MAKING A SUCCESS WITH POULTRY

BY L. E. CARD.

It is during January that the farm poultryman who wants to get early chicks begins to mate his breeding pens. The commercial poultryman also is likely to mate most of his flocks this month.

In many cases the females will have been culled some months before, so there is little selection still to be practiced except for the purpose of mating a small special pen from which to produce cockerels for use in next year's breeding flocks. When possible such a special mating is always to be advised, as it insures more rapid progress than can be made from general flock matings.

One should see to it that only the very cream of the breeding flock is chosen for this special pen. It is better to have only half a dozen females of excellent quality than to use a dozen or fifteen, when by so doing several of only fair quality must be included.

The male to head such a pen should be an outstanding individual among those raised at home or may be purchased from stock of known performance.

Remember that the influence of this male will not be fully seen until the fall of 1927, when the pullets sired by his sons come into laying. With this in mind it is well to spend considerable time, effort, and money if necessary, to get the right kind of male for the special breeding flock of 1926.

THE BREEDING LABYRINTH.

When selecting males to be used in the general breeding flock it is well to keep in mind that as far as possible the cockerels put into any pen should be males that have been running together for some time. If this is done there is little likelihood of their fighting enough to injure one another seriously.

If conditions are such that strange males must be used in the same flock, or if considerable fighting is in evidence, there are at least two ways out of the difficulty.

One is the plan of alternating males. By this plan half the males are allowed with the flock for one, two or three days, at the end of which time they are cooped for a corresponding period, during which the rest of the males are turned loose with the hens. This usually means that a combination can be found which will result in a minimum of fighting.

The other method in the case of fairly large flocks is to use what is known as a breeding labyrinth. It consists of boards or panels twelve to eighteen inches wide and long enough to reach about three-quarters of the way across the pen. These are set on edge and supported so there is six inches clearance between the litter and the bottom of the boards.

The number of such boards or panels to be used will depend on the size of the pen or house. The effect of the panels is to divide the floor area into a number of units while still permitting the birds to have the freedom of the entire house. The result is more or less seclusion for the males during mating, and consequently less fighting and much less interference.

CARE OF THE MALES.

It often happens that the male birds do not get sufficient grain feed because the hens are fed relatively small quantities in proportion to what the males should eat, and because many males will spend so much time calling the hens to eat that the grain is gone before they themselves have eaten anywhere near enough.

Under the plan of alternating males this is avoided because the males can be fed liberally on grain on the days they are confined to the coops. When the males are running with the flock continuously it is well to provide a special feeding place to which only the males have access and in which is kept a constant supply of grain.

A small hopper set high enough to be out of reach of the hens will solve the problem in many cases. Many poultrymen train the males to fly up to the dropping board or other support for a special allowance of grain at the time the hens are given their evening feed.

This plan is not always practical in the case of busy farm folks, but is highly effective when it can be put into use. When a long breeding season is planned some such scheme must be followed in order to keep the males in good flesh and to insure a high degree of fertility throughout the hatching season.

JANUARY PRODUCTION.

Some time this month, in most sections of Southern Ontario, the egg-production curve may be expected to start its climb toward the spring peak. This is equally true of hens that have molted and of healthy pullets that were hatched a little too late to begin laying before winter set in.

So it can hardly be considered good business to sell off hens or pullets now unless they are obviously too crowded in their winter quarters. Hens or pullets that are going to lay at all in the year 1925-26 will do so between now and July first. They may not have paid for their keep from November first to date, but there is a much better chance of making their account come out even if they are kept through the spring season than if they are marketed now.

The flock owner cannot afford, therefore, to become unduly dissatisfied with feed or egg prices, or with present egg production, until the flock has had an opportunity to show a profit by reasonably good production from February to June.

In the vast majority of flocks the period of greatest cash income is also the period of highest egg yield in spite of the fact that the price of eggs per dozen is lower then than at any other time during the year. It naturally follows, therefore, that high spring and summer egg production is well worth working for.

WILL BE PARSEE HIGH PRIEST

Dr. Jal Dastur C. Pavry, who, on his father's death, will become spiritual head of the Zoroasters, comprising a million of India's most cultured natives. On receiving his degree from Columbia University he started for home. He is only 26.

Forage Crops in Northern Ontario.

Most forage crops thrive in Northern Ontario. Clovers, alfalfa, sunflowers, annual hays, turnips and the common grasses have given good results to date. Corn and mangels have not done as well, according to the report of the Superintendent, Mr. Smith Ballantyne, of the Kapuskasing Dominion Experimental Station.

In 1923 and 1924 the average green weight of Russian Giant sunflowers was 18 tons, 340 lbs. and of dry weight 2 tons, 1,045 lbs. Of corn the Superintendent speaks hopefully, pointing out that although the crop was not heavy, the fact that each of seventeen varieties gave a yield of over 5 tons to the acre of green material indicates that some day corn may become a fairly reliable crop.

A variety test of oats for annual hay has been carried on for three years at the Station. The average yield of Abundance during that time of green weight was 5 tons, 1,780 lbs. and of dry weight 2 tons, 346 lbs. per acre. In 1923-24 the average yield of O.A.C. No. 72, the only years in which it was tested, was 5 tons, 190 lbs. green weight and 2 tons, 385 lbs. dry weight per acre. Thirteen varieties of oats were seeded on June 9 and yielded from 5 tons, 290 lbs. by Daubeney up to 6 tons, 940 lbs. by Abundance, green weight per acre, and from 1 ton, 1,489 lbs. by Daubeney to 2 tons, 765 lbs. by Victory, dry weight.

In a test of four varieties of peas as annual hay in three years the average of green weight by Canadian Beauty was 9 tons, 823 lbs. and 2 tons, 468 lbs. dry weight. Arthur did better in green weight but not so well in dry weight. The average of Golden Vine was less in green weight and better in dry. Black Eyed Marronfat topped all in the two-year average but fell off rather badly in 1924. Peas, says the Superintendent, serve their best purpose when sown in a mixture with oats or oats and vetch.

Results indicate that vetch as a crop gives fairly large yields, but that like peas, its best use is for sowing in mixtures for either hay or silage.

In 1924 White Blossom, Yellow Blossom and Hubam sweet clover sown on June 5 at 20 lbs. per acre yielded respectively: 7 tons, 650 lbs., 3 tons, 980 lbs., and 5 tons, 1,820 lbs. green weight and 1 ton, 1,587 lbs., 1,953 lbs., and 1 ton, 1,092 lbs. dry weight.

Winter Eggs and the Feed Bill.

As all experienced poultry keepers know, the feed bill makes heavy inroads on the returns from the egg basket during the winter months. Eggs cannot be produced without nourishing food and that provided in suitable mixture. The feeding of poultry has been under experiment at the Experimental Farms for many years and from the knowledge gained in this work very safe conclusions can be reached. In a bulletin entitled "Poultry Feeds and Feeding" recently issued by the Dept. of Agriculture at Ottawa, the subject of poultry feeds and the methods of their use are very fully reviewed. Mr. Geo. Robertson, the assistant Dominion Poultry Husbandman, has been very closely attached to the feeding experiments carried on, particularly at the Central Farm. The various classes of grain, animal and green foods as well as mineral foods are discussed in a practical way and the compounding of rations from these is given due consideration in the bulletin which is available at the Publications Branch of the Dept. of Agriculture at Ottawa. On the feeding of pullets for heavy egg production, the bulletin states that grit, oyster shell, charcoal, and dry mash should be kept in the hoppers constantly before the flock. Fresh water is equally necessary at all times and when it is available sour milk should also be supplied. In the morning a light feed is recommended and in the evening a full meal of mixed scratch grain should be given in the litter. For green feed alfalfa or clover hay constantly supplied is of great value and sprouted oats or roots should be given daily. Of the roots mangels are most acceptable to the birds. These are stuck on nails about the house and the hens pick them as they desire. If turnips or carrots are used they have to be pulped and mixed in a moist mash. Additional foods that will help the egg yield include green cut bone or raw liver mixed in the moist mash at the rate of about one-half ounce per bird from time to time. The bulletin deals equally clearly with the feeding of chicks as well as stock birds and those that are being fattened for the market.

WINTER GAMES FOR YOUNG CHILDREN

Children can be interested in quiet games and creative occupations. The following ideas were suggested at a meeting of a women's club.

The making of a paper town is an interesting occupation made possible by the use of old envelopes. These the father may be able to save for the children if he is careful to slit the envelopes in his incoming mail carefully across the end with a knife or scissors. Plain pieces of white paper can be pasted over the name and address, making a plain white envelope which will stand up on end if you open it a little way.

By using different-sized envelopes the houses will be of different sizes, and the larger ones can be used for the stores, post office, schools and churches. With a ruler and pencil, mark windows and doors on the envelopes and then cut them out carefully. Little curtains of tissue-paper might be hung at the windows by pasting carefully on the inside of the envelope, and across the windows. With colored pencils, "paint" the houses different colors. Brick and stone houses can also be made in this manner.

Colored pictures of vegetables can be cut from old magazines and pasted in the grocery store windows, a row of shoes in the shoe store window, or books for the book store. Strips of brown paper should be used for the streets and brightly colored flowers and trees should be pasted along the sides. There could be a city park with fountain (cut from a magazine and pasted to a stiff cardboard back. Automobiles could be parked in front of the houses, and paper children might make their way to a paper schoolhouse. A railroad station with freight cars and locomotives would appeal to boys.

ANIMATED DOLLS.

When the children tired of the paper town, one family tried the "animated doll family." For this take several heavy wire hairpins, straighten them out and then bend one end over until it resembles a shepherd's crook. Hang the pins on the edge of a table, lap-board or chair (wherever they can swing freely) and they will swing back and forth many times with just the slightest touch or jar of the table. Then from old magazines and papers cut men, women and children, and, with a little glue, paste the "cut-outs" to the wire hairpins. Animals, birds and butterflies can also be used in this way. Blowing gently across the figures will cause the hairpins to bob around in a way that is very amusing to small children.

Plastic clay sculpture is another popular pastime. Plastic clay in different colors can be obtained in boxes of different sizes, ranging in price from 10 to 50 cents a box. Pictures of different objects that can be molded are also included in the box. Even a very young child enjoys work with clay.

Making necklaces appeals to girls. A few cheap glass beads and some melon, pumpkin and sunflower seeds, dried and saved from the year before by the thoughtful mother, will provide quiet entertainment for several happy evenings. The seeds can be strung through the small end, placing a bead between every two or three seeds. They can also be strung through each end, making two threads through the entire string, first placing a bead and then a seed, and so on.

A PICTURE GAME.

The matching game can be made with old seed and flower catalogues. Allow the children to choose and cut out as many pictures of different kinds of flowers and vegetables as they can. The children then all gather around a table with their pictures. The first player puts down a picture from his pile—a picture of a tomato, perhaps—and all the other players try to match this by putting down pictures of tomatoes from their hands. When all have played, the first player gathers up all the pictures that have been played on his pile and the next player lays down a picture of a vegetable or flower, which all try again to match; the second player gets all the pictures that follow his lead. The loser is the one who holds the largest number of pictures at the end of the game.

Improvement in Horse Breeding.

Statistics show not exactly that the horse is coming back, but rather that recognition is obtaining more and more ground that its usefulness, despite the advance of machines, has by no means disappeared. Its presence even in cities and towns is becoming more noticeable, especially for delivery purposes as well as for riding and for entertainment at shows; saying nothing of the agricultural aspect, which is the greatest and most important of all.

Field Marshall Lord Haig in his reports and his unofficial writings testifies to the fact that for military service the horse is more than ever indispensable on account of its great mobility, for its ability to overcome difficulties that the intricacy of machinery can never surmount.

To encourage the horse-breeding industry the federal Dept. of Agriculture through the Live Stock Branch has adopted a policy for the encouragement of club formation by which the use of pure-bred, healthy stallions is ensured. By this policy clubs, providing they fulfill the conditions set forth, receive back one-third of the total amount paid by their members for the service of such stallions.

That the policy is attaining its object is proven by the statement that the Minister is able to make in his Report for 1924-25, that during the year there was an increase of over thirty-three per cent. of clubs operating under the Federal Assistance Policy and that greatly increased interest was shown by horse-breeders, particularly in the western provinces. Horsemen, he says, are awakening to the fact that in order to meet the needs of future years, they must begin breeding now.

The policy not only guarantees the use of healthy pure-bred stallions, but also that their services shall be obtainable at reasonable fees, the conditions providing that such fees shall be not less than twelve dollars and not more than twenty-five. This, continues the report, coupled with the use of the best mares, together with better feeding, care and management of sires, dams and colts, is surely making for the improvement of Canadian horses, both heavy and light.

It might be added that the policy is leading to a demand for our native horses for service abroad, as is proven by recent enquiries received from Europe.

My Bread is Always Good.

My bread-making troubles ended when I started using a home-made raiser. The manager of a chain of bakeries told me that temperature is the secret of good bread. "The average baking doesn't have enough heat during the raising process," he explained. "Bread dough in the pan needs an even 80 degrees."

That started me to thinking and with my husband's help I built a raiser. In principle it's similar to a wholesale baker's proof box—a square cabinet about the size of a small ice box made from matched lumber. On two sides, just above the bottom and directly beneath the top, holes are bored for ventilation.

The box is divided into three compartments. The upper and largest compartment holds a big bread pan full of dough—eight loaves tucked side by side. A narrow shelf in the middle is for a pie pan of warm water to provide humidity. Humidity prevents a crust from forming on the dough and also helps to give the bread better color when baked. The lower section has one of those little kerosene stoves that burn two weeks with one filling of oil. This stove is used principally to "raise" baby chicks, but it also serves to raise the staff of life. With this raiser I always have exactly the right temperature for my bread without regard to the weather.—F. P.

Chestnut Pudding.

One pound chestnuts, ½ pint fresh cream, 2 tablespoonfuls of fine sugar.

Peel the chestnuts. To take off the inner skin boil them in hot salted water for about 5 minutes; be careful to keep the water hot, otherwise it is very difficult to remove the second skin. While the chestnuts are still warm, put them through the potato masher and then place them in a glass dish. Add the sugar to the cream, beat it until stiff and cover the chestnuts with it.

Have the ewe gain at least 15 pounds while pregnant—20 pounds is better.

Short of wood or coal? Clean up some of the trash in the fence corners and burn it. There is no economy in a tumbledown fence.

BAROMETER HOUSE

Two quaint little people lived in a quaint little house. There were two little doors, one for each, and very particular they were never to go in and out at each other's doors.

The little man would come to his door and look out.

"Dear me," he would say, "what dismal weather! What a lot of clouds there are!"

Then he would go a little farther out, and a little farther.

"The farther I look, the more clouds I see!" he would exclaim, and the strange part was that the more clouds there were, and the more rain there fell, the more the little man would stay outside his door, until he was so wet that he had to go in again.

While the little man was looking out of his door, the little woman was as busy as could be indoors, cleaning the house, and polishing everything that could be polished, until it was as cozy as possible when the little man came in again. Then the little woman would say:

"Now, I am going to have a look out of doors."

So she would go to her little door and peep out.

"It is going to be quite fine, I am sure," she would say. "Why, there is a little bit of blue sky between the clouds! I'm just going out a bit farther, to see if there is any more blue." And the strange part was that the farther the little woman went outside her door the more blue sky there was to be seen, and she smiled and enjoyed the sunshine until it was time to go indoors again.

The little man would sit in his chair drying himself by the fire, and nodding his head until he fell asleep.

It generally happened that the little man and the little woman were not at home at the same time. Sometimes, however, when the little woman was coming in from her outing in the sunshine, she would meet the little man just coming to his door to have a look out of doors. Then they would stand in their own doorways and have a little chat.

"It's always wet when I come out," said the little man one day, when he met the little woman coming in. "I declare, I've hardly ever seen any blue sky or sunshine, unless it is in the spring when there are sudden showers."

"Oh, nonsense!" exclaimed the little woman. "It seems to me that it is always fine. The sky is so often a beautiful blue, and the kind sun shining."

"That is what I cannot make out," said the little man. "Whenever I see you to talk to, you say, 'What lovely weather we are having!' and I go out to have a look and find it gray and dull and raining."

"Now that's very strange," said the little woman, "I wonder why that can be?"

"When I come indoors," said the little man, "I just sit by the fire and go to sleep to forget about the clouds, and when I wake again, I go out to see if they are still there—and they always are," he sighed.

The little woman was silent.

"What do you do indoors?" asked the little man.

The little woman smiled and said: "Why, I feel so happy and bright after seeing all the sunshine, that I try to make it look the same way indoors! I rub and polish until everything shines like the sun, and is as clean as the blue sky! You see," she added gently, "the sun is always shining away behind the clouds, and it seems to me that it only needs someone to clean away the clouds to see the sunshine and blue sky all the time. I love to clean away the indoor clouds, too, and have everything shining."

"Well, the clouds are there to be cleared away," grumbled the little man, "heaps and heaps of them."

"And I just won't look at them," laughed the little woman. "I keep looking right through them until I see the sunshine and there is not a cloud left!"

Use a Pinch of Salt.

Salt is something we just couldn't get along without as seasoning for our food. But this mineral also has many other uses about the home that many housewives have not yet discovered.

Ivory or celluloid objects may be cleaned and whitened with a slice of lemon dipped in salt. After this rubbing is done, they may be washed in the usual way.

A cement for filling in floor cracks may be made by using equal parts of salt and alum mixed to a paste with boiling water.

We all know how withered apples become during the late winter, especially if they have been out of the cellar long. Their freshness may be restored by soaking them in a crock of brine made by mixing two rounding tablespoons of salt with a gallon of water. Change the brine every six hours until the apples have become fresh and plump.

Rubbing the pan or kettle in which onions have been cooked, with salt, will remove all disagreeable odor. The smell of gasoline may easily be removed by the same method. Iron rust stain may be taken from fabrics by rubbing the spots with salt and lemon juice and laying it in the sun to bleach. Salt will remove tea stains and other discolorations from chinaware. Salt sprinkled on a fine woolen cloth makes an excellent polisher for mirrors. Equal parts of salt and flour, mixed to a paste with vinegar, makes a fine polish for brass or copper. Rub it on with a soft cloth, then wash with a soft brush, dry and polish.

A pinch of salt added to the sugar for icing will prevent the icing from graining. A pinch of salt in a pot of cocoa will greatly improve the flavor. A handful of salt thrown on the stove where fruit has boiled over, will greatly lessen the odor, and will also make it easily cleaned.—N. P.

Pretty late to put the machinery under cover, but better late than never.

Trappers attention: Taking an unprime pelt is a deliberate waste of one of Nature's most valuable and beautiful gifts.

ECLIPSE FASHIONS
Exclusive Patterns
by Lucile Bayne

MOLDED AND FLARED LINES DOMINANT.

Fashion cuts her collars high and her sleeves long, and both will lend charm and distinction to your frock. The simple severity of the erect collar is youthful and imparts chic to this frock, the upper part of which is fashioned on princess lines, closing at the left shoulder under a row of tiny buttons. There is plenty of movement, as Lelong would have it, in the cut of the circular skirt. The model pictured here emphasizes the vogue for color and fabric contrast, the bodice being developed in satin or metal cloth and the skirt in velvet. Wide ribbon in a rich brocaded design is tightly drawn about the hips before being tied in a loose bow at the left side. No. 1254 is in sizes 16, 18 and 20 years (or 34, 36 and 38 inches bust only). Size 18 years (36 bust) requires 4¾ yards 36-inch, or 3⅛ yards 54-inch material. The sash requires 2¾ yards ribbon 5 inches wide. Price 20 cents.

Our Fashion Book, illustrating the newest and most practical styles, will be of interest to every home dressmaker. Price of the book 10 cents the copy.

HOW TO ORDER PATTERNS.

Write your name and address plainly, giving number and size of such patterns as you want. Enclose 20c in stamps or coin (coin preferred; wrap it carefully) for each number, and address your order to Pattern Dept., Wilson Publishing Co., 73 West Adelaide St., Toronto. Patterns sent by return mail.