

Poultry Department

Conducted by
Flynn Elliott

Importance Of Feeding Properly And Regularly

Much of the disappointment with beginners in keeping poultry is due to mistakes made in feeding, and it may with some, require years of experience to learn how to feed for the best results.

It is difficult to impress upon the beginner the fact that no matter what breed he has they will not lay unless they are fed and cared for intelligently.

Fowls are peculiar in their habits of eating and when accustomed to certain kinds of feed have been known to refuse them. Even oats and wheat will be refused for a while if they have never been treated with food of that kind. They can all be educated, however, to eat food to which they have not been accustomed which is done by placing only the one kind of food in their reach.

Some breeds are disposed to convert food into meat rather than eggs, while others are not so easily made fat. The nonsitting varieties such as Leghorns, Anconas, Minorcas, etc., owing to their active disposition do not fatten as readily as the larger breeds.

It is best, therefore, to keep this in view when feeding as it is easy to feed the large breeds, such as Brahmas,

Langshans, etc., too much. They do not take as much exercise as one's smaller breeds and should never be overfed. The large breeds are easily kept within bounds by proper feeding.

It is necessary to study carefully the habits of each breed in order to know just what to do.

There are hundreds of complaints that fowls do not lay even when well fed and comfortably housed, but this is due to not giving the proper kind of food or overfeeding. One of the best tonics I have found is to change the diet of the fowls every few days.

Feeding a variety will cure many of the ills that afflict fowls, providing the food is sound and wholesome. Always feed regularly. Regularity in feeding produces certain habits in the flock. If the birds are fed at certain hours they will soon know when to expect their feed.

If the fowls are allowed free range they may not be necessary at certain seasons to feed more than once a day, at night, as the birds can keep in good condition upon foraging.

Chickens will soon learn who feeds them and will at once distinguish strangers from the owner.

White Indian Runner Ducks Growing In Popular Favor

J. W. Beeson, A.M., L.L.D., President Woman's College, Meridian, Miss.)

The white Indian Runner is creating a sensation among the poultry fanciers. White Runner of which the white runner is a sport. Like many of the Runner is a sport. Like many of the finest fancy birds, the White Runner originated in England. It has been in existence a very few years and the demand has been so great that breeders could not begin to supply the demand.

The White Runner Duck seems to have outclassed its parent variety in matter of egg production and in the production of pure white eggs, so say those who have been so fortunate as to have some to try.

The White Runner breeds absolutely true to color. One writes saying "Not an off-color specimen has appeared in over two thousands birds." This is remarkable for any variety and especially for a new one. That makes them much more satisfactory than colored varieties, for it is so hard to get a correct specimen for the show. Among the white there is scarcely ever a cull.

Again, they look much prettier than the colored variety. Nothing can be prettier than the pure white. They are not creamy like the Pekin, and are not clumsy like them. They are graceful, hold their heads high, carriage upright and racy. The bill is deep orange yellow, with an occasional green spot; legs orange yellow; heads small and flat, like other runners. The neck is long and thin, which adds to the sprightly appearance of the bird. The breast is full and shows more meat than other runners. The body is long, narrow, racy looking and carried almost erect and alert looking.

As egg producers they are simply wonderful. They begin to lay at five or six months and apparently never seem to tire of egg production. Some of them lay continually the whole year. Both winter and summer the eggs keep coming. They lay a beautiful white egg, fine in flavor and larger than a hen's egg. Six of them are equal to ten of the average size hen egg.

As a table fowl their plump, well-meat, fine flavored carcasses are the delight of the epicure.

They require no water except for drinking. The eggs are very fertile and the ducklings are easily raised. They have wonderful intelligence, are easily handled and know their feeding hour. A fence two of three feet high will keep them.

The White Indian Runner is fine for the farm or the back yard. Raising runner ducks is an interesting occupation for women or men, boys or girls, old or young. A city hotel has a large flock of them on its roof to eat scraps and furnish fresh eggs. One young lady wrote me she cleared \$15 on sixteen in three months. Another lady wrote me that she made over \$3,000 from 360 ducks in three months. These were with colored ones. They do better than this with the white Runner, for their eggs are even better priced than the eggs of the colored Runner. We have three varieties of Indian Runner Ducks in the Woman's College Poultry Farm; the old English penciled or the dark fawn and white, that lay pure white eggs; the light fawn and the white or American Standard Runners, that sometimes lay a tinted egg; and the pure white Indian Runner. We find all of them good if one set a good laying strain. There is a great difference in different strains of the same variety. We have the largest flock in the state, numbering into many hundreds and we gather eggs each morning by baskets full. They are very little trouble, quite hardy, free from diseases. I often wonder why more people have not found out their own worth. One must understand their nature and how to manage them to get good results.

Any one can succeed who follows directions. There is no danger of overproduction of eggs. Try Indian Runner, colored or white.—From Southern Fancier.

THE POULTRY BUSINESS AN EPIDEMIC.

The writer has been over a good portion of the southern states this fall, and never before have I seen such enthusiasm or so many beginners in the poultry field. I have watched this industry for the past 28 years, and have seen it through its ups and downs during this time, but never before has there been such an awakening as there is at present. There are hundreds of new breeders and many large new pens are being built near the large cities. Naturally there is some cause for this. I see no reason other than the great demand for poultry and eggs, and the scarcity of same. The city people must have food. Nothing taking the place of poultry and eggs for the same price paid, pound for pound, it has awakened the people to this fact, and the demand is still increasing, year by year, as the population is increasing. The demand now being greater than the supply, prices have soared higher and higher every year, and as it is taken an immense amount of capital and many years to get in the livestock and cattle business to produce food, many who wish to produce something immediately and in a short time, have naturally

turned to poultry raising, as it is one of the only quick methods of producing animal food in a short length of time and is undoubtedly one line that gives every one an opportunity—the rich and poor, the old and young.

Therefore, hundreds of people, who have only limited means to start with can begin in the poultry business in a small way that could never think of entering any other line of business.

From this small investment, they can earn a few dollars for their spare moments put into this line of work. Thousands of families who have vacant back yards and more or less waste of food left from the family tables, or boarding house tables, are converting this food into the production of poultry and eggs, and the saving of their grocery bill amounts to many dollars that heretofore has not been saved.

Another thing that has caused this great awakening is the work that many of the agricultural schools and the monthly and daily papers have been putting before the public, giving them information that will enable hundreds to succeed that otherwise could not dream of success. While many fail, hundreds succeed and continue to add a small bit to their income by getting information from others who have succeeded and possibly could not have had the benefit of others' experience. The daily papers of the south, especially the Georgia papers, deserve much credit for lending a helping hand in this most important work of producing more food to feed the fast growing population of this country, and it is keeping in our midst thousands of dollars that heretofore drifted away from us. I believe that one of the most important things it has done is in keeping many a man, woman and child at home and off the streets, and probably out of some idle mischief that they most likely would have engaged in had they not been entertained at home by something they were interested in. To my knowledge there are many people who have stayed at home and attended their chickens and have been benefited in dollars and cents by doing so, when they would otherwise have been on the streets, or in stores spending money for things that they could have done without, which they have done heretofore. It has made many a one happier and more contented than they were heretofore, by having their poultry not only entertaining their family and keeping them at home but to show and entertain their friends and visitors.—Atlanta Journal.

More attention should be given to poultry on farms than elsewhere. Some may say that they do not care to breed exhibition poultry, but it will always pay the farmer to breed his poultry just as carefully as fowls can be bred for exhibition. It is not necessary to spend large sums of money for prize winning fowls, nor to keep them on the farms in the same way that they should be kept for exhibition, yet the poultry should be cared for and properly housed, because such care will bring good returns.

An instance of this kind occurred during the past season. One who had kept poultry for about 20 years, became interested in the subject of proper breeding. Over a year ago he bought a thousand day-old chicks from which he reared and selected 460 pullets. He sold all his other fowls and from each of these 460 pullets more than \$2 worth of eggs was sold during the month of December, January, February and March, making 50 cents a month from each hen. These results were so satisfactory that the farmer has made arrangements to have 1,200 laying hens and pullets and has his house now completed and the pullets almost ready to go into them. His statement is that when a man knows how and applies his knowledge to poultry growing, he can easily make more than \$2 a year net, from each hen.

Another feature for consideration is the color of the egg shell. If your market demands white-shelled eggs, select fowls that lay white shelled eggs; if your market is suited with tinted or brown-shelled eggs select fowls that lay eggs with tinted shells. Always select the fowls from a true bred variety and keep them pure and true.

If you want to keep fowls that lay white shelled eggs, select two varieties, and breed them separate.

Enthusiastic Meeting Of Charlotte Poultry Association

Undoubtedly the most enthusiastic meeting the Charlotte Poultry show has yet held was that this week. There were a number of enthusiastic new members, including Frank S. McNinch and Edgar B. Moore, of the Selwyn. Both of these gentlemen lined themselves right up on the working line and are pulling, with the other members for a record-breaking show here in January.

From the minutes of Secretary Alexander the following relative to the proceedings of the meeting, will be of general interest.

The Charlotte Poultry Association met at C. A. Page's office Tuesday night. Present, Davis, Banks, Moore, Hancock, Moore, E. H. Powell, F. R. McNinch, Pritchett, Lee Stitt, T. W. Whisman, Alexander, W. B. Motion to appoint a committee to see executive board and secure if possible the auditorium to hold a show in January. Committee, Moore, Powell, Davis.

A motion was made by Banks that a committee be appointed to see that the country commission for the purpose of getting them interested in the show for the benefit of the people of the county and the further object of educating and getting them interested in a larger production of eggs and the

poultry industry. Committee, McNinch, Patton, Banks, Davis, and Moore. Appointer to communicate with commissioner of agriculture H. W. A. Graham to get his aid for the poultry industry as well as that of cattle, hogs, etc. Some arrangements made to canvass the city. Secretary reported between fifteen out of town ads and \$100 worth of specials subject of coops for the show was discussed and some progress made along that line. Mr. B. B. Moore, a new member, offered for the benefit of the people of the country only a registered pig valued at \$40. The secretary read a letter from Mrs. C. B. Campbell of Asheville, a live member of the Charlotte association and doing good work for the coming show in the Land of the Sky and elsewhere. Also a letter from Y. E. Smith of Durham, president of bank and cotton mill and state senator from his county. He will be with us with a string of his snow white Plymouth Rocks and he helped along by offering \$10 in gold.

The association has many friends in the city and with their help and encouragement a great and successful show will be pulled off and the results will be greater and better eggs and poultry production will follow.

The Secretary.

Improvement By Selection

The question of the improvement of one's flock of fowls is one that should be borne in mind by every breeder and practiced at all times.

To select out the best birds and dispose of the apparently profitless ones is a short job and means much to the breeder. For often this is not practiced and the breeder is the loser.

To get at what I mean let me illustrate. Here is a farmer whom we will say last winter kept fifty hens. This season he has been hatching and raising chickens beginning early and hatching along through the summer.

In the fall he has we will say a couple hundred young birds, probably half of them are pullets. About Thanksgiving time he will dispose of the males and thinking that he might make a good thing out of his hens the coming winter he plans to keep the whole hundred pullets along with the fifty old hens. But there is where he makes a mistake. Some of those pullets were late hatched and so are small, others were stunted, and some are likely to begin laying in the whole lot of a hundred he has only fifty or sixty desirable birds, such as look favorably to the making of good winter layers. Now here is the point I am getting at: will it not pay him better to sell all, except the good ones rather than try to winter the whole lot and thus have half of his flock consist of unprofitable birds?

I say yes, it is not the number of birds that one keeps, but how much profit can be got per hen from those that he does keep and have practically every one a profit producer. Of course one cannot always select out just exactly every bird that will be profitable but he can throw out a lot that he may be quite sure will never pay.

He can tell that a late hatched bird will not be likely to begin laying until towards the next spring. So if he wants good winter layers he will throw out all those. If he wants to improve his flock and build it up into a lot of birds better in shape, size, and egg production, he does not keep any of these undesirable ones but rather keeps a flock of all good ones.

The breeder should have no use for a stunted bird except to dispose of it in the market. They may never lay, surely not until next spring. It will cost fifty or seventy-five cents to winter it and it will never lay enough eggs to begin to pay for its feed, and then no one would ever think of breeding from a stunted fowl. Sell them off as soon as you can. The same may be said of the ill-shaped birds. To keep them in his yards, never breed from them as they are not desirable birds. I always get rid of them as they are marketable. I have not used them in any work.

Then again in making up your flocks dispose of all that show signs of any weakness. Sometimes we see a bird that looks quite nice but shows signs of not being strong and vigorous. A sort of a sluggish bird. One that sits around a lot is not active. Nothing but strong, active and vigorous birds should be in the flock. Vigor is one thing that the breeder must place considerable stress on if he expects to build up his flock. The strong birds are the only ones that can be depended upon to produce strong chicks. To breed from hens that are not vigorous is to favor running out your flocks. Keep them up.

Look out for disease. Keep it out of the flock by proper methods of sanitation. Never, never breed from a bird that has ever had any serious disease. I never should. They are not likely to be as strong as a bird that has never been sick and then they may transmit a tendency to the same disease to the chicks or perhaps some weakness. Look out for such birds and dispose of them. I do not even want them in a flock of layers which I would not breed from, for fear that the disease might break out again with them or not being as strong perhaps they might easily contract some of their disease which in turn may get into the flock and work serious results. A fowl that gets any ailment whatever should not be bred from and I do not like to keep them in a flock at all.

If one can trap his birds he will have a chance to better select the layers in building up and improving them along the line of better egg production. But where one

has only a small flock he can if he is among the birds quite often tell which are the best layers, by noting which he sees on the nest most often. At any rate whatever method he may employ to select the better layers it is to his interest to use eggs from the best layers for hatching purposes. Thus he will be able to work for better production.

Let me state a word against the keeping of anything except good strong large male birds. I have seen cases where a farmer would keep a male bird that was late hatched and small and not worth much for market, and so he kept him to use in his flock next spring, saying that he would grow and be good enough by spring, and as large as any of the better ones. What a mistake. But yet I have seen it done. Never keep a male bird that is anything less than the best that you have. A little extra money there may mean dollars later. If you have no good ones it will pay you to buy one. It is wise to change males occasionally to prevent inbreeding. Farmers often keep the same stock from year to year and without

paying any attention to the improvement and selection of the inbred and instead of improving they do the opposite, they run out. Do not inbreed. The one great object in the selection of the best birds and the disposing of the unprofitable ones is to have more eggs produced with less cost for feed. Some do not realize that to keep one non-producing hen through the winter will take off the profit of the best hen that he has. Or in other words, if half of the flock were non-producers and half were good layers he would pay out enough for feed for all to cost as much as the eggs produced by the layers would be worth. Did you ever think of that.—From Poultry Item.

Local Briefs.
(Not by Flynn Elliott.)
The last issue of Mr. Simmons's paper was the best yet. It was brim full of live poultry dope and was certainly worth the price of admission.

Flynn Elliott has become so famous over 25c prizes won here last week that some of them are already talking of running him for office.

The January show of the Charlotte Poultry Association promises to be the largest ever held. Negotiations are now on for the auditorium in which to hold the show. The matter will be presented to the executive board this week, and members of the board could render a great service to a meritorious industry by donating the hall to the poultry association. Increased interest in poultry culture means increased business for the city. With the proposition of buying coops for the show, in addition to other heavy expense, the association is hardly able to pay a big price for the auditorium. Next year, when the association is on better footing, it could stand a charge. The poultry show will bring dozens of prominent breeders to Charlotte. Why should a charge be made for entertaining these gentlemen, and their exhibitors, more than for entertaining any other set of visitors? The writer believes the board will give the association a lift in the form of free use of the hall during show week.

FOR THE BEST in White Leghorns, Rhode Island Reds, Indian Runner Ducks, etc., write Loring Brown, Smyrna, Ga.

GOOD Rhode Island Reds \$2.50 each. Phone 2260-J.

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FOR SALE—White and Black Orpington cockerels, Keller Strass and Cook strains. P. M. Pearson, 1911 West 6th St., Charlotte, N. C.

FOR SALE—Black Orpington cockerel, Mrs. O. T. Hallman. Phone 2439-L.

PLACE YOUR ORDERS FOR EGGS NOW and hatch fall chickens, which will give you plenty of eggs at a time when the spring-hatched hens are not laying. Eggs from Single-Comb White Leghorns, Rhode Island Reds, Barred Plymouth Rocks and Indian Runner Ducks at \$3 per 15; \$5 per 30. Five hundred choice, well-bred cockerels, S. C. White Leghorns, Rhode Island Reds, Barred Rocks and Indian Runner Drakes; the kind that will improve your flock, from our heavy egg-laying strains, at \$3, \$5 and \$10 each. Exhibition birds, of these varieties furnished on short notice. Price a matter of correspondence.

BELMONT FARM Loring Brown, Owner, Smyrna, Ga. 9-13-fr-wed-sun

BABY CHICKS—Taking orders ahead for spring delivery baby White Leghorn chicks. Write O. T. Hallman, 905 W. Fifth St., Charlotte, N. C.

PLACE YOUR ORDERS now for eggs from white guineas; white and bronze turkeys; Pekin, Muscovy, White Crested and Indian Runner ducks; Langshan and White Orpington chickens; Bantams of all descriptions; pigeons, etc. Flynn Elliott, Route 5, Charlotte. Send for circular. Won 300 prizes this season.

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A full stock of each.

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