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NO. 37

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## Poultry Short Course Held At Richmond Hill Last Week Proved Interesting and Instructive

Varied Features of Successful Poultry Raising Covered by Addresses by Competent Speakers--Those Who Approach the Business in Haphazard Way Doomed To Failure.

On Tuesday morning, February 28th Mr. Clark of Cainsville, spoke on "Housing and Equipment."

Too many people think that poultry keeping is a thing that needs no experience—that it is simply a matter of keeping the hens reasonably clean, throwing them some feed and gathering the eggs. Those who approach the business in this way are doomed to failure. Start with a few hens and when you have gained experience enlarge the flock.

**HOUSING.** There is an enormous amount of capital lost every year in too expensive housing. The hens must pay interest on improvement and for depreciation and it keeps them working too hard. They will lay just as many eggs in a moderately cheap building as in an expensive one. Don't use lath and plaster or double walls of any kind as they harbor rats and mice. Use single walls. Thirty years ago Mr. Clark built two houses 60 ft. long with lath and plaster walls and deep concrete foundation and floor, besides being too expensive he has had more trouble with rats and disease in those houses than in any other.

Choose a well-drained situation facing south, dig small trench spade width and spade depth, fill trench with broken stone or cinders to prevent heaving and cracking of the wall. Make concrete wall six inches high and six inches thick, and while still soft place six inch bolts head down about six feet apart and two inches from outside of wall. After concrete is thoroughly set bore holes in the scantling to be used for sill and drop over bolts.

Do not buy expensive lumber, Mr. Clark bought an old building and put up a house 20 x 40 for less than \$100, it may not be as nice to look at, but produces just as many eggs. Use cheap lumber and cover on the outside with a good grade of roofing well nailed on. Roofing companies sell "seconds" which are quite good enough for walls though not for roofs. He has had one of these houses in use for 18 years. Paint the lath to strip the outside to make it look better and wear longer. After years of experiment it has been found that the straw loft house is the most satisfactory kind for Ontario as the loft keeps the house dry in winter and cool in summer. Open front houses all right for winter but too hot for the summer months. There must be ventilation above the loft, a hole one foot square cut in each end of the building at the peak. Lack of ventilation freezes hens combs.

Cement floor is the cheapest and most durable, one inch is thick enough if put on top of three or four inches of drainage material but don't put cement directly on the ground. A dry floor makes the litter last longer, if hens' feet are wet and cold it will impair egg production very quickly. Don't leave any harbor for rats under the floor, they can even eat through cement in time—and rats have plenty of time. Mr. Clark uses no dropping boards in his large poultry houses as it is too much labor to keep them clean, hens get their feet dirty and then go to nests, they also harbor mites.

Windows for ventilating may be hinged at bottom and let down slightly from the top with burlap down the sides to prevent draughts. Have the front of house nearly all light, wire foundation cellulglass has been found very satisfactory but not the wax cloth.

This house is 40 x 20, is six feet high front and back and has windows two and a half feet from the floor. Two hundred hens may be kept in it, it is advisable to put a partition in the middle of house to lessen danger of draughts and to make an epidemic easier to control.

**DRY MASH HOPPER** is perhaps the most necessary part of poultry house equipment. It is best on a stand or suspended from ceiling, if hen can just reach it she will not waste the mash.

**DUST BATH.** If hens have a good dust bath they will keep themselves free from lice. Ground limestone is best dusting material as it will not float in the air and make breathing difficult for the hens.

**DRINKING FOUNTAIN.** A galvanized iron trough about six inches deep raised so litter can't be scratched in. Keep coated on inside with roofing cement to keep from rusting and it will last indefinitely. Place near dry mash, give water first thing in the morning and renew warm water three times a day in cold weather. In cool weather it is not necessary to give water as well as milk.

**HOPPERS** with grit and oyster shell should be kept before them all the time.

**ELECTRIC LIGHTS** for forcing winter egg production are all right if used judiciously. Don't force production over fifty per cent. or the hens are apt to lose weight and force a moult.

On Tuesday afternoon Mr. Benson of the Dominion Department of Agri-

culture spoke on **SANITATION.** Methods of sanitation in poultry keeping are too often neglected. Some poultry plants neglect sanitary precautions and fail in the business as a direct result.

Don't allow one poor, thin, diseased bird to live in the flock. It is a disease carrier, don't put off killing and burning it. Do it now. Don't feed the hens old spoiled food, that is a common practice and should be avoided. It pays to give them clean feed free from mould, harmful bacteria are carried in spoiled feeds.

Don't allow hens to drink from barn yard puddles or open drains. A story was told to illustrate this danger. A man in Prince Edward Island had a flock that was gradually dying and asked Mr. Benson to look them over. He found that the hens were drinking from the house sink, and of course the salt, soap and lye etc., was having a deadly effect on the flock.

It is a bad practice to let the flock work in the manure yard especially in warm weather. Keep drinking vessels scrupulously clean. Don't throw dead birds on the rubbish heap, the other birds will eventually find and eat them thus spreading the disease. Destroy them at once.

All these sanitary precautions, if carried out, mean success and build up that most necessary of all qualities—flock vigor—without which no flock can function satisfactorily.

**Mr. Clark on CULLING.** Mr. Clark drew the attention of the audience to the difference in types of poultry. The slow, heavy sluggish type which fatten easily and lay few eggs. The flat sided, deep bodied, closely feathered, clean cut, alert hens which fatten slowly but perform well as egg layers. Then the intermediate type having certain characteristics common to both.

The head is the thermometer which indicates what may be expected in the body type and performance of the hen. The head be clean cut, medium size, not long or crow-headed and not short and fat and bumpy. Those with crow heads have low egg producing ability and lack constitutional vigor. Short beefy heads indicate a tendency to sluggishness, good fattening ability and low egg production. Four birds of the desirable and undesirable types were on exhibition to illustrate Mr. Clark's remarks. The difference between the two types was readily appreciated by the audience.

Space does not permit a full account of the art of culling but if those who are interested will send to the Ontario Department of Agriculture for "Farm Poultry" Bulletin 329 they will find the subject completely covered.

On Wednesday Morning, February 29th, Mr. Clark spoke on **POULTRY DISEASES. COLD IN HEAD.** This is caused by the bird roosting in a draught, also by lack of ventilation. Treat it as soon as the eye looks bubbly, use small oil can with fine spout and drop cold oil in the little hole in front of the eye. Don't neglect a cold as it may lead to more serious disorders.

**ROUP.** Roup is often carried by sparrows and at present large numbers of crows are dying of it. It is difficult to recognize at first as bird naturally turns good eye towards you. Isolate any bird with swelling in head and treat with coal oil. It is easy to control in first stages but not after the growth becomes cheesy with unpleasant smell. If the bird is killed in the first stage before it loses weight the flesh is fit for food.

**DIPHTHERIA.** A white growth inside mouth and throat. Treat with coal oil or permanganate of potash. Sometimes a white growth which appears on the end of the windpipe may be removed by shoving windpipe up into mouth, removing growth with hairpin and then disinfecting.

**CHICKEN-POX.** Small watery blisters on comb and wattles. Isolate

birds quickly, coat comb with carbolic vaseline or other disinfectant and give a teaspoonful of Epsom salts in two 3-0 capsules. This is a better way to give medicine than in liquid form. Give salts in drinking water to dose the whole flock.

**FLU.** A bronchial disease prevalent in recent years. The bird breathes with its mouth open, can't dislodge mucous and dies very quickly. Remove affected birds, clean and disinfect drinking pans and pens. Keep hens in good health to resist disease and feed liver to stimulate flock when some birds have had flu.

**TUBERCULOSIS.** Poultry on farms more generally affected than those of poultrymen. Mr. Clark thinks bovine T.B. and avian T.B. are closely related and that hens get the infection from cow manure. Although doctors say that the flesh is not harmful to eat if well cooked Mr. Clark would not risk it. At post mortem the liver shows raised white spots. Enlarged liver without spots is caused by forcing for egg production.

**INDIGESTION.** The crop muscles become weakened and food remains in crop. If it can't be loosened by giving Epsom salts and water open crop, remove contents, wash and sew up with silk thread. Feed bird bread and milk for a few days and give nuxvomica in a capsule as a tonic.

**DIARRHOEA.** Ordinary diarrhoea is simply another form of indigestion. Give one teaspoonful of castor oil in capsules.

**WHITE DIARRHOEA.** This is one of the most serious of poultry diseases and most difficult to recognize. There may be a "spreader" in the flock which will give it to the other birds. The only sure way to recognize bacteria pullorum is by a blood test, some flocks are tested and the hatching eggs guaranteed. It is hereditary and one chick can infect a whole incubator. To guard against this keep incubator dark at time of hatching and keep chicks in darkened chick boxes until they are old enough to feed, then put in brooder and feed at once. For first two weeks put two teaspoons standard iodine in drinking water as a precaution. If a chick shows signs of white diarrhoea kill it at once and burn the body.

**BROODER PNEUMONIA.** Is caused by mouldy feed or mouldy litter. Listen to sick chick's breathing to see if there is a little cracking noise in lungs. Get rid of such chicks at once as they are no good even if they do recover.

**INTESTINAL WORMS.** The symptoms of the presence of tapeworms and roundworms are very similar—birds become weak and unthrifty and the condition of the flock is poor. Mr. (Continued on Page 7)

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