

RADIO RALF--

By JACK WILSON

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Handling Baby Chicks.

BABY chicks should be confined to the brooder house only long enough for them to learn where to go to get warm and until they get strong enough to get around nicely. Four or five days are long enough if the weather is nice outside.

Before letting them out, provide some means of confining them to a small space in front of the house. A frame two feet high to which one-half-inch-mesh wire chicken netting is nailed makes a splendid portable fence for such a yard.

When the chicks are first let out it will be necessary to watch them until they learn to go back into the brooder to get warm. Often the little fellows when outside will crowd into a corner, become chilled and after that rarely amount to anything. After they have made the journey into the house a few times they will get along all right. Should a sudden rain come up it will be necessary to drive the chicks in.

Another danger from rain storms is that the chicks become chilled and unless they can be dried in a short time it is apt to check them in their growth. A precaution that should be taken in the brooder house is to put a piece of fine-mesh netting about two feet long and one foot high across the corners so as to prevent the chicks from crowding in them.

If the yard in which the baby chicks are put for range is not provided with good sod, some sort of green food must be given them. It will be noticed that some of the chicks grow faster than others and as they begin to fill up the brooder house, pick out the largest and move them to another place. By so doing you prevent overcrowding and give the smaller and weaker chicks a better chance to grow and develop. Crowding often causes serious losses and should be prevented by all means. The stronger chicks have to be confined to their new quarters by the use of a portable fence probably for four or five days.

Do not make the mistake of leaving the doors or windows open so that a draft results as it will surely cause trouble within a short time in the way of colds and sickness. It is always a temptation on a bright, sunny day to open up the brooder house but in doing so be sure that no draft occurs.

As soon as the chicks are old enough, say four or five weeks, be-

gin giving them cracked corn and wheat in the place of the baby-chick grains. A splendid mash for them, which should be placed in a hopper and left before them at all times, is one composed of one part (by weight) rolled oats, two parts bran, one part corn meal, one part middlings, and ten per cent beef scrap. This mixture can also be fed as a moist crumbly mash once a day. When the chicks are eight to ten weeks old, add one pound of ground oats and increase the meat scrap to one part, the corn meal to two parts and decrease the bran to one part in the above mentioned mash. In addition, give them all the sour milk or buttermilk they will drink; it is also good to use milk to mix the wet mash. Feed the chicks grain about four times a day, if you wish to hand-feed, until they are three months old; after that three times.

In feeding wet mash, do not feed more than the chicks will eat within fifteen minutes. If you have overfed, be sure to gather up what is left and feed to the older birds as if it is left before the chickens and becomes sour it is very apt to cause digestive troubles. Supply the baby chicks with grit.

Drinking fountains of a kind that can be kept scrupulously clean should contain a supply of fresh water which the chicks have access to at all times, after they are four or five days old.

When the chicks are raised with hens, do not let another hen range until the youngsters are at least four weeks old. In this way you prevent large losses in the young stock. If the hen is allowed to range at the farm through the wet grass in the morning where they get out of hearing the mother hen's cluck become chilled and die. Many successful poultrymen never allow their hens to run with the chicks.

It often happens that the old stock and the growing chicks run together and the young stock is therefore apt to be deprived of its full share of feed. Some arrangement should be made whereby the young chicks can secure feed whenever they wish. A frame covered by either one or two-inch wire netting on top and extending over on the sides within about three inches of the ground will be most convenient for this purpose. This frame can be placed over the feed and water of the young chicks.

—Harry M. Lamon, in *The Farmer's Wife*, March, 1924.

National Forest Timber for Sale.

Sealed bids will be received by the Forest Supervisor, Franklin, N. C., up to and including April 3, 1924, for all merchantable dead timber, standing or down, and all live timber marked or designated for cutting on an area embracing about 1000 acres on the watershed of Mulberry and Commissioner creeks, Nantahala National Forest, Macon County, N. C. estimated to be 2500 chestnut poles in standard lengths from 25 to 65 foot, inclusive; also an unestimated amount of Chestnut oak tanbark and Chestnut oak ties. No bid of less than \$0.50 for 25 ft., \$0.75 for 30 ft., \$1.10 for 35 ft., \$1.40 for 40 ft., \$1.85 for 45 ft., \$2.25 for 50 ft., \$2.65 for 55 ft., \$3.00 for 60 ft., \$3.50 for 65 ft. poles, \$3.00 for Chestnut oak bark, and \$0.10 for Chestnut oak ties will be considered. The purchase and removal of Chestnut oak bark and ties will be optional with the purchaser. \$500.00 must be deposited with each bid to be applied on the purchase price, refunded or retained in part as liquidated damages, according to conditions of sale. The right to reject any and all bids reserved. Before bids are submitted, full information concerning the timber, the conditions of sale, and the submission of bids should be obtained from the Forest Supervisor, Franklin, N. C.

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We, the undersigned merchants of Franklin, N. C., realizing that time, strength and health can be conserved by early closing, do hereby agree to close our stores to all customers promptly at seven o'clock, P. M., on all days except Saturdays, to allow no customer to enter after the closing hour for the purpose of purchasing goods, and to take no phone order after the closing hour for delivery before the following day.

This agreement to be in effect on and after March 3, 1924, after it has been signed by all the merchants of Franklin engaged in general merchandising, and after the closing hour has been advertised in *The Franklin Press*; and to remain in effect as long as satisfactory to all the signers.

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Olaf Beat It.

Olaf visited a ladies' barber shop recently while in the city. He said the head barber was nursing a baby when he entered. "What you tink," said Olaf, "she lay down dot baby and say to me: 'You're next!' I beat it out of dere."—Exchange.

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