

THE POULTRY YARD

Poultry Suggestions for October

Now is the time for completing preparations in the poultry yard for the coming winter season. It sounds like unnecessary repetition, but, are the the poultry houses all in shape for winter,—roofs made leak-proof, side and rear walls tight, to prevent drafts, floors well covered with dry earth, and roosts and nests in good shape?

Especially with the young stock is it highly important to have them begin the season well. Tight, dry, draft-free buildings, with ample ventilation are of prime importance.

If your poultry houses are so situated that heavy rains can make the floors wet, or even damp, provide safety by running ditches on all the sides from which water may run, so as to carry off quickly all surface water.

How about green stuff for winter feed? It is wonderful how good green crops insure health and vigor, stimulate egg production, and cut down feed bills.

If the green crops are not yet in, there's no time to lose. Rape, on rich ground, can yet be sown, and oats in some sections. Vetch, crimson clover and rye are also good. They are splendid feeds and relished by poultry. Be sure to sow some.

Is that store of dry sand and gravel for use on floors, and of dry earth for dust baths, yet secured? The fall rains will make it a hard job to get these materials in good, dry condition.

Feed well the maturing pullets, and be sure not to make corn the main feed. It's good enough for fattening, but to develop layers more protein is needed. Wheat, crushed oats, bran, and meat scrap are important ingredients in a well balanced feed—and lots of green stuff.

Be sure you have plenty of nests, well supplied with litter, including some tobacco stems or dust to keep vermin away. Hen comfort helps the egg basket wonderfully.

What about drinking water? Too often the water vessels are foul, and the water filthy. As the egg laid by a hen partakes, in quality, of the food and drink she gets, for your own sake give your fowls clean, fresh water in clean vessels.

This is a good time now to be talking with your neighbors about a little cooperation in marketing your winter eggs, if you wish to get the best prices and a regular market, as you are entitled to have.

Mating up the breeding pens for the season is now in order. Bear in mind that in the matter of heavy egg production, the sons of heavy laying hens transmit that power to a large degree, and productivity—utility—is more important than mere matters of form or fine feathers.

When your pens are made up, lose no time in disposing of all surplus males. If of high grade, sell them for breeders; if common, send them to market. Drones don't pay.

Use the trap nest if at all possible, and promptly discard birds that habitually lay rough, fuggy, or abnormally shaped or sized eggs. Aim for a flock laying eggs uniform in color, shape and size.

The trap nest will also help you discard the non-layers. Even the prettiest lookers don't pay if they don't produce. Try to develop a heavy laying strain of your own.

F. J. R.

NO SUCH THING AS A "PERMANENT ROAD"

The Drag Is the Thing to Keep Dirt Roads Good—Get Ready Now to Have All Roads Dragged This Winter

THERE is no phase of the road problem more important than that of maintenance. The general impression that there are certain types of roads that are permanent is erroneous. No permanent road has ever been constructed or ever will be. The only things about a road that may be considered permanent are the grading, culverts, and bridges. Roads constructed by the most skillful highway engineers will soon be destroyed by the traffic, frost, rain, and wind, unless they are properly maintained. But the life of these roads may be prolonged by systematic maintenance. A poor road will not only be improved by proper maintenance, but may become better in time than a good road without it.

The first and last commandment in earth road maintenance is to keep the surface well drained. To insure good drainage the ditches should be kept open, all obstructions removed and a smooth crown maintained. Except for very stony soil the road machine or scraper may be used very effectively for this work. The machine should be used once or twice a year and the work should be done when the soil is damp so that it will pack and bake into a hard crust. Wide and shallow side ditches should be maintained with sufficient fall and capacity to dispose of surface water. These ditches can in most places be constructed and repaired with a road machine.

A split-log drag or some similar device is very useful in maintaining the surface after suitable ditches and cross section have once been secured. The drag should be light and should be drawn over the road at an angle of about 45 degrees. The driver should ride on the drag and should not drive faster than a walk. One round trip, each trip straddling a wheel track, is usually sufficient to fill the ruts and smooth the surface. If necessary the road should be dragged after every bad spell of weather, when the soil is in proper condition to puddle well and still not adhere to the drag. If the road is very bad it may be dragged when very wet and again when it begins to dry out. A few trips over the road will give the operator an idea as to the best time to drag. Drag at all seasons but do not drag a dry road.

The slope or crown of an earth road should be about one inch to the foot. If the crown becomes too high it may be reduced by dragging toward the ditch instead of from it. If the drag cuts too much, shorten the hitch and change your position on the drag. If it is necessary to protect the face of the drag with a strip of iron, it should be placed flush with the edge of the drag and not projecting. A cutting edge should be avoided, as the main object in dragging is to smear the damp soil into position.—Press Bulletin of United States Department of Agriculture.

Chatham County has adopted the plan of putting road signs along their graded roads, giving the number of the section and the name of the overseer. It seems to us this would be a good plan for Moore County to adopt. It might give more incentive to some of our road men and add a little more competition to their work, for naturally each would have a little more pride if he knew the public knew who was directly responsible. Then the information contained in these signs would more than pay the cost.—Moore County News.

The farmers of Catawba County expect to raise an unusually large crop of sweet potatoes this season. It may surprise our readers to learn that the farmers of that county make more money on sweet potatoes than those of any other county in this state. They cooperate in marketing their potatoes and send off every year many carloads to distant markets.—Chatham Record.

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