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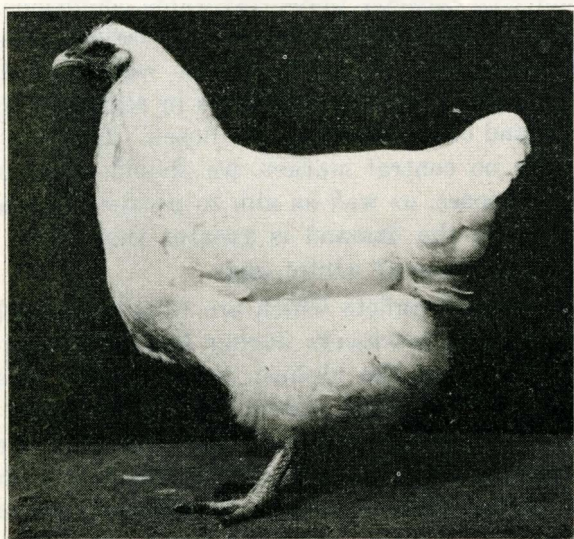
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THE CARE OF PULLETS FOR WINTER EGGS

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This White Rock hen on the government experiment farm, Beltsville, Md., laid 109 eggs in 122 days.

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BROOKINGS, S. DAK.

CARE, FEEDING AND HOUSING OF PULLETS FOR WINTER EGG PRODUCTION

It is not difficult to secure fall and winter eggs in profitable numbers if we provide suitable conditions and then try to meet those conditions. Such factors as feed, care and even breeding conditions all enter into egg production, but are somewhat limited as compared with early hatching of pullets. Mature pullets of any of the popular breeds will lay winter eggs and there is probably little difference in their actual productive capacity under favorable conditions. There are, however, marked differences in the various breeds with respect to uniformity of color, size or weight of the eggs produced, as well as market conditions in regard to eggs of a certain color and of 24 ounces to the dozen. In South Dakota, although with no central market, we should select our eggs for market purposes, as well as aim to produce as many eggs as possible, since the demand is greater than the supply. This is especially true of winter eggs.

The early-hatch pullets which are fully matured by early fall will be our egg producers during November and December when eggs are at the highest market price. Watch the pullets which were hatched during March and April and notice if this does not prove true. Then see to it that those pullets receive a good feeding ration which will help produce eggs, giving them a variety of different grains which are available on the farm, excluding wheat, of course, unless feed-wheat.

It must be remembered that in winter the animal food such as bugs and insects are gone, as well as green food, so we must provide these egg producing materials in other than natural form. If it is impossible to get beef scrap, or ground bones, and knowing that we must supply laying hens with at least a part of this animal food, we must give them a plentiful supply of milk in most any form. For green feed, we can feed sprouted oats, providing, of course, we have not a supply of cabbage, mangels or other root crops on hand. Steamed alfalfa will also answer for green food. Fairly good results in egg production have been made from feeding the following rations:

Feeding For Winter Eggs

Feeds and rations which will prove best are those available on the farms. However, a good scratch feed may be made of two parts cracked corn, 1 part feed-wheat, oats or speltz, or a mixture of the three small grains. For dry mash, mix 3 parts bran, 2 parts middlings, 4 parts cornmeal, 1 part beef scrap, or fish meal, by weight. Give green feed, as available, in constant supply. If the pullets have milk in any form, the meat scrap can be omitted. Dry mash should be fed in a dish, or better, a hopper, in order not to waste it. Keep this dry mash before them at all times. Give the scratch feed in the morning in the straw litter, the sprouted oats or alfalfa or other green feed at noon, and whole or cracked corn in the evening. Give them plenty of pure, fresh water at all times, and warm water during severely cold days. Keep oyster shells, charcoal and grit before the fowls at all times.

Good Poultry Houses

Housing is of vast importance where winter egg production is the object in-so-far as it effects the comfort and health of the fowls. By this is meant protection from storms, extreme cold and dampness, plenty of fresh air and sunshine, and a sufficient amount of floor space. Do not crowd the pullets; if impossible to build larger and better poultry houses, it is better to cull the flock, selecting only those which were early-hatch and which are fully matured and ready to lay, disposing of any late-hatch chicks, all old hens over 2 1-2 years old which are not laying, thus giving more floor space to the best producers. A good house, 16 feet wide, 32 feet long, 7 feet in front 5 1-2 feet in rear, with plenty of windows for sunlight and ventilation will accommodate 150 to 175 fowls. By disposing of the culls and old hens (over 2 1-2 years old) one may build a good poultry house, which will be paid for in a very short time.

How To Get Winter Eggs

1. Give close attention to selection and care of breeding stock to reproduce a larger percentage of good types of profitable producers.
2. Breed only from American **standard poultry**, as select flocks of standard bred fowls lay more eggs, larger eggs and more uniform in size, shape and color.
3. Hatch your pullets early for winter egg production.
4. Hatch only from well matured stock.
5. Provide free range for both growing stock and layers in-so-far as possible to stimulate growth and production and conserve food consumption.
6. Supply good feed and regular methods of feeding.
7. Provide good sanitary poultry houses.
8. Have fowls and buildings free from mites and lice.
9. Encourage the careful selection of all hens in order to eliminate the unprofitable producers.
10. Discourage the marketing of all profitable pullets as broilers and of all well matured pullets for meat.