

Poultry Raising by Hayashida, Masao

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Term Paper Poultry Raising

Today, poultry raising is very important for we must depend greatly on eggs and poultry meat since our animal meat has been rationed. Every year the American hen pays more than the cost of two Panama Canals, more than 660,000,000 chickens are raised annually besides the chicken that are raised in the backyards. Chicken ranks third for the source of food for in a average year about 350,000,000 pounds of dressed chicken are sold at markets. Millions of pounds of dressed chickens and eggs are stored in storages to meet the winter supplies; also the eggs are frozen, dried and powdered. The United States Department of Agriculture estimates about \$50,000,000 of eggs are destroyed annually through said methods of handling eggs from the farm to the market.

Poultry raising is quite different from any other business for you do not need very much knowledge or preparation. The best way to learn poultry raising is by raising few chickens in your backyard and keep a accurate account of every cent received and spent, of poultry and eggs used by the family and of the losses and see at the end of the year what your profit is. If you didn't lose you will naturally increase your crop, but don't put more money into it then you can afford to lose until you have found out what sort of person you are.

After you think you are qualified to start raising poultry for business you must locate a suitable place for your poultry farm. There are three essentials in locating a profitable farm. The first essential is water, for he must supply the fowls with water, also raise green feeds to feed them. Second is fertile soil, which must be light, sandy soil for the fowls to dispose disease germs. If the land is not good enough for fruits it's not good enough for poultry raising for the best fruits land is none too good. Then the third, essential is transportation facilities which the farm must be located fairly close to a large city or a railroad. This is a important thing to remember for if the producer has to haul his products six or seven miles over rough road it's the end for possible profits.

After you have located a suitable place you must choose what kind of fowl you want in your raising. The best way to approach this problem is by visiting nearby farms and see what kind of fowls others have, also read local poultry journals. If you are going to concentrate on egg laying, Mediterranean class is recommended which consists the leghorns, Minoreas, Anomas, and so on. For the meat types, the best are the Asiatic's which include the Brahmas, Cochins, and Langshans.

White Leghorns has proved to be the best breed in laying eggs, and it is said by the egg farmers that the Leghorns will be hard to displace. The Leghorns are the best for commercial egg farms, but after they are through laying eggs, there is hardly fifty cents worth of meat on its bones, while other breeds will bring a dollar or so. If you want to raise chicken in your backyard it's very unwise to raise Leghorns for they will be hard to keep inside of the fence, and also at the dinner table they are not as satisfactory as others in eating. It is considered that whatever breed you select, get the best stock and keep that one breed and nothing else for there is enough to learn to keep a average person busy for a lifetime.

{Newspaper clipping of chickens} Male and female leghorns. America's famous egg-layer.

{Newspaper clipping of chickens} The above is as follows: Barred Plymouth Rocks, the White Plymouth Rocks, and the Rhode Islands Reds. These are the beloved American fowls.

In order to raise poultry successfully you must see to it that the fowls are quartered sufficiently. They must be given enough living space so that they will keep healthy and produce eggs. There are two systems in poultry raising, the extensive system and the intensive system. The extensive system is the {illegible} for all you have to do is have a large land and let your flock run loose, letting them search for their own food or bring food out to their houses once or twice a day. On the other hand, the intensive system involves much work for the fowls are quartered more or less closely, just enough room for exercise, but where breeders are closely confined fertility is likely to suffer sooner or later.

The most common type of yard system is the two yard system. The yard is divided into two and while the fowl is confined in one yard, the other is being cultivated with green crop. This is alternated so that the fowls have plenty of green feed to eat. Below diagram shows one type of yard system.

{Schematic of two-yard system}

The poultry house must have a abundant supply of sunshine for any house that does not supply sun is unsanitary, no matter how well it's planned, and also the house front must face toward east or south with high windows to accept the sunshine. It must have a good ventilation system for coup, {illegible}, bronchitis and many other ailments will follow. It must also have protection from wind, rain, too much sunshine, rats, weasels, and other vermins.

In making a permanent fowl house it is preferred that a cement foundation is much more sufficient than wood or dirt for it will keep out the vermins and the dampness. The house need not be more than two square feet per fowl with a slanting roof to repel rain. In places of bad weather the combination of scratching shed and roosting house is the best. The simpler construction of the poultry house the better for both economy and sanitation. If the roosting boards are removable it can be removed and washed with disinfectant.

The houses must be high enough for the attendant to stand comfortably, at least, seven feet at the front and five feet at the rear is a good height for a house with a shed roof. If it's a gable it would have to be a little higher. You must also remember heavy breeds require more room than Leghorns and other Mediterraneans. A house that will hold fifty Orpingtons will hold about sixty-five Leghorns.

The portable colony house is most popular in intensive system for it accommodates from dozen to forty hens. The long house maybe more economical, but on farms where a hundred or less hens are kept a colony house is much better for they can be placed throughout the fields and orchards so for apart that each flock will have plenty of forages to eat.

In the longhouses more birds can be kept at a low expenses from labor and housing. A good plan for a longhouse is twenty feet wide and hundred feet long, eight feet high in front and five in the rear, and is divided by sixteen feet partitions into five sections. The partitions do not separate the sections an alley four feet wide being left the whole length of the front of the building, so that every fowl may roam over the whole 2000 feet. Each section contains roosting and scratching room for about 100 or 120 hens so the entire house will house about 500 to 600 hens.

Feeding is very important for proper food produces the best poultry. The food substances are classified as water, carbohydrates, fat, protein and ash.

Three-fifths of the egg and three-fourth of the body of the fowl is water so an abundant supply of water is necessary for both chicks and laying hens.

Fat and carbohydrates are sugar and starches and are used to produce heat and energy.

Protein builds the muscle and tissue and constitutes all the solid part of the white of an egg. Chicks cannot grow nor hens lay eggs without protein.

Ash is the mineral matter and is necessary for bone making.

Wheat is the best single grain feed for fowls for they can live on a diet of wheat alone for a long time, but the only trouble is that it is expensive.

Corn is the producer of body heat and is greatly used in the east, than out here. Corn meal is used in all marshes in the winter months.

Barley is one grain that is cheap in California but the fowls are not fond of it dry. It should be soaked in water for twenty-four hours and drained till it is nearly dry, then mixed with a small amount of wheat and whole corn. This kind of feed is the best grain ration for Leghorns.

Stale bread is a excellent food and can be obtained very cheaply from bakeries and restaurants. The nutritive ratio is about same as that of wheat. If the bread is starting to mold it must not be used for it is very injurious to fowls.

The green feed can hardly be over estimated although, it is not primarily an egg producer, but it is so essential to the growth and health of the fowls.

Getting the eggs to the market is just as important as getting the hens to lay eggs. It is estimated by the United States Department of Agriculture that nearly 17 percent of all the eggs shipped to the wholesale markets are a total loss due to unfitness in use. By better management this tremendous loss can be

eliminated, better management on the part of the producer means eggs that are fresh, clean, infertile, of good size and all the same size, of uniform shape and color, and well packed.

Selling the eggs directly to the consumers is the most profitable. Sometimes selling directly to the retailer is as profitable as selling directly to private customers, but most retailers want to much profit for themselves.

To cover poultry raising it would be very easy to write a whole book on it, especially if you wrote in details. I have left out the material that I thought was not as important as the material that I have covered.