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Poultry Helps In War Time

*It's
Profitable and Patriotic*

1918

Illinois Farmers' Institute,
Springfield, Illinois

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**EVERYBODY CAN HELP WIN
THE WAR WITH
POULTRY**

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MORE POULTRY NEEDED

More meat is needed for the boys at the front. This must come from America. France and England can not produce it. Every effort is being made to grow more cattle, hogs and sheep, but at best this increase will be slow. Poultry can be produced more rapidly, and can be used to conserve other meat supplies, thereby releasing more beef and pork for army needs. It can also be produced as economically as any other form of meat, and town people as well as farmers can aid in this patriotic work.

MORE EGGS, TOO

More poultry not only means more meat, but more eggs. And eggs are also a good meat substitute. The more eggs people eat, the less meat is required, and there will be more beef and pork for the soldiers.

EASY TO PRODUCE

There are no secrets about poultry raising which can not readily be mastered by anyone who will give it study and attention. Men and women, boys and girls, can all raise poultry if they will apply ordinary intelligence to the job. Poultry requires a small investment; can be handled on a limited amount of ground; is profitable, and provides a quick means of meeting the present food emergency.

Begin NOW—Feed Yourself

“ONE HUNDRED HENS ON EVERY FARM”

Is the slogan of the
UNITED STATES FOOD ADMINISTRATION

If you can not keep 100 hens, keep as many as you can. Every additional chick will help. This is the most practical and effective way in which people living in town or city can add to our food production.

PRACTICAL POULTRY POINTERS

Poultry raising is profitable. It is especially profitable in war time. Markets demand poultry and eggs at good prices, and they supply wholesome and economical food for the home table. Every family should raise its own poultry. It is profitable, and right now it is PATRIOTIC.

Choice of Breed

A general-purpose breed, such as the Plymouth Rock, Orpington, Wyandotte or Rhode Island Red, is the best for table use. The hens are good setters and good mothers, and will give plenty of eggs for family use. The lighter weight egg-breeds, such as the Leghorns and Anconas, are more economical producers where eggs are chiefly desired.

Number to Keep

Keep as many hens as space and feed supply will permit. On the farm, where free range is available, 100 hens may be handled successfully. On small town lots, 10 to 25 are usually enough. Twenty square feet is the minimum amount of space to allow each bird. Better keep a small-sized flock well, than a larger number in quarters which are cramped and too small for best results.

Houses and Yards

A comfortable house is essential. It need not be expensive. It must have a good roof, a dry floor, and be free from draft. A satisfactory house for a small flock can be made from piano boxes. Oftentimes an old shed, or other small building, can be remodeled for poultry. Building paper can be used to keep out the wind, and prepared roofing will stop the leaks.

Good ventilation must be provided. Allow plenty of fresh air and sunlight. Face the house to the south, if possible. An open-front house with burlap or canvas curtain is cheap and satisfactory. A floor space of 3 square feet per bird is about right. A dirt floor is sufficient if it will keep dry. It must be high enough to prevent dampness at all times. A board floor should never be laid on the ground. Raise it 10 or 12 inches, with free air space below, which will serve to preserve the wood and give protection from rats. Arrange roosts, with dropping boards, in rear of house, about 20 inches above the floor. The roosts should be set on the same level and about 6 or 8 inches above the dropping boards, 15 inches apart, and with an allowance of 10 inches of roost space per bird. Nest boxes may be nailed to the side of the house and save floor space. Make the nests 12 inches square and 6 inches deep, and keep the straw, or other material used in them, always clean. The floor of the house should be well covered with clean litter of straw or dry leaves. Suitable yards may be made by the use of common chicken fencing, and arranged to suit individual convenience.

Hatching the Chicks

Hatch the chicks early. Early hatched pullets will produce more winter eggs. Hot weather retards the growth of young chicks. Late hatched chicks are more susceptible to disease and require more care in raising. If hens are used for hatching see that they set where they will not be disturbed. Arrange the nests low, and provide fresh food and water each day.

Set uniform size eggs and be sure they are fertile. Test out all infertile eggs at the end of one week of incubation. Cook these eggs and feed them to the baby chicks.

Care of the Chicks

The first two weeks is the important period of the chick's life. They must be kept warm and free from lice. If hatched in an incubator transfer to warm brooder. Anoint top of head with lard or olive oil to prevent head lice. Give no solid feed for the first 36 or 48 hours. Dry bread crumbs or corn-meal mash makes good early feed. Oatmeal or finely-cracked corn may also be used. Corn bread, or Johnny cake, is a good chick feed. It may be made by mixing corn meal with a little salt, baking soda and sour milk to make a stiff batter. Sour milk is excellent for both young and old fowls.

Feed the chicks several times a day, all they will clean up, on clean grass or boards, but do not over-feed. A variety of grain feed may be used as the chicks learn to eat it. Supply whole corn for the mother hen. Clean, fresh drinking

A Young Patriot and His Flock

water is essential at all times. Keep it in a clean dish, where chicks will not get into the water with their feet. Don't let the young chicks run in the wet grass, or range with the hen until two or three weeks old. Provide plenty of shade for young chicks, as the hot sun retards growth. See that the chicks are safe from rats and other enemies at night.

Selecting the Layers

Special attention needs to be given to the selection of the layers. There are good and poor producers in every flock, and the poor ones should be weeded out and replaced by more profitable individuals. Select the pullets showing early maturity and vigor. Good constitution is essential to profitable egg production. Hens that are most active are likely to be the best layers. They have full-sized red combs, with smooth skin and a large abdomen. Late moulting hens are the best layers. Select the most likely pullets to renew the laying flock. But this does not necessarily mean the elimination of all the yearling hens, especially when it is so important to increase poultry and egg supplies. Hens that molt late and appear in good condition may be held over, and will likely prove profitable layers. The accommodation of both pullets and hens, where space permits, will assure larger laying flocks, and is desirable under present conditions. Do not sacrifice a hen or pullet that will produce eggs during the winter if you can help it. Eggs from hens are usually better for hatching than those from pullets. Hens produce more vigorous chicks, usually.

Swat the Rooster

Do not allow the male birds to run with the flock after the hatching season is over. The pullets will develop faster and the hens do better without the rooster. More eggs will be produced and of a better quality, as infertile eggs always keep fresh longer. Keep only male birds which are actually needed for breeding. Eat, or sell, the others in early fall, as they consume feed which might better be used for pullets. See that all surplus young cockerels are marketed as broilers and roasters. Or, better still, caponize the surplus cockerels and sell them the following March or April, when they should weigh 10 or 12 pounds each. A few days ago a southern Illinois man sold his capons at 48 cents per pound. This will save grain, prevent great loss of eggs, and contribute to the market meat supply.

Feeding the Flock

There is no one best feed, or combination of feeds, for all conditions. The ration should be economical and supply the nutrients required for egg production. A mixture of the common grains is good, but should be supplemented with other feed, as grain alone is too fattening. Plenty of protein is needed. Supply this in the form of skimmed milk, buttermilk, or beef scrap. Milk may be used either sweet or sour. Table scraps make good feed and should be utilized to best advantage. Feed in trough, or on a board. The grain ration is best scattered in the litter of the scratching pen, where the hens will be compelled to exercise in finding it. Cracked corn, wheat and oats, equal parts,

offer a satisfactory grain ration. A dry mash, composed of equal parts corn meal, wheat-bran middlings and beef scrap, finely ground, in a self-feeding hopper, is also desirable. Green-cut bone may be substituted for the beef scrap, but care should be taken to use it only when fresh. Vegetables and roots are excellent for the laying flock, as is also green feed, such as oats sprouts, cut alfalfa, lawn clippings, etc. Plenty of grit should always be supplied in the form of gravel and cracked oyster or clam shells. Fresh, clean water is essential and should be available for the flock at all times.

Lice and Mites

Keep poultry entirely free from lice. A lousy fowl can not do well. Always provide the hens with a good dust bath, as this will help materially in preventing the presence of lice. The use of some good insect powder, such as commercial sodium fluorid, is advisable. Dust a little into the feathers on the head, neck, breast, thighs and tail. The treatment should be thorough, and applied to all fowls, for if one is missed it will be the means of reinfection for the flock. One pound of commercial sodium fluorid, when properly applied, will treat approximately 100 hens.

Mites are often more harmful than lice. They infest the house during the day and attack the birds at night. Thorough spraying with a good commercial insecticide, such as a coal-tar product, or crude petroleum, will rid the premises of them. Be sure the spray reaches every part of the roosts, dropping boards and nests. All cracks and crevices must be given special attention, as here is where most of the mites harbor during the day. This treatment must be thorough and should be applied as often as needed to make sure of results.

Poultry Raising Is Profitable and Right Now It Is Patriotic

Preserving Eggs

When eggs are plentiful, it is well to preserve some for winter use. This can be accomplished by the use of the water-glass method. April and May is the best time for preserving eggs. Use those which are strictly fresh, the same day as laid, if possible. They should be clean. It is better not to wash them. Badly soiled eggs should not be used for preserving. Fresh eggs properly preserved will keep in excellent condition for 8 or 10 months.

Water-glass, or sodium silicate, is a pale yellow, odorous liquid, obtainable at most drug stores for about 30 cents per quart. One quart of water-glass to 9 quarts of water that has been boiled and cooled, will be sufficient for preserving 15 dozen eggs. Use a thoroughly-cleaned 5-gallon jar for the solution. Heat a quantity of water to the boiling point, allow to cool, and measure out 9 quarts into jar. Add 1 quart of water-glass, stirring the mixture thoroughly, and the solution is ready for the eggs. These may be placed in the solution at once, or added from time to time as produced. At least 2 inches of the solution should cover the eggs at all times. Keep the jar in a cool, dry place, and cover well with waxed paper to prevent evaporation.

Limewater may also be used for preserving eggs. While slightly less expensive, it is not considered as satisfactory as the water-glass method. The limewater solution is made by

dissolving 2 or 3 pounds of unslacked lime in 5 gallons of water that has been previously boiled and cooled. The eggs may be placed in the solution as soon as the lime settles and the liquid is clear.

The preserved eggs may be used as needed for table and cooking. In boiling eggs preserved in water-glass, a small hole should be made in the shell with a pin at the large end before placing in water, in order to allow the escape of air to prevent cracking.

FREE POULTRY INFORMATION FOR EVERYBODY

Illinois Farmers' Institute, Springfield, Illinois:

"Poultry Helps in War Time."

"Lectures on Poultry Husbandry." (Circular No. 3.)

"Profit and Loss on Farm Poultry." (Vol. 21, Annual Report.)

"Raising Chickens *vs.* Poultry Culture." (Vol. 19, Annual Report.)

"Practical Poultry Culture." (Vol. 20, Annual Report.)

"Profitable Poultry." (Vol. 20, Annual Report.)

"Poultry as a Woman's Job." (Dept. of H. S. Yearbook 1917.)

U. S. Department of Agriculture, Washington, D. C.:

"Standard Varieties of Chickens." (Farmers' Bulletin No. 51.)

"Poultry Management." (Farmers' Bulletin No. 287.)

"Hints to Poultry Raisers." (Farmers' Bulletin No. 528.)

"Back-Yard Poultry Keeping." (Farmers' Bulletin No. 889.)

"Poultry House Construction." (Farmers' Bulletin No. 574.)

"Capon and Caponizing." (Farmers' Bulletin No. 452.)

"Important Poultry Diseases." (Farmers' Bulletin No. 530.)

"Mites and Lice on Poultry." (Farmers' Bulletin No. 801.)

Additional copies free upon request

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Springfield, Ill.

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