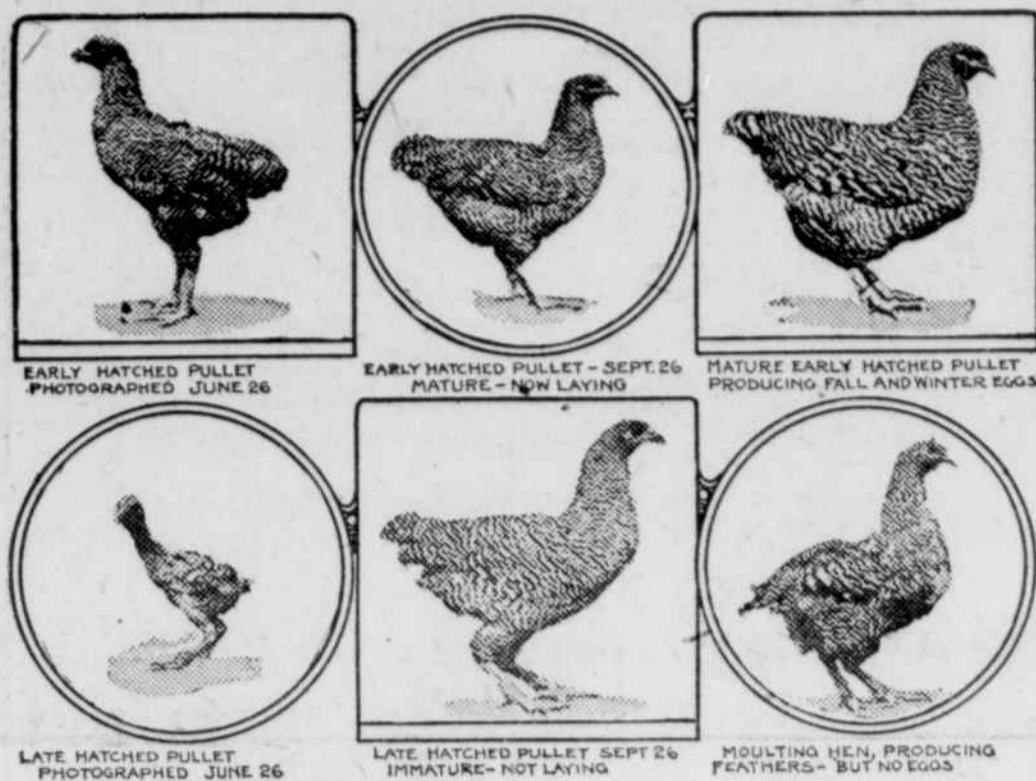


A Bird in the Hand

(Special Information Service, U. S. Department of Agriculture.)

WHY HATCH EARLY—AN ARGUMENT IN PICTURES



HATCH EARLY IS MOST IMPORTANT

Chicks Grow Faster and Stand Hot Weather Much Better.

BIRDS BRING HIGHER PRICES

Pullets Produced That Lay When Eggs Are Scarcest—Be Cautious in Starting Business of "Day-Old" Chicks.

Unless a special effort is made throughout the country to hatch the 1918 chicken crop early, the nation's need for a greatly increased output of poultry flesh and eggs is not likely to be fully met. While chickens can be hatched at any time of the year, it is the chickens hatched early in the spring that give the best results. Hatching should begin from February 1 in the South to March 1 in the North and West, and should be completed by May 1. The usual time for starting the incubators and sitting hens coincides too closely with the planting season on the farms and hatching operations are likely to be reduced on that account. Therefore, hatch early.

Chick Business.
The city poultry keeper should tackle the business of hatching chicks or buying and rearing "day-old" chicks cautiously or not at all. Often it is inad-

visable to attempt to renew the city poultry flock even though the temptation comes strongly to the poultry beginner with the first warm days of spring. Previous experience in the raising of chicks often increases the chances of success, but the land available to the back-yard poultryman usually is too small to undertake a chick business.

No attempt should be made to raise chicks unless a plot can be provided separate from that to which the hens have access and upon which there is grass or where a supply of green feed can be furnished. Where these conditions cannot be had it is better for the beginner who is keeping only hens for eggs to kill the hens as soon as they have outlived their usefulness and replace them by well-matured pullets in the fall.

If it is believed practicable to hatch and rear a few chicks, this can best be done with hens. If it is desired to purchase and rear a few day-old chicks and no hens are available for the purpose, it is possible with little trouble and expense to construct a fireless brooder, which will serve in place of the hens.

It would be well for the beginner to obtain from the Department of Agriculture or from State agriculture colleges, publications on hatching and rearing.

To Destroy Mites.

In tests of a large series of insecticides conducted by entomologists of the United States Department of Agriculture, it was found that a few thorough applications of crude petroleum to the interior of poultry houses will completely destroy mites.

CHARACTERISTICS OF POULTRY BREEDS

Those of Laying Class Are Relatively Small and Energetic.

Brahma Is Most Popular of Meat Birds Because It Is Largest and Most Rugged in Constitution—Plymouth Rock Favored.

(Prepared by the United States Department of Agriculture.)

The laying breeds commonly grown in this country, with the exception of the Minorca, are relatively small, very energetic and lively, mature early, and are easily kept in good laying condition. The Minorca is of larger size and modified somewhat in the other particulars mentioned, yet has more the character of the laying class than of any other.

Characteristics of Meat Breeds.

In the meat breeds there is not the same uniformity of type that is found in the laying breeds. The Brahma is most popular because it is at the same time the largest and the most rugged in constitution. The Dorking excels in quality of meat but is generally considered somewhat lacking in hardiness. The Cornish is rather hard-meated, but being very short-feathered has its special place as a large meat-producing fowl in southerly sections where the more heavily feathered Brahma does not stand the summers well.

Characteristics of General-Purpose Breeds.

Among the popular breeds of the general-purpose class there are also differences in type, adapting breeds to different uses. The Plymouth Rock is generally regarded as the type meeting the widest range of requirements in the general-purpose class.

The Wyandotte is a little smaller and earlier maturing, but still very well meated and easy to fatten.

The Rhode Island Red has nearly the same standards of weight as the Wyandotte, but is a more active bird, not putting on fat so readily; consequently it approaches the laying type and is popular with those who want eggs and meat, but want eggs most.

The Orpington is at the other extreme in the general-purpose class, being a heavier, meatier fowl than the Plymouth Rock.

Such a list of breeds affords so wide a range of choice that poultry keepers

LIBERTY BREAD NOW A FACT.

Law Regulating Same Went into Effect Sunday. Hotels Must Not Serve Bread that Does Not Contain at Least 20 Per Cent Cereal Substitutes.

Raleigh, Feb. 24.—Liberty Bread becomes a fact today. Beginning today no bread may be sold by bakers, or served by hotels, restaurants, boarding houses and other public eating houses using three barrels of flour per month that does not contain at least 20 per cent of cereal substitutes along with wheat flour. Any bakers, hotels, restaurants or other eating houses who refuse to follow the order of the Food Administration or who have not secured license to operate will be compelled to close.

The cereal substitutes that will be most generally used by bakers will be corn meal, edible wheat middlings and shorts and barley flour. Rye bread may be baked by itself but rye is not included in the list of cereal substitutes. Whole wheat graham flour containing approximately 25 per cent of middlings, shorts and bran is regarded as the ideal combination because it is already mixed and our people are familiar with the product.

The Food Administration has amended the baking regulations so as to provide for the baking of a three quarter pound loaf which may be baked singly or in twin form. Its manufacture is subject to all rules governing the other loaves, its weight simple adding an additional loaf size. The new loaf must not vary more than three-quarters of an ounce in weight above or below three-quarters of a pound. The price of this loaf should be relatively lower than the price of the pound loaf, and will sell most generally at 8c.

Mrs. Bettie Thornton Westbrook.

The subject of the article Mrs. Bettie (Thornton) Westbrook was born July 20, 1869, and died February 20, 1918, being 48 years and 7 months old. She professed faith in Christ and joined Pleasant Union Disciple church when about 13 or 14 years old and remained a member till death. From what we have learned of her she was a very industrious and faithful wife and mother, and also a woman that possessed a real living faith in Christ, having expressed herself previous to her death as not fearing to depart this life. She and her husband, Mr. Stephen Westbrook, of Benstonville, N. C., worked hard and made very marked progress in the financial line; but she, we trust, has gone to enjoy a richer, better and a glorious state. Surviving her to mourn her death is her husband, Stephen Westbrook; five sons, Leon, Norman, Harvey, Aldon and Wilbert, and two daughters, Mrs. Cora Langston and Miss Clarsia, all of Benstonville; and three brothers, Mr. C. A. Thornton, of Benstonville; Mr. S. E. Thornton, of Oneals township, and Mr. G. E. Thornton, of Smithfield, and many relatives and friends. We trust their loss is her gain.

Death of a Child.

Julia Gale, the little four-year-old daughter of Mr. and Mrs. D. A. Price, died at their home February 2, 1918, after three weeks' illness and was buried at the family cemetery.

To the bereaved we extend our sympathy and for them pray that they may be comforted, kept and finally meet around the throne of God.

A FRIEND.

Birthday Party in Kenly.

Kenly, Feb. 22.—On Tuesday afternoon, February 19, 1918, from 4 to 6 o'clock, Little Miss Miriam Edgerton entertained twenty-eight of her little friends at her home on Maxwellton Heights in honor of her eighth birthday. The guests were received at the door by the little hostess and ushered into the parlor where they enjoyed music on the Edison for awhile, after which they played games.

They were invited into the dining room where dainty refreshments were served.

Little Miriam was the recipient of many lovely gifts which she thoroughly enjoyed and appreciated.

The time for departure came all too soon and the little folks went away saying, "The best time I ever had."

Big Lot Fertilizers Now on Hand At Smithfield and Four Oaks!

200 Tons 8-3-3

200 Tons 8-2-2

50 Tons Nitrate Soda

25 Tons Muriate Potash

Cotton Seed Meal

And Acid

Mr. J. W. Sanders has charge of our Fertilizer business at Four Oaks. We can deliver in Car Load Lots or in smaller lots anywhere in county.

We have on hand Two Car Loads nice Buggies.

Well selected stock of Furniture.

Biggest Stock of Dry Goods we have ever carried.

Give us a call and let us show you our goods.

Cotter-Underwood Company

Smithfield, N. C.

Rail Road Embargoes

Do not effect us--We have our Guano houses full, so come to see us today for--

Cotton Seed Meal, Acid, Obers 8-3-3, 8-2-2 And Potash.

Come and come quick, there may come a time when Fertilizers will not move freely, but we can supply you today. See us at Smithfield and Four Oaks, N. C.

Austin-Stephenson Co.