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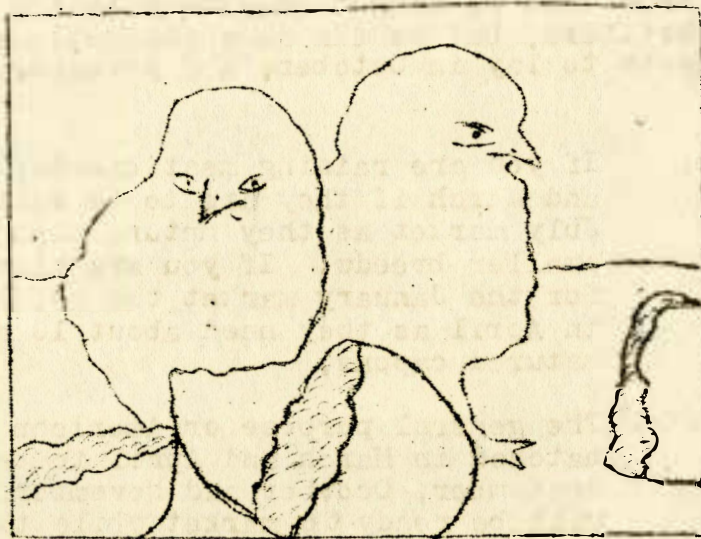
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PHASES OF POULTRY WORK  
(Hatch Early)

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## Hatch Early

Since early spring is nature's most favorable growing season chicks should be hatched early. The climate of South Dakota does not warrant hatching poultry of any kind so early as the states farther south, but one should plan on hatching as early as home conditions will permit. On the Government poultry farm experiments have been carried on for a number of years to prove that chicks hatched by March 1, weighed more when four months old than those hatched May 1 weigh when they are four months old. If properly cared for chicks will make a greater gain the first four weeks than during any other four weeks. Conditions are more favorable in early spring than in hot weather.

It is true that we cannot compete with the southern states in raising broilers, but we can have the pullets well matured so they will begin to lay in October, and November when the hens are moulting.

**MEAT BREEDS:** If you are raising meat breeds, hatch in February and March if they are to be sold on the June and July market as they mature much slower than the smaller breeds. If you are planning on caponizing for the January market the chicks should be hatched in April as they need about 10 months to make well matured capons.

**GENERAL PURPOSE BREEDS:** The general purpose or American breeds should be hatched in March and April to be ready to lay in September, October and November. The cockerels will be ready to market while the price is still good, or will make good January capons.

**EGG BREEDS:** The egg breeds should be hatched in April and May. If hatched earlier the pullets will lay in August and September then will moult when cold weather stops them from laying. They do not lay again until spring.

**LATE HATCH:** Thousands of late hatched chicks die in South Dakota as the result of hot weather, lice and mites and a lack of shade. When the weather is hot the chicks grow slowly and are stunted for life. On many South Dakota farms there is not shade provided and little attention is paid to the lice and mites that multiply rapidly in hot weather. Late hatched chicks are more easily affected with roup, worms, and probably leg mange, as their vitality is low.

**EGG PRODUCTION:** By a long time experiment it has been found that early hatched pullets lay a higher average number of eggs in a given time than late hatched pullets. These experiments were carried on at the Government poultry farm and all records were carefully kept.

**FEED:** Do not stop feeding as soon as the chicks have feathered. Keep them growing as rapidly as possible.

**CONCLUSION:**

1. Hatch as early as conditions will permit.
2. Get the chicks past the danger line before hot weather sets in.
3. Early hatched chicks are less liable to be troubled with lice, mites, and disease.
4. Early hatched chicks have a longer growing season.
5. Early hatched chicks bring higher prices for broilers.
6. Early hatched cockerels make large capons.
7. Early hatched pullets make winter layers
8. Early hatched pullets lay when hens are moulting.
9. Early hatched pullets become broody early the next spring.
10. Early hatched chicks mean greater profits.