

**HOW POULTRY MAY BE MADE PROFITABLE**



View of a Chicken Range on a Poultry Farm Where From Three to Four Thousand Chickens Are Reared Annually.

(By KATHERINE A. GRIMES.)  
"The proof of the pudding is in the eating," and the proof of success in the poultry business is in the profit made at selling time.

You must begin to plan as to when and how you are going to market your fowls about as soon as the eggs are set—even before, so as to know what your aim is to be—whether mature dressed poultry, birds for brooding, or frying chickens. Of course it all depends upon what the demand in your vicinity is for. If you live where there will be sale for good birds for brooding, it may not pay you to sell many fowls to the market. If you find a good call for broilers or small chicks for frying—and these usually bring good prices—you might do your best work in raising some kind of early-maturing fowls that will make a pound and a half at six weeks or two months old.

If you intend to sell dressed poultry, it is usually best to choose a breed having yellow legs and light-colored feathers, as they look nicer than the black-legged, black-colored varieties. The meat is not a bit better, but you know it is looks that count when a buyer comes into a market.

As soon as the pullets can be told from the roosters, they should be separated, and unless you expect to sell them for brooding, the surplus males should be fattened and disposed of as early as possible.

If you want to hurry them onto the market, one of the very best plans is that known as the crate-feeding method. Take some slats about an inch and a half wide—lath will do very nicely—and make a coop with a flat top and a slat bottom, about 18 inches wide, the same in height, and long enough to accommodate the number of fowls you have to fatten. Allow about six inches in length to each bird. Divide your crate into sections that will hold four or five fowls each. Set it up on a trestle—a couple of sawhorses make good supports—so the droppings will fall through the slat bottom and not soil the coop.

Now make a V-shaped trough the same length as your coop. This is used for both feed and water. The feed should consist of finely-ground oats mixed to a stiff batter with skim-milk or buttermilk, preferably the latter. Feed this mixture three times a day, but do not let it stand in the troughs. Give them ample time, say half an hour, to eat all they want, and

**MULCHING SOIL TO RETAIN MOISTURE**

**Sprinkling Pot Should Be Thrown Away When Water Becomes Scarce Quantity.**

(By L. M. BENNINGTON.)

When water gets scarce throw away your watering pot, or rather your sprinkling pot. At such a time it is a menace to the life of the flowers when in the hands of the novice who "scatters pearly drops" upon the flowers' stalks, and gives the roots none.

Remember that when water is scarce the spade or hoe can do wonders when in the hands of the energetic person who knows how to use these tools.

Deeply dug soil retains moisture for longer than that stirred to a shallow depth.

Keep the surface soil loose and light, giving the plants a surface of dust mulch with a sharp hoe.

Mulches of all kinds are beneficial—fallen leaves, weeds pulled from the garden, lawn clippings.

Planted plants should be thoroughly watered so that the heart of the roots receives its share of moisture. Bedded plants, however, can exist without watering, but if you give them any, give them plenty.

The lawn should never be "sprinkled," but if possible let the hose run in it for hours after sunset. Unless you have an unlimited supply of water do not water the lawn, but save the water for the bed garden and other plants.

**RAISE GEESSE ON FARM**

**Vacant Places Unfit for Cultivation Quite Suitable.**

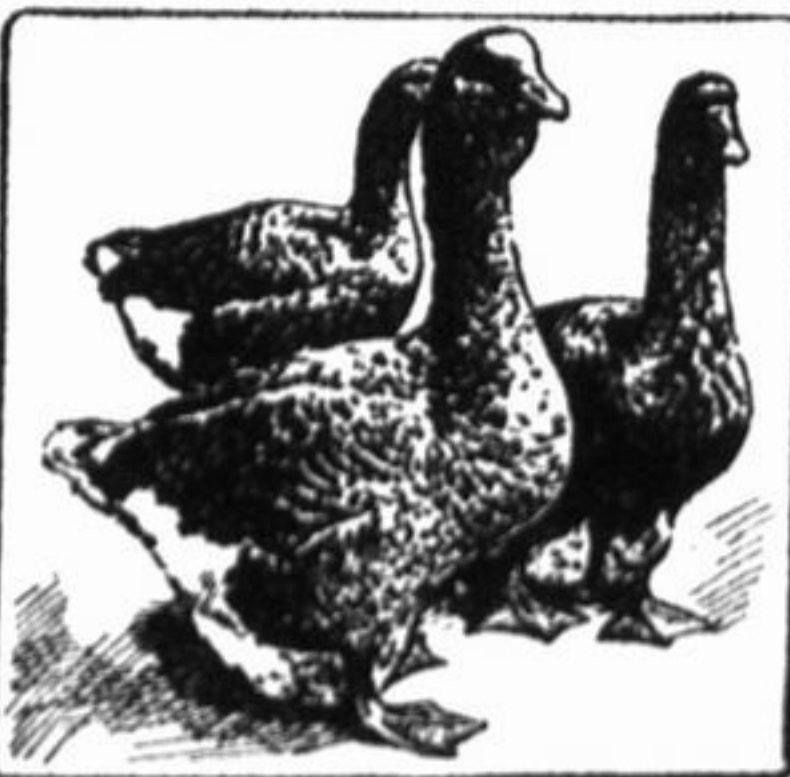
**Fowls Occupy Same Place Among Poultry That Sheep Do Among Live Stock and If Given Care Are Profitable in Proportion.**

Contrary to common belief, geese mature just as rapidly away from streams or ponds as near them. A generous supply of fresh drinking water is all that is required. There are many places on a farm worthless for cultivation that could be used with excellent results for geese raising.

The cost of food for geese is proportionately small in comparison with other birds bred for market. A goose on range will eat grass, insects and other animal and vegetable matter found in the fields.

Geese occupy the same place among poultry that sheep do among live stock and if given proper care are as profitable in proportion, says a writer in the Baltimore American. It is just as necessary to pluck the feathers from a goose as to shear the wool from the sheep, and the product has a great demand. The feathers may be picked four times during the summer, and each goose of the larger breeds will yield about two pounds of fine, soft, downy feathers.

For the best results I feed my geese an egg-producing food, consisting of four measures of wheat bran, two



An Excellent Trio.

measures of shorts, one measure of beef scrap, one measure of oil meal and one-half measure of sharp sand. I give them a small quantity of this food twice daily and allow them free range. I do not allow my geese to hatch their own eggs, because they are so clumsy that they break them, besides I wish to keep them laying all the time.

Though more geese were raised last year than ever before, yet the markets are not oversupplied, and the demand is growing all the time. Geese mature very rapidly and attain an enormous size.

The young are hardy and easy to raise. After they are five days old they should be left to find their own feed on the range and require no care except shelter during severe rainstorms and at night until feathered out. They live to be very old. Some breeders report them living and doing well at twenty years of age. Another important fact about them is that they are not susceptible to disease, this in contrast to most poultry.

**HOW YOUNG CHICKS ARE FED**

**Wisconsin Expert Gives Method Employed at the University in Caring for Little Felloes.**

"For the first 10 to 14 days, we feed the chicks at the university farm a little commercial chick feed, which is thrown into a fairly deep litter of hay chaff three or four times a day," writes Prof. J. G. Halpin of the College of Agriculture of the University of Wisconsin in reply to a question regarding the feeding of young chicks.

"In the middle of the forenoon and the afternoon," says Professor Halpin, "we feed a little mash made up of equal parts of coarse ground corn, wheat bran, wheat middlings, and rolled oats. Once a day we mix a raw egg in with this mash, one egg for about each 60 chicks. As they get older, we gradually increase the amount of raw egg, adding enough water or, better still, milk to keep the mash from being sticky and soggy. As fast as they learn to eat it, we mix more and more wheat and cracked corn into the chick feed, so that by the time they are three weeks old they are eating cracked corn and wheat entirely. From the start we give access to dry mash made up at first like the wet mash, except that the rolled oats is omitted after the second week.

"Fine sand on the brooder floor, covered with short cut alfalfa hay, is ideal. Ground bone in little hoppers, so the chicks can help themselves, is also good. A few drops of potassium permanganate stock solution, just enough to turn the water red, or just enough Zenoleum to turn the water whitish, may be put into the drinking water."

**Watch the Chicks.**  
Keep close watch of the little chicks during this hot weather and see that they are not troubled with head lice, especially those that run with the hen.

**Protect the Eggs.**  
The steady rays of the sun will soon cook an egg these days. A canvas cover for the egg basket or crate on the way to town makes a big difference.

**AMONG THE SQUAB RAISERS**

**Many Little Practical Hints That Will Be Found of Especial Interest to Pigeon Lovers.**

(By L. M. BENNINGTON.)

The Runt is the largest of the pigeon family, but they are slow breeders.

Never feed new grain; it is apt to cause bowel trouble.

Rye is a grain that should never be fed as it is very laxative and liable to cause severe intestinal irritation and death.

Hempseed should never be fed liberally, as it is very heating and fattening.

An overcrowded loft is both unprofitable and a danger.

When the young birds are about two weeks old the wing and tail feathers generally start growing. The small feathers follow these.

The old birds quit feeding their young as soon as they hatch out a new pair of squabs.

It is a mistake to build the house directly on the ground. Such lofts are generally damp and beside, are difficult to keep rat-proof.

There should be no cross pieces in the middle of the fly, as birds are often injured by flying against them in a sudden flight.

The small, round louse on the body and head is the most troublesome. Before placing new stock in the loft it should be quarantined for a week or so.

Being very fattening, millet seed must be carefully fed.

Be sure to sift the cracked corn before feeding.

Pigeons are great water drinkers, especially while caring for the young. It costs about six cents to raise a squab to five weeks of age.

Do not stock the loft with "cheap" birds. In buying, the price should be governed by quality.

Large squabs are produced by large sized breeders.

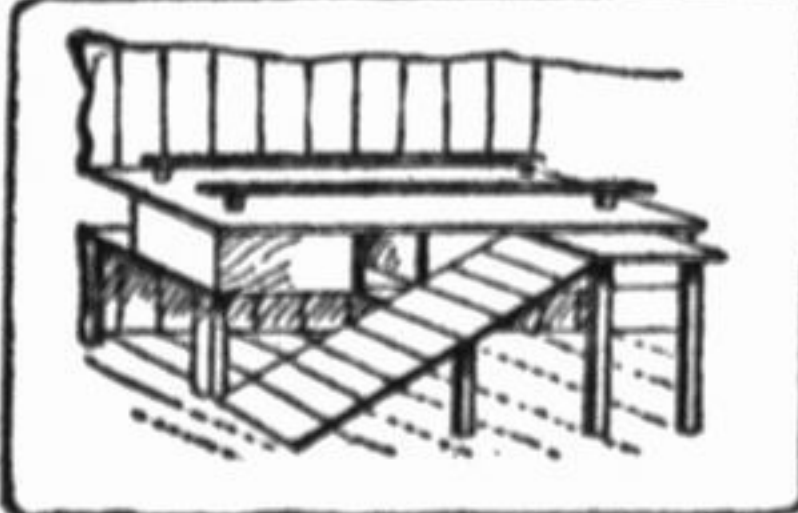
Success follows experience.

A mating should never be broken as long as satisfactory work is being done.

**ARRANGE ROOSTS AND NESTS**

**Inclined Board Should Be Placed for Heavy Fowls to Walk Up and Down On—Easy to Clean.**

A good arrangement for heavy fowls is a set of nest boxes with roosts on top and an inclined board for the hens to walk up and down on. The nests are made large, about 16 inches square and from 16 to 20 inches high. The entrance to the nests is from the back and there is a runway at the back, so



Roosts and Nest Boxes.

the hens may enter any nest. There is also an entrance from the stairway in front, as shown in the illustration, says the Independent Farmer. The whole thing is made so it may be taken apart easily for cleaning.

**TO EXTERMINATE ROOST MITE**

**Little Parasites Are Common and Troublesome—Poultry House Should Be Painted Often.**

Roost mites are very common and troublesome. When they become numerous enough they not only infest the nests, but other parts of the building, especially cracks and crevices, as well as the roosts. They are much like tiny spiders and are often called spider lice by poultrymen, says a Minnesota bulletin.

Mites are easily exterminated by applying kerosene to all infested parts of the building. They become numerous as soon as warm weather comes. As prevention is better than cure, it pays to paint your roosts once every four or six weeks in winter time and once every two weeks during the warm weather. You will probably never see a mite in a house so treated.

**FEED DURING MOULTING TIME**

**Practice of Starving the Hens to Make Them Lose Feathers is Condemned by Expert.**

(By J. G. HALPIN, Wisconsin College of Agriculture.)

Hens should be fed liberally during the molting season, and the practice of partially starving the hens to make them lose as far as possible all their feathers at one time, thus straining the vitality of the fowls to provide entire new growths of feathers so quickly should be condemned.

The method may be good when followed by an expert, but ordinarily it injures the flock. As a rule, a reasonably long molting period, during which time the birds are well cared for, produces the best results. Sunflower seed, oil meal and other oily feeds fed during the molting season aid in the growth of feathers.

**Banish Parasites.**  
Again we say there's nothing like a smoking out with sulphur to banish lice and mites from the hen house. It also purifies the house by killing disease germs.

**Side-Track Roosts.**  
This is the slack season for roosters.

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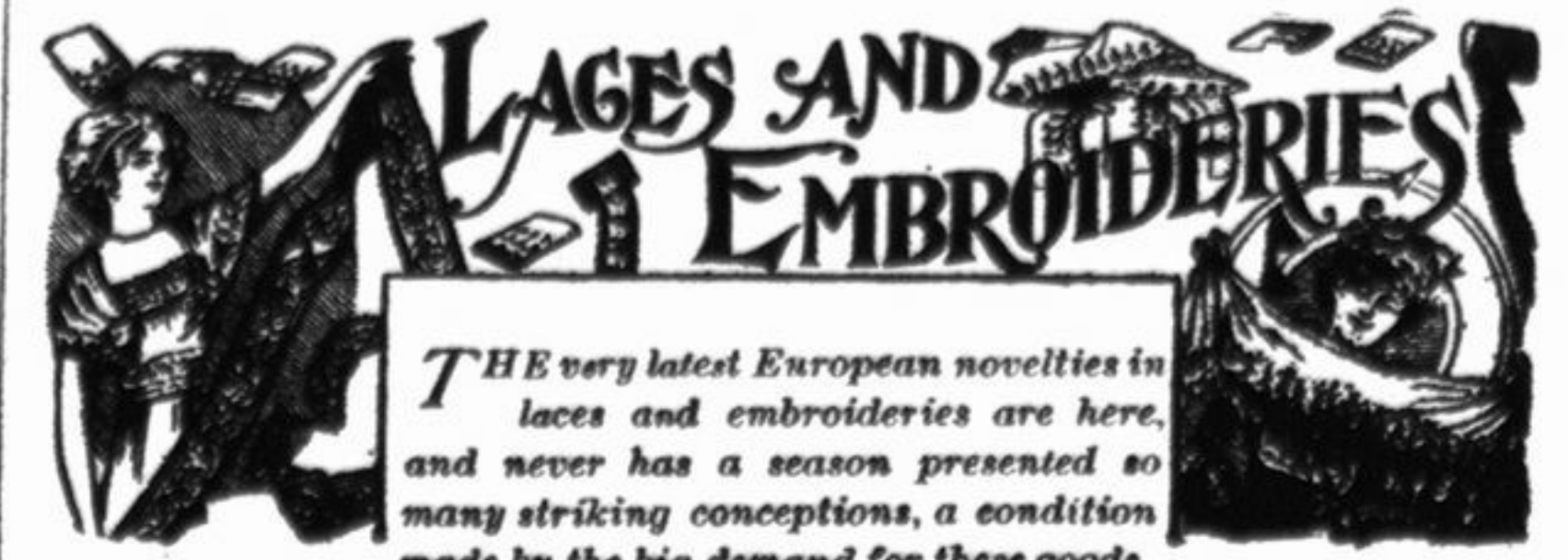
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