: Grains do not contain enough mineral to supply all the chick needs for bones and feathers, so a small amount of green feed should be given. If there are any onions in the cellar that have long sprouts they make excellent green feed. Tie from 2 to 6 together in a long string and let the chicks peck at them. Chopped clover, alfalfa, or sprouted oats is good. A large piece of sod placed in the brooder helps to keep the chicks contented.

MOLDY FEED: N E V E R feed moldy, musty, or sour feed as they may cause serious bowel trouble. By "sour" we do not refer to sour milk which is considered one of the best feeds for chicks, but moist bread, mash or baked cornbread that has fermented.

INFERTILE EGGS: In testing the eggs, either under hens or in the incubator usually there will be a considerable number of infertile eggs which may be used to good advantage in feeding the young chicks. They may be used in Johnny cake or as hard cooked eggs, chopped fine.

RATIONS

The rations below are the ones recommended by the Poultry Department of the South Dakota State College and are used on the Poultry Farm.

FIRST DAY }
SECOND DAY } No feed.

THIRD DAY

1. Grit in form of sand
2. Fine oyster shell
3. Hard cooked egg (with shell) chopped fine. Mix with equal parts of meal or corn meal. Feed sparingly 4 times daily
4. Plenty of fresh water tinged with permanganate of potash
5. Sour milk or buttermilk.

NOTE: Eggs candled on 7th day, if infertile, should be kept for feeding. Do not cook until the day you intend to use them.

FOURTH DAY:

1. Same as third day
Baked corn bread or bread crumbs may be used
2. Start feeding dry mash
2 parts corn meal
2 parts bran
2 parts middlings
1/2 part fine meat scrap
This mash should be fed in hoppers (to save from waste) or in small troughs.
3. Feed lightly of scratch feed
4 parts finely cracked corn
2 parts finely cracked wheat
Feed in litter

FIFTH AND SIXTH DAY: Same as above. Gradually reduce feed for first day, as chicks grow accustomed to dry mash hoppers. Begin feeding a small amount of green feed.

These rations are recommended by the Iowa State College, in Extension Bulletin No. 6, and are extensively used in Iowa.

FIRST TWO WEEKS: These rations have proven successful and are recommended to those who are interested in feeding young chicks. No feed until chicks are 48 hours old.

Grain mixture No. 1		Mash mixture No. 1.	
Cracked corn	3 lbs	Corn meal	3 lbs.
Steel cut oats	2 lbs	Oat meal	3 lbs
		High grade tankage or	
		Bone meal	1/2 lb.
		Charcoal (fine)	1/2 lb.

METHOD OF FEEDING: To a small quantity of the mash mixture add about 1/3 as much chopped hard cooked egg, including shell, a small amount of chopped green feed, and a sprinkle of grit. Moisten with sour milk or buttermilk and feed as crumbly mash five times a day. Sprinkle the grain mixture in litter.

THIRD AND FOURTH WEEKS:

Grain mixture No. 2		Mash mixture No. 2	
Cracked corn	3 lbs	Fine cracked corn	3 lbs
Steel cut oats	2 lbs	Ground oats	3 lbs
		Shorts	3 lbs
		High grade tankage	1 lb.

METHOD OF FEEDING: Feed as in ration No. 1 except that the number of times may be reduced to three instead of five times each day. Feed grain mixture in litter. After the third week mash may be fed dry in hopper.

FIFTH WEEK TO MATURITY:

Grain mixture No. 3		Mash mixture No. 3	
Cracked corn	3 lbs	Ground corn	3 lbs
Whole oats	1 lb	Shorts	3 lbs
		Ground oats	3 lbs
		High grade tankage	2 lbs.

METHOD OF FEEDING: Mash No. 3 may be fed in a hopper. The hopper to be opened about 10 A.M. and left open till 4 P.M.

The grain mixture should be fed in deep litter about 1/3 of the day's ration in the morning and 2/3 before roosting time.