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BOYS' AND GIRLS' CLUB WORK

Poultry Club



EXTENSION DIVISION

SOUTH DAKOTA STATE COLLEGE OF AGRICULTURE AND MECHANIC ARTS AND U. S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE, COOPERATING
C. LARSEN, DIRECTOR

JUNIOR EXTENSION WORK

Paul J. Scarbro State Club Leader
Irene Dunne Assistant State Club Leader
A. L. Haynes Assistant State Club Leader
Selma Rongstad Assistant State Club Leader

Brookings, S. D.

REGULATIONS

1. Any Junior 10 to 18 years, inclusive, may enter.
2. Enrollments close March 1.
3. Number of pure bred eggs set: Minimum, 30. Maximum, 200.
4. A club shall consist of not less than five members and local leader.
5. Instructions relative to the selection, care and feeding will be sent to each member from time to time.
6. Each member does his work, follows instructions, keeps an accurate record, makes reports as called for, writes a story of his work at the close of the project and makes an exhibit at the community or county fair.
7. An exhibit shall consist of a trio of birds, two pullets and a cockerel.
8. Any trio of birds recommended by the county agent, club leader or poultry breeder, is eligible to enter at the State Poultry Show.

BASIS OF ACHIEVEMENT

| | |
|---|------|
| Largest number of birds raised..... | 40% |
| Profit from work | 25% |
| Exhibit (Type, Uniformity, Condition) . | 15% |
| Best kept record book | 10% |
| Best written story..... | 10% |
| Total..... | 100% |

MANAGING THE HOME FLOCK

It is recommended that the club member take charge of the management of the entire farm flock and enter into a partnership with the father to share alike on the profits derived from the enterprise. The father agrees to furnish the foundation stock and feed. The club member has complete charge of the setting, hatching, feeding and care of the flock according to instruction from Club Leader.

THE POULTRY INDUSTRY

It Is Patriotic. Uncle Sam urges us to save meat, but in doing so he does not intend that we should go without. He wants us to use meat-substitutes such as poultry. By eating poultry and eggs we conserve on all classes of meats. Poultry cannot be cured and shipped abroad to advantage, as other meats, so by raising more poultry we release other meats to feed the world.

It Is Profitable. Among farm boys and girls the raising of poultry is a one-hundred-per-cent-profit game. The fowls on the average farm get their living by picking up the scattered grain in feed yards, pens, and about the granaries. Current prices paid for poultry will warrant the raising of them under almost any conditions. It matters not whether the birds are consumed by the family at home or whether they are sold by the pound to the shipper, or whether they are sold as breeders, the profit is there just the same. We have poultry raisers in South Dakota who are paying an income tax on the profits derived from this enterprise.

It Is Educational. Poultry raising is an education in itself. The aim of the project is to interest the boy and girl to such an extent that they will make a study of the different lines of poultry. First, to select their breeding stock from year to year with an eye to improvement; second, to show their birds at the county, state and interstate shows; third, finally to develop into real acknowledged poultry breeders and judges.

It Is a Pleasure. The poultry industry will create in the boy and girl a love for animals and a desire to put forth every effort to make the project a success. Results of good care and management show readily, and with these results come the pleasure and satisfaction of knowing our project is a success.

SELECTION

Breeds. In selecting a breed of chickens it is well to keep in mind the kind the market demands. Those breeds recommended for South Dakota are of the dual purpose type, chickens raised for egg production and for meat. These breeds include Rhode Island Reds, Barred Rocks, White Rocks, White Wyandottes, Anconas, Orpingtons and Leghorns.

Eggs. In selecting eggs for hatching, select only eggs normal in shape, which you know to be fertile, the hens from which you select eggs having been mated to a good, vigorous male bird, for at least five days before saving the eggs for hatching. Remember it has been proven that chickens hatched early will mature early. The pullets will begin to lay generally in September, and you can dispose of your cockerels on the market as frys or broilers early in the summer. Hatching season for South Dakota ranges from March 1 to June 1, but not later.

Incubation. There are two ways of incubation: first, the natural way, using hens; second, the artificial way, using incubators. Unless your parents have an incubator with which you are familiar, you should use hens. Select hens that have been broody for at least two days. Arrange a nest at least twelve inches square and deep enough so you can place a sod, dirt side up, or just plain dirt, at least four inches deep in the bottom of the nest. Place finely broken straw or grass over the dirt or sod. Make a good nest so the eggs will not roll out. The best time to put eggs under a hen or to move a hen is after dark. The period of incubation is from 20 to 22 days.

(See your record book for "Care of Baby Chicks.")

The Show Bird. In selecting poultry for exhibition you should begin with your adult birds. See that they are standard bred, or if you start with eggs secure them from a breeder of standard-bred poultry. From the time your chicks are hatched keep them growing. Never let them become stunted. The weak or sickly chick will never mature to become a show bird. A copy of the American Standard of Perfection should belong to every club. This gives the directions and score cards by which all poultry is judged.

(Ed L. Hayes, Extension Poultry Specialist, assisted in arranging this circular).