

# ARTIFICIAL DAY FAVORED BY HEN

### Poultry Flock Given More Time for Eating and Exercising During Winter Season.

## INCREASES EGG PRODUCTION

Many Farmers Find it Profitable to Illuminate Houses for Several Hours Each Day to Encourage the Pullets.

Domestic fowls originated in the tropics where the days and nights are of about equal length. As a result of this, the reproductive and digestive systems of the hen are developed to fit the environment of a 12-hour day and a 12-hour night. For this reason she is somewhat like an alarm clock, except that she must be wound up about every 12 hours instead of every 24. In the winter in the North, her digestive system strikes at about 3 or 4 o'clock in the morning. As she is unable to locate food in the dark she has no alternative but to wait until daylight or until the caretaker gets around to feed her.

Habits, Not Nature, Changed. Up in the north-temperate zone



Large A-shaped Coop Used by Government Poultry Farm in Artificial Lighting Experiments.

where during the fall and winter the nights are from 13 to 15 hours long the transplanted domestic fowl from the tropics has changed her habits but not her nature. During this time she takes her vacation when she has the least to eat and to do. This is from necessity rather than from choice, for, given an opportunity to eat, exercise, and enjoy herself for 12 hours a day, she lays nearly, if not quite so well, as during the summer months.

Acting on this theory many poultry keepers have found it profitable to light their poultry houses for several hours each day. This lengthened day, together with the right kind of feed and plenty of exercise, has been found to increase to a marked degree the number of eggs laid by pullets in the fall and winter. It does not pay to provide light for older hens. A 14-hour day for the laying flock during the winter months is the aim of those who are following this practice.

Experiments are being carried on by the United States Department of Agriculture at the government poultry farm at Beltsville, Md., for the purpose of securing more data on this phase of poultry work. The results secured thus far corroborate the testimony of others as to the value of illumination in hen houses.

The birds used in the government experiments are fed four times a day, at eight, twelve, four and some time after dark. This last feed is for the birds' breakfast. In addition to the four feeds a dry mash is kept constantly before the birds.

By means of an ordinary alarm clock an electric switch is turned on about 4:30 in the morning. Care is taken to increase the length of the time of illumination gradually or the effect on the birds would be disastrous. At the close of the season the decrease must be made slowly. From November 1, the opening of the pullet season, to April 1 is the time when lighting is usually provided for fowls.

To secure the desired results it is necessary not only to provide food ready for eating when the birds awake, but also water. In very cold weather some special means of heating it must be provided or the watering trough will be frozen over. The birds will not do well if drink is not available also. A small oil lamp under a bucket, an electric attachment for slightly heating the water, and a watering tank insulated somewhat after the idea of a fireless cooker are the methods used for keeping the water for the flock at a temperature above freezing.

**How to Save Light.** In a pen 20 by 20 two lights rather than one should be used. A wide-angled reflector that will throw the light to all parts of the building also helps to get the best results from the amount of electricity used. To save illumination the windows should be placed when feasible on the south, east and west sides of the building.

### SELECTING BEST COCKERELS

Male Bird Should Have Short, Stout Legs and Full Breast—Comb is Good Index.

In selecting cockerels, they should have short, stout legs and full breasts. The comb is also a good index in judging the maturity of a male, as some are far ahead of others hatched at the same time. Good judgment goes a long way in selecting fowls.

# POULTRY PACKED FOR CITY TRADE

### Producers Must Carefully Study and Cater to Peculiar Requirements of Market.

## NEAT PACKAGE IS ESSENTIAL

Specialists of Department of Agriculture Give Directions for Killing, Dressing and Packing—Dry Picking Favored.

(Prepared by the United States Department of Agriculture.)

Poultry profits often depend largely on the marketing, and the producer should study demands to learn how, where, and when to dispose of his products to the best advantage. It often pays to dress the fowl at home for certain markets, the difference between the prices for live and dressed fowl making it worth while.

Attractive appearance is of much importance in selling poultry; therefore, the producer who plans to market his poultry dressed should study the details of killing, dressing and packing, in order to prepare the products in the best possible manner. Requirements for dressing and packing vary somewhat in different markets, and it will pay the producer to learn any special demands of the distributing point to which he intends shipping.

### Killing, Dressing, and Packing.

The birds should be kept without feed from 18 to 24 hours before killing, unless they are to be drawn, specialists of the United States Department of Agriculture say. In the latter case, they should have no feed for at least 10 hours before killing. When ready to kill, suspend the fowl by the legs and, using a knife, cut the vein at the back of the throat through the mouth. As soon as this vein is cut run the point of the knife through the roof of the mouth into the brain, which causes the bird to lose all sense of feeling. The fowl can be paralyzed also by a blow on the head, instead of piercing the brain.

In most markets dry-picked birds are preferred. Immediately after killing, while the bird is still bleeding, the picker removes the feathers, being careful not to tear the skin. If the picker waits until the bird is nearly



The Old-Fashioned Axe-and-Chopping-Block Method of Killing Poultry for Market is Rapidly Being Abandoned for the More Scientific Process Described in the Accompanying Article.

cold, removing the feathers will be more difficult. As soon as picked, the fowls should be hung in a cool place until thoroughly cold. If the weather is warm and the fowls are to be packed in ice, they should be placed in a tank of ice water and left until all the animal heat has left the body.

When birds are scalded before removing the feathers, they are immersed in water slightly below the boiling point, as soon as they are through bleeding. The birds should be immersed three or four times and then picked clean, care being taken not to break the skin. Be careful not to oversald, as this will cause the outer surface of the skin to rub off. Then it is placed in cold water, where it should remain for 15 to 20 minutes. If the fowl is to be shipped it should be hung up until the skin becomes thoroughly dry.

Poultry which is to be sold direct to the consumer should be drawn before it is cooled. Poultry which is sold to the market should not be drawn, as it will keep better not drawn than if drawn. A slit large enough to admit the fingers is made from near the end of the keel bone toward the vent. Then cut carefully around the vent and pull out the intestines, leaving in all the other organs, unless the consumer's requirements are otherwise.

### Should Be Packed Solidly.

When the birds have been thoroughly cooled, they are ready for packing. Packages for dressed poultry vary, but they should be neat and small enough to be easily handled. Line the inside of the boxes or barrels with clean, unprinted paper, and pack the birds solidly, so they will not shift in the package, but be careful not to bruise them. For delivery to retail customers, pasteboard boxes of sufficient size to hold one or two birds are very attractive. When poultry is to be packed in ice, barrels are generally used, packing them with alternate layers of ice.

# POLITICAL POT BEGINS SIMMERING IN COUNTY

### Two Avowed Candidates for Sheriff and One for Treasurer With Three Possibilities.

Simmering of the DuPage County political pot is evidenced in the announcement of several men of the county with aspirations for the offices to be filled at the next general election in November, 1922.

Five county offices become vacant—Sheriff, Treasurer, Clerk, County Judge and Superintendent of Schools.

According to reliable information there will be a three-cornered fight for the nomination for Treasurer. George Fix, chairman of the Board of Supervisors, has announced that he will be a candidate. N. E. Matter, of Naperville, former treasurer, his friends say, will also be a candidate. Then to carry out the political traditions of the region that the man who was Sheriff will be Treasurer, an unconfirmed rumor says that Sheriff George Linccke will also go out after the job.

Two men have announced that they will go before the voters in an effort to be Sheriff of DuPage County. They are John Hesterman, present Treasurer, who has already served one term as Sheriff and Lawrence Hattendorf, present Deputy Sheriff. Mr. Hattendorf is acting in accordance with the unwritten law of the county that the chief deputy shall be the next Sheriff.

This is the second time that Hesterman and Hattendorf have been opponents for a county job. Four years ago they were both candidates for the position of Treasurer, Hesterman winning.

It is expected that Lewis V. Morgan, recently appointed by the Board of Supervisors as Superintendent of Schools to fill the unexpired term of C. B. Bowman, will be a candidate for that office. He is well qualified for the position. No other man has made any announcement and there are not even any rumors floating around.

County Judge Rathje has not yet said whether he will be a candidate to succeed himself and no other candidates have appeared.

County Clerk A. A. Kuhn will be in the lists to succeed himself. No

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# ST. JOSEPH A. C. AND ROYAL A. C. TO PLAY SUNDAY

### Two Local Teams Arrange Game at St. Procopius Diamond in Afternoon.

Hinsdale A. C. by failing to show up at St. Procopius College forfeited Sunday's game to the St. Joseph A. C. This was to have been a return game and as the local team had already defeated them in the first game they had little doubt of their ability to repeat.

Next Sunday the team is scheduled to meet the Royal A. C., a local club which handed them a lacing a short time ago. The St. Joe's have been practicing hard and if the Royal A. C. will confine their lineup to the actual members of their club a great game is promised the fans who make the trip.

The attendance at recent games, although not as good as it should be, has been fair. If a few more people who own automobiles would turn

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In announcing the advent of a new son at the Stewart Burns home last week we said he arrived Wednesday. The date should have read Thursday, July 7th. Beg your pardon youngster

**Get It While the Getting's Good**  
is a slang phrase but it applies to COAL right now.  
Our advice is "Order Your Coal While the Getting's Good."  
Conditions are gradually working themselves around to the same as prevailed in the early part of last winter. The mines have not been worked to full capacity during the summer months which makes a shortage at the mines.  
Added to this is the danger of a serious car shortage. Grain and other things are starting to move very fast with the gradual resumption of business, leaving less cars for coal.  
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