

to every twelve or fifteen fowls. Grit is also essential to the health of the fowls and to economize in feeding, it should be before the fowls at all times. Lime is essential for the formation of shells of eggs and should be placed before the fowls in the form of oyster shells, and old mortar which should be kept in a hopper.

The chickens should be supplied with fresh water every day. Milk is good and is relished by the fowls. There is not much danger of freezing in a well built house if it is slightly warmed in the morning.

On the farm the hen is usually used to rear the young chicks. The hens should be set in some quiet place and given careful attention. April and May is the best time to hatch the little chicks. Chicks hatched later than this do not do well. If they are hatched earlier than April first, it costs more to rear them, and the eggs usually are not so fertile. The mother hen should be kept free from lice, for a lousy hen will not make a good sitter.

The little chicks are not fed until they are two days old, but are given water from the first. The hen is fed her feed out of reach of the chicks. The first feeds should be given sparingly every few hours and are usually wet mashes. A good mash is equal parts, by weight of finely ground corn, bran, and shorts, mixed crumbly with sour milk. After the third day some of the cracked grain may be fed a little at a time, until at the end of the sixth day, two feeds of mash and three feeds of cracked grains are fed daily. Occasionally whole wheat should be fed, until at the end of eight weeks whole grains constitute the greater part of the feed.

If the chicks are unable to get worms or insects in sufficient numbers, they must be supplied with a substitute such as milk or beef scrap. Green food should be given in the form of chopped lettuce, a piece of potato, or mangel, when they are unable to run out side in the grass.

The eggs for hatching should be as fresh as possible. In cold weather they should be gathered quite often during the day to prevent chilling. They should be kept in a temperature of not over seventy or below forty degrees, Fahrenheit. Eggs kept over seventy degrees will spoil rapidly.

The profits that are to be derived from poultry keeping are the amount of returns that are received, above the cost of producing the product. So the farmer should economize in feeding and try to put a product on the market that will bring a high price.

In order to arrange products such as live and dressed poultry, it is necessary for the producer to study the details of killing and dressing which will enable the producer to send articles which the market demands, in the best possible shape. Fowls should not be fed for some time before killing. At least from twelve to twenty-four hours should elapse before the last feeding and the killing time.

When live poultry is shipped long distances to market, it should be placed in coops which are high enough to permit the fowls to stand erect. The shipping crate should be light and yet strong. Heavy crates are expensive to transport.

In marketing eggs, they should be kept perfectly clean and of uniform size. The eggs should also be fresh and not allowed to stand for any length of time. Eggs are usually sent to market in shipping crates which are constructed especially for the purpose, usually holding thirty dozen.

As soon as a worthy article is produced regularly, customers are ready to purchase.

The best on the market is sold first. Better work with poultry will eventually insure better products, which will find ready market and in turn create new demands. It should be the aim of every person who is about to enter the poultry business to produce the best possible for the market. The greatest skill is required to furnish the best, but articles which are produced with great skill and a thoro knowledge of the business, usually yield the greatest profits.