FEEDING FOR WINTER EGGS

Some Practical Suggestions.

BY W. F. TAYLOR.

The system of feeding should be uniform, and during the short days, where lights are not used, all possible daylight should be utilized. Again, during the short days, plenty of hopper space is important. The sooner the hens can breakfast after coming off the roost in the morning, the better; and the chance for the last hungry bird to be satisfied upon going to roost at night, is equally necessary. Something to drink and plenty of it, is equally important. During the very cold weather is requires extra effort to provide warm drink, but it will pay. If either the water or the milk be too cold, the birds will not drink enough of it, and what they do drink will tend to chill them.

RATION NEEDS EGG-PRODUCING FACTORS.

The average farm flock lays but few eggs during the winter, usually for two reasons: First, it contains a small percentage of pullets, and it is hard during December and January to secure high production from old hens that have laid well during the year.

Second, the ration fed the average farm flock in winter will not produce eggs in paying quantities. This is true because it is not a balanced ration; in some cases corn is fed almost exclusively. Here and there is one who feeds nothing but wheat. I have in mind one man who told me last spring that his hens had eaten nearly half a bushel of wheat a day. They get wheat to eat and water to drink, and March 1, they were not producing a dozen eggs a day.

ANIMAL PROTEIN NEEDED.

There is a very general lack of animal protein in the ration fed the farm flock. This lack can be very easily supplied by feeding a dry mash containing the necessary proportion of meat scrap. There are several kinds of prepared poultry mash on the market. Many of the local dealers are mixing and selling very good poultry mash at reasonable prices. If farmers, generally, would buy this feed and use it, the production of these small flocks would be greatly increased. If one desires to mix the mash at home, the formula put out from our college should be consulted. Equal parts of bran, cornmeal, middlings and ground oats, with anywhere from ten to twenty per cent. of meat scrap, according to the amount of milk the hens are getting. This is the formula, and it is hard to improve on. Usually one per cent. of salt is added, and from one to two per cent. of ground limestone (calcium carbonate).

A PRACTICAL MASH.

The writer has one bunch of Leghorns in which he is getting interested. In this flock are 170 pullets. They were hatched June 8. We bought this bunch, cockerels and all, when they were seven weeks old. To begin with, there were 400 of them, but we fed the weasels pretty well on two occasions, and the number was reduced. The birds never ate a kernel of scratch feed after we got them, until they were four months old. We fed a mash made practically as follows: Seven hundred pounds of yellow cornmeal, 300 pounds of good middlings, sixty pounds meat scrap, ten pounds of salt, and twelve pounds of calcium carbonate. We had it mixed at the mill, which saved some time and labor.

As the hours of daylight shortened and the nights grew long, we gave the pullets a feed of corn just before they went on the roost. They began laying shortly before they were five months old. They were five months and nineteen days old yesterday, and we gathered seventy-five eggs from the 170 birds.

There are several good methods of feeding hens. They will consume a variety of grains. In fact, all the grains commonly known on the farm except rye, can be fed with profit. There are many ways in which a good poultry mash can be made, but the principle of the balanced ration must be kept ever in mind, and for growing chicks yellow corn is preferable to the white variety.

Corn Excels Barley for Laying Hens.

In an effort to find a cheap home-grown food for laying hens that could be substituted for imported corn, the Lethbridge, Alta., Experimental Station made a test comparing barley with corn in the grain ration. Four hundred and fifty pullets were used for the experiment. To half the number the ration consisted of one part cracked corn, one part crushed oats and two parts wheat as scratch-feed, and equal parts of bran, shorts, middlings, oat-chop, meat meal and corn meal as a dry mash. The other half of the flock received a similar ration, differing only in the substitution of barley for the corn both in the scratch-feed and the mash. The usual additions of salt and charcoal were added to the mash in each case. In the summer a slightly higher proportion of wheat was used than in the winter. Both pens had access to alfalfa runs in the fall, spring and summer and in the winter were given cabbage, alfalfa leaves and mangels in liberal quantities. Only water was given for drink.

The results of the test were greatly in favor of the corn-fed lot both as to egg production and vitality of the birds. The average egg production in the pullet year was 201 eggs for the corn-fed pen and 174 for those receiving barley, and while the corn ration was higher in price, the feed cost per dozen was 3 per cent. less where corn was fed. A serious objection to barley was brought to light in the higher mortality of the birds given this feed.

Many other useful experiments were carried on at the Lethbridge Station and are reported in the annual report of the Station for 1925, available at the Publications Branch, Dept. of Agriculture, Ottawa.

Mulching Berries With Fertilizer-Bags.

Old fertilizer sacks come in handy on our farm. We lay the sacks along each side of the rows of strawberry plants, with edges close to the plants and parallel to the rows. The sacks are more easily placed if they are wet. To hold the sacks in place, use galvanized wire, bent into "U" shaped pieces, with the opening about two inches across and five inches long. These are inverted and run into the soil, using one in each corner of the sack.

The fertilizer sacks serve several purposes. They keep down weeds; they tend to prevent the production of runners between rows; when it rains they lessen the amount of mud splashed on the berries; and if sacks are used immediately after they are emptied, the soil receives the fertilizer that is washed out by rains. This method of caring for strawberry plants seems to us ideal for use on a small scale where straw is unavailable.

If there are only a few hundred plants in the garden plot, the use of burlap is more desirable than bothering with straw, we find.—A. D.

Hungry hens, those ever ready for their feed, lay the most eggs, and make the best breeders. Such hens come first at feedign time, and linger till the last; and yet, while they eat the most, they do not become overfat.

Breeding for Quality Eggs.

There is a growing feeling among poultrymen and the trade alike that the average size of market eggs is decreasing. The feeling is that this is especially the case on large commercial egg farms, where strenuous efforts are made to breed high producers. It is a recognized fact that if a bird lays more eggs, and one continually breeds for high egg production, especially in the naturally heavier breeds, there is a tendency for each succeeding generation of birds to become smaller in size and to lay smaller eggs. It would seem, therefore, that we must give serious attention to the maintenance of egg quality. This can be done only by careful selection and mating, and by careful breeding. The answer should be to hatch only eggs of normal size from birds of good size and weight, and to hatch only eggs of normal color for their respective breed or variety. When short of eggs the tendency is so often to put small eggs in the machine. Research studies tell us that these small eggs hatch small chicks, which grow into small pullets, which again lay small eggs. If nothing but two-ounce eggs are set, poutrymen need have no fear about the quality of the eggs, in reference to size at least, from the forthcoming pullets.

Pay-Day Selling.

A young farmer and his wife, whom I know, have shrewdly worked out a marketing plan whereby they get rid of their surplus products at good prices, and get cash for them. They sell on "pay-day" in nearby factory towns.

First, this man has his meats cold and fresh in pieces of convenient size. He does not encourage small sales, as they take too much time. The women have the pay cheques and can buy quantities, so everything is arranged in 10, 15 or 20-pound parcels. A good chunk of beef or pork at from five to eight cents less per pound than the butcher asks is always attractive, while eight or ten pounds of fresh sausage will not go far in a large family. The meat is the very last thing prepared, so it will be perfectly fresh. Scrapple, pigs' feet, hearts, livers and all the scraps are used.

Then there are kraut, vinegar, cottage-cheese, live chickens, eggs, late vegetables, pears, apples, dried corn and dozens of other things. Frequently he has to run home for a second and third load. The more perishable things go first, then the canned stuff and the vinegar and fruit. He stays mostly in the district where factory workers live, finding them excellent patrons on pay-day. They have the money and lay in a supply of cheaper food than they can get down town. He gives them good measure and first quality stuff.

By taking a whole day and getting out a large quantity, he does much better than to break up a number of days going the rounds. His patrons know when to look for him, and have the money ready.—H. R.

Scrub poultry may serve a good purpose in the pot, but should not be permitted to occupy space in the breeding-pens.

A SMART DRESS WITH SLENDERIZING LINES.

Dignity and grace are combined in the attractive daytime dress shown here. The bodice is slightly gathered to the skirt in front, while the back is in one piece. Slenderizing lines are accentuated by means of the deep V front, shawl collar extending to the waist, and the plaited front tunic. The sleeves are in two sections, the lower part being of contrasting material to match the vestee. No. 1461 is for ladies and is in sizes 36, 38, 40, 42 and 44 inches bust. Size 38 requires 3½ yards 39-inch material and ⅝ yard 36-inch contrasting for sleeves and vestee. Price 20c the pattern.

Many styles of smart apparel may be found in our Fashion Book. Our designers originate their patterns in the heart of the style centres, and their creations are those of tested popularity, brought within the means of the average woman. Price of the boo 10c 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., Tororto. Patterns sent by return mail.

Speeding Up the Bearing Age.

Though it is perfectly natural to want to get our orchards into bearing as quickly as possible, and though we are justified in putting more or less pressure on the trees to bring that about, yet we frequently overdo it.

The principal factors which influence early bearing are the following: Setting precocious varieties, summer-pruning the trees while young, setting the orchard on soils which are not overfertile, and being conservative in our use of cultivation and fertilizers which promote growth.

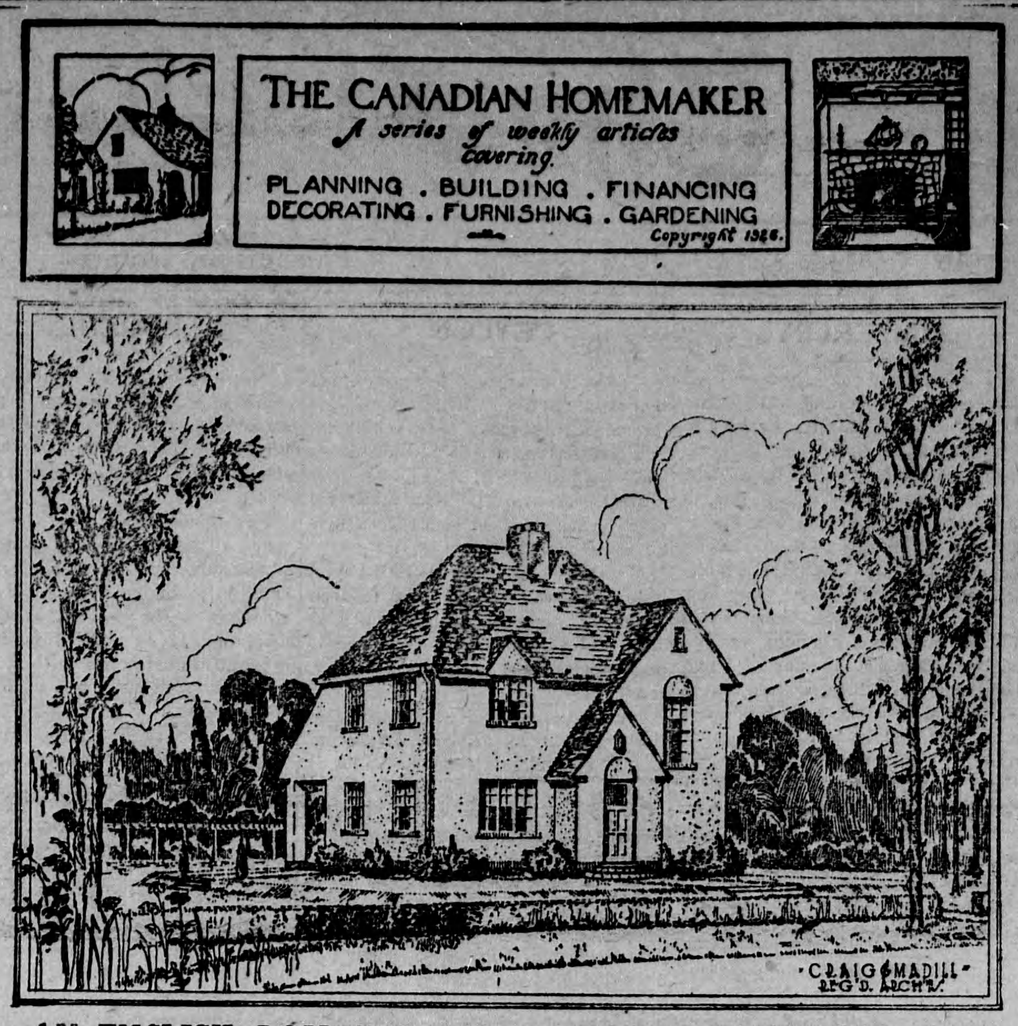
Now, any one of these is legitimate if kept within bounds. We might easily justify setting McIntosh, which comes into bearing in five or six years, in preference to Northern Spy, which takes ten to fifteen years; and we might well be cautious enough in our use of nitrogenous fertilizers so that our trees do not overgrow.

But on the other hand, we ought always to keep in mind the fact that for the first ten years at least we are building up our manufacturing plant which will yield us returns for many years; to build a good one should be our first concern.

The writer once saw an experimental orchard in which part of the trees had been summer-pruned and part had been pruned during the dormant season, and the former, at eight years of age, had produced several times as many apples as the latter. But they showed it, and I would far rather have had an orchard of trees like the dormant-pruned.

Do not be afraid of making the tree grow vigorously for the first four or five years. Get eighteen inches to two feet on the leaders if you can, for it requires a big tree to carry a big crop.

To get customers, an Iowa farmer who ships eggs has the ends of the crates neatly stenciled. This plan advertises his goods to those who see his shipments on depot platforms. Fastened by a short string to one corner of each box he puts a number of detachable tags, each bearing his name and address, and the current price of his eggs by parcle-post. Painted on the box, near the string, are the words "Take One," as a hint to travelers who see the shipments and wish they could obtain similar fresh eggs for their own tables.



AN ENGLISH DOMESTIC DESIGN FOR A SOUTH-SIDE LOT

By Craig & Madill, Architects.

A residence should be designed to suit the lot on which it is to be built and be so arranged as to give the best outlook and the greatest amount of light to the more important rooms. Often we find the rooms so arranged as to give consideration to the public highway only regardless of the real advantages possessed by the lot.

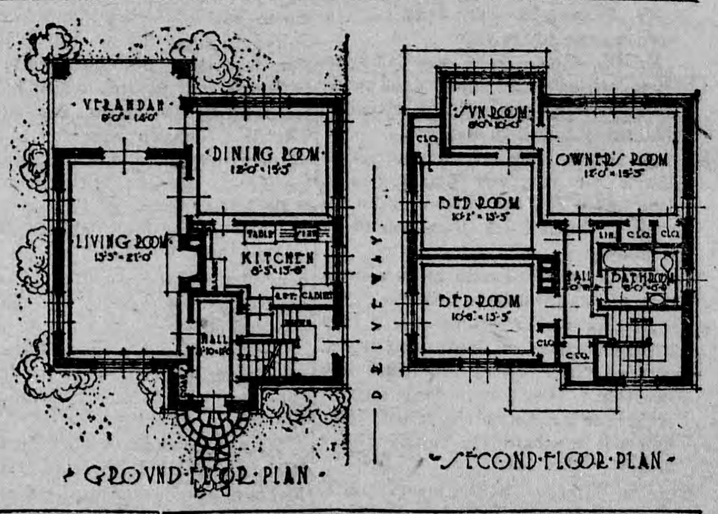
The design illustrated here is for a lot located on the south side of a street having a desirable view or garden in the rear. The spacious living room has a view on three sides. In its planning the natural advantages of the site are utilized to the utmost. French doors at one end lead to the verandah and garden to the south, while a group of three casement windows look toward the street. French doors give access from the living room to the dining room. The dining room, like the living room has exposure on three sides. Windows on either side of the buffet look to the west while a group of three casements face south and a pair of French doors lead to the verandah on the east.

There is no waste space in hallways in this design and the stairway is conveniently arranged at the front of the house with the basement stair under it. The trades entrance to the kitchen is placed at the basement stair landing and also provides an entrance from the side drive to the front hall. The kitchen is of ample size, well equipped with cupboards, broom cupboard, electric range and refrigerator.

The same considerations have been given to the arrangement of the rooms on the second floor as on the ground floor. There are three bedrooms of convenient size with generous closet space. The owner's bedroom, which has the preference in outlook is the largest and is provided with two wardrobes. Where possible two groups of windows have been provided in the bedrooms to give cross circulation of air. The sunroom, which faces south and has three exposures, opens off two of the bedrooms and may be used as a sun sitting room or as a sleeping porch. The bath room is ample in size and is equipped with a built-in tub and pedestal basin. The stucco exterior is relieved by red brick base, sills and trimmings. The roof is in keeping with the general design and is carried down with pleasing effect over the front entrance. English cottage casement sash and shingles and woodwork stained brown complete the effect.

The cost of the building exclusiva of land would be in the neighborhood of $9,500.

Readers desiring further information regarding the plans and specifications for this house should communicate with the architects direct. Address, Craig & Madill, 96 Bloor St. West, Toronto, Ont.



A HEARTLESS VALENTINE PARTY

BY BEATRICE PLUMB.

Could anything be more original than a heartless Valentine Party? Here is the invitation:

Although a Valentine affair
My party is a heartless one!
The girls will give the men the air—
Of course I only mean in fun!—
We'll show no heart at all, but then
You'll meet some cultured girls who sing,
And lots of promising young men—
In fact, they'll promise anything!

Hearts have no place at your party. Cooing doves, lovers' knots, cupids and bows and arrows may be used instead. You could have an ice-cold atmosphere by a liberal use of white crepe paper cut into a fringle of icicles, with cotton batting for snow.

When the girls are upstairs taking off their wraps hang strings over the banister. Leave one end of each string where the boys downstairs can reach it. To the top ends fasten doll-size gloves.

These are illustrations cut from a glove catalogue and pasted on cardboard. Explain to the boys that some girl has each one of them on a string and that the heartless one will shortly walk downstairs and hand him the mitten. He must immediately attempt to propose to her and continue these attempts throughout the evening whenever an opportunity occurs. Warn him that the heartless one will do all in her power to prevent him from completing any proposal. A prize will be given to the boy who first succeeds in popping the question to his partner, another to the one who manages to propose the most times during the party.

Now explain the game to the heartless ones. Assure them that a lovely prize awaits the girl who succeeds in averting the threatened proposal. On the signal each heartless one walks downstairs following her string till she finds her "beau" to hand him the mitten.

Love stories is a game to start with. Two players, boy and girl, stand in front of the group and at the word "Go!" both start talking. The boy's subject is "My Girl Friend"; the girl's subject is "My Boy Friend." The one who can talk the longest wins a gas balloon.

Just before refreshments usher your guests out with an all-pop relay. Give each a paper bag and line up your two teams facing the doorway. On the word "Go!" the first player of each team rushes through the doorway, stops, blows up his paper bag, "pops" it and sits down upon the floor. The next two players rush to the doorway and repeat the performance. This continues until all of one team are seated. Pass popcorn balls to the losing team. The winners think this a heartless procedure until they discover that the losers must eat the balls without touching them with their hands.

BLIND CUPID.

Although Blind Cupid is a simple game, it is more fun than you can imagine until you have tried it, and the Valentine decorations of cupids make it appropriate. Give numbered slips to the guests as they arrive, even numbers to the men and odd numbers to the girls. No. 1 and No. 2 will be the first to play the game, which should start before all have arrived. Both players are blindfolded. They are placed at opposite ends of a long table and told to keep one hand upon the table while "Blind Cupid" tries to catch his victim and she tries to escape. Each one must keep one hand on the table, but can move in either direction. The fun lies in the fact that neither knows which way the other is moving unless one has excellent hearing, and after dodging back and forth successfully for a time, they are very likely to turn and have a head-on collision. When "Cupid" catches his victim, he becomes the pursued and the girl who has been given slip No. 3 is "Blind Cupid." No 3 then pursues No. 4, and so on indefinitely.

"An Endearment Contest" comes next. Secure partners thus: Give to the men slips calling for some laughable stunt such as "Snoring," "Do an esthetic dance," "Smile sweetly upon some maiden," "Give an exhibition of cake-walking," "Dance the Charleston," and so on. The girls are given slips of paper telling what kind of stunts are to be done, and each girl claims her partner when she recognizes his stunt as the one called for on her slip. When all have secured partners, pencils and papers are passed and the players told to write down as many terms of endearment as they can think of. Later these lists are read aloud and each couple must scratch off every term thought of by any one else. Ten points are awarded for every word no one else thought of, and the couple having the most points is given a box of candy. If a humorous prize is desired, fix up a dainty box with a cake of mush inside.

Serve fruit cup, sandwiches filled with finely chopped ham, celery salad in red apples, strawberry ice cream, date cookies, cocoa with whipped cream and peppermints.

Be Firm With Yourself.

What is the useless thing you save? Nearly everybody has something—string, or bottles, or left-over pieces of material, or crooked old nails, or something like that.

May we offer a piece of advice? Thank you. Throw 'em out. Sell the stuff if you can, but get rid of it. You think maybe you will need it sometime, but you won't.

Or put it this way: if you are not sure whether to keep it or scrap it, scrap it. You will be right twenty times for every once you are wrong.

A Shovel Beats a Knife.

When cutting rutabagas, turnips or carrots for the stock or horses I always use a sharp square shovel

I made a good strong box from lumber about three feet long by two feet wide, where I put the vegetables while cutting thm.

This is a much quicker way than to cut by hand.—A. G.