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MARKETING OLD HENS

Egg Production Falls Off After Month of May.

Small Cold Storage Plant Both Practical and Profitable on Each Progressive Farm — It Adds to the Comfort of the Family and Increases the Profits — Essential Factors of Construction Explained.

(Contributed by Ontario Department of Agriculture, Toronto.)

IN almost every flock there is a percentage of hens who are poor layers. These hens lay so few eggs that they frequently do not pay for the feed they eat and therefore reduce the profits of the better layers. The market price is high for old hens, and where the birds are not good producers it is a good plan to market them fairly early. There are also in most flocks a number of hens that were hatched in 1917 or earlier. Our figures suggest that most hens fall back about twenty eggs annually in their production. It is true that most of this occurs during the winter months, but one must also consider that the number of eggs falls off considerably after the month of May and, moreover, it is not uncommon for July and August to be poor egg-producing months.

The price of old hens usually is at its lowest point during the fall of the year, so that in many cases it pays best to sell the old birds not wanted for next year fairly soon, as the decline in price frequently is more than the profit made upon the eggs laid from June to October.

In a word the hen that has bright yellow legs and beak at this season is a poor producer, as is also usually the bird that has a large amount of internal fat or is very full and hard in the space between the end of the breast bone and the tail.

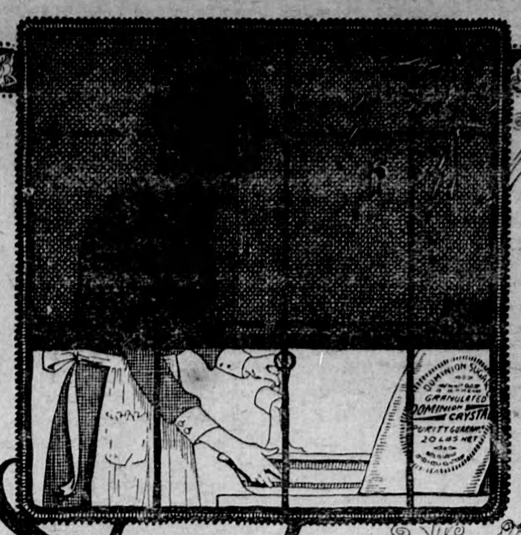
A good laying hen is active. If of the yellow-legged breeds her feet are usually faded, as is also the bill. Her toe-nails are shorter than her pooper laying mates. She appears as if she had worked harder, that is she is not so sleek and fat. Her skin is usually thin and soft. She is busy and not a loafer.

The non-laying hen has a small dry vent whereas the laying hen has a large moist vent.

Small Cold Storage for Every Farm.

Cold storage practice so far has been connected with the large produce warehouses in our towns and cities. These establishments could not do successful business if their plants were not provided with large storage chambers kept cool and in other particulars suitable for the long storage of perishable products of the farm, such as eggs, butter, meat, cheese, fruit, and so forth. Some day, probably not so far distant after all, the farmers may become sufficiently well organized to build and equip mechanical cold storage warehouses of their own, whereby they will be able to have complete control over the products of their own labor until they are disposed of to the consuming public. Personally, I believe the problem of cold storage on the farms should be handled through co-operatively owned warehouses provided with adequate cold storage facilities.

Apart, however, from the question of a cold storage with up-to-date mechanical equipment for the farm or farmers' association as suggested above, there is the problem on almost every farm pertaining to the storage for a few days of small quantities of various foods used on the table from day to day, such as butter, meat, milk, etc. It is certainly a great saving and matter of convenience to have on the farm a small cold storage chamber or refrigerator in which to keep these very perishable articles of food in a good fresh and wholesome condition for use on the table during the warm season of the year. This is made possible by the use of ice, and as it is procurable in almost every district of this country at a reasonable cost, there is no excuse for farmers not laying by in the winter season a few tons in some cheap form of icehouse. In the summer time this ice will be found most useful for cooling the milk and cream, supplying an ice-box or refrigerator in which the butter, for example, may be kept firm, the milk and cream sweet, and the foods in good condition for the table day by day. With ice always so handy and the best of cream available, it is possible for the house-wife to make such delicious and wholesome delicacies as ice-cream, sherbets, and many delightful and cool drinks, all of which are most refreshing and stimulating to the folks on the farm in the hot and busy season of the year. In case of sickness, too, ice is sometimes a necessity. There is no doubt then about the fact that every farmer would find a supply of good ice a great advantage in many ways, whether it be stored in some bin from which it is removed as required or in some form of small ice-cold storage where it cools automatically a small refrigerator room adjoining the ice storage room. There are several types of small ice-cold storages suitable for use on the farm. In using these small ice-cold storages, however, it must be kept in mind always that the temperature cannot be maintained lower than about 40 or 45 degrees Fahrenheit scale, which of course is not low enough to keep perishable products like fresh meat longer than a few days, and large quantities of perishable articles must not be stored in a small chamber, nor too many kinds at one time. In a subsequent article I will deal with a few of the most common and practicable forms of small ice-cold storages for the farm.—R. R. Graham, B.S.A., O. A. College, Guelph.



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The undersigned has a thoroughbred Yorkshire Boar for service on lot 11, con 8, Osprey. Terms $1.50.

FRED SPOFFARD.

NOTICE

To the citizens of Flesherton and the surrounding country:

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Feb15 9 —T. J. STINSON, Prop.

NOTICE

Dissolution of Partnership

Notice is hereby given that the Partnership subsisting between Thomas Owler and Roy W. Kellogg, as Owler & Kellogg, Produce Dealers, in the Village of Flesherton and the County of Grey, has this day been dissolved by mutual consent. All debts owing the said Partnership are to be paid to Thomas Owler, and all claims against the said Partnership are to be presented to the said Thomas Owler by whom the same will be paid.

Dated at Flesherton this 10th day of November, 1919 Signed

THOMAS OWLER,
Senior Partner.

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19.an. —R. O. TURNER.