

**PRACTICAL POULTRY TALKS.**

**XII.—To Get Winter Eggs: Feed and House Properly and Avoid "Egg-Producers."**

Messrs. Editors: I am frequently asked for a recipe for making a good egg producer.

I would not advise anyone who has a good healthy place to undertake doctoring them with a view to forcing egg production, either summer or winter. On most farms there is plenty of feed that would go toward making a perfectly balanced ration, if we took advantage of it. The secret in making hens lay is simply providing them with suitable feed, and it is the safe way.

**Don't Feed All Corn.**

Corn, wheat, oats, barley and millet seed are good poultry feed; some do not believe in feeding any corn. I believe in feeding it in moderation in winter, though very sparingly in summer. Though the Agricultural Experiment Station tells us that corn is one of the best feeds for poultry, they do not tell us to feed it exclusively; still more, cool reasoning would not suggest that we feed it exclusively.

The natural make-up of their food is a variety; a little of this and that, and a constant exercise in procuring it. Some tell us to make them scratch for their feed—they would rather do it than not; besides it does away with gorging and encouraging a lazy disposition.

**Use More Wheat Bran.**

Corn exclusively, or in fact, wheat or millet, is too heavy and too rich; something to make bulk must be added. I know of nothing better than wheat bran to balance up a heavy rich feed. It is so common, though, that it is hardly popular. Bran makes bulk, not only bulk, but it clears the passages and keeps the digestive organs in condition. Bran alone would be too light for an exclusive feed, besides it would not be in line with nature to feed nothing else. The crow is a grinding mill and we must keep it at work. The different grains would not be a perfect feed alone; grass, insects and dozens of things we hardly think of, going towards completing the natural wants.

**Green Food or Cut Hay.**

Fowls on free range usually find these extra tit-bits, but penned up fowls, or fowls in winter, must have their equivalent in some form, or they cannot do the very best. Cut clover, cut pea-vine hay, or cut alfalfa hay imitates nature, and so do cut vegetables, and cut green bone helps to make summer out of winter, as near as it would be possible. All these things are within our reach, and the time required to produce them would return a nice profit. These means will bring eggs, and it is the safe way.

**Avoid the So-Called "Egg-Producers" and Poultry Foods.**

I would never advise any one to use the so-called egg-producers on the market; most of them are composed of ginger, sulphur, linseed meal, salt, pepper, soda and finely ground wheat bran or cottonseed hulls, to which is sometimes added charcoal to disguise the color of the mixture. If you have any doubts about this, look up your 1903 (I think) North Carolina Bulletins and see what they have to say about stock and poultry foods. Occasionally on a very cold morning it is wise to add a little pepper when mixing the hot mash for the first food, but would not advise doing it more than once a week.

**Proper Housing is the First Essential.**

The most important of all is to see that your birds are properly

housed if you want winter eggs. Don't crowd; just enough birds in the house for comfort, not too warm and fresh, pure air overhead if possible, but no drafts. Observe these conditions, and if your birds are right, that is, fully matured pullets or vigorous year-old hens—you should have a fine egg basket and be sending several dozen weekly to market and raking in the top price—for the nearly strictly fresh product, they sold for twenty-five cents on Saturday last, and the actual cost to manufacture is just seven cents per dozen, and all you get over this is profit.

Why, it's like finding money.

UNCLE JO.

Mecklenburg Co., N. C.

**From Alliance Lecturer Cates.**

Messrs. Editors: After spending ten days in Warren County I am at home for a few days. I wish I could paint a picture of the many good and true men and women of Warren so that all the readers of The Progressive Farmer could see them as I have. I will not begin to call names, for I would have to name about half the county and then some of the best would be left out. So I will just say I met with a warm welcome, and among such intelligent people I met with success. I visited all the old Alliances and a number of other places and left the Alliance spreading like a green bay tree. May it continue to grow until every farmer in the county shall find a resting place under its sheltering shade.

I find the old Farmers' Alliance is growing more popular each day and I do believe the day is not far distant when its power for good will be felt in every nook and corner of our Commonwealth.

And now I want to say to all the more than forty Alliance counties, let us realize the opportunity and be up and doing. We are nearing the end of another year's work, and yet much can be done before the next county meeting. Let us make the most of the remaining time and come up to our January quarterly meeting with a splendid record of the past and encouragement for the future.

We have much to be proud of today. Had it not been for organization, the spirit of which was born in the Farmers' Alliance twenty years ago, millions of dollars would have been lost to the Sunny South this year. Let us look well to our Sub Alliance meetings, for on them depends the success of the county meetings.

Let me say to the men and women who promised to look after the interest of The Progressive Farmer in the many Sub Alliances that I have organized in the last two years: Do your level best from now until Christmas. No one will think less of you because you ask him or her for their subscription. You can truthfully say to them that it's the best and cheapest farm paper in the South—and then it's our paper. Write to the Editor and tell him some of the many good things you see and hear and let him feel that his faithful service and painstaking efforts are appreciated by a loving and loyal host of subscribers and friends.

H. M. CATES.

Alamance Co., N. C.

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