

THE PROGRESSIVE FARMER.

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More and Better Poultry as a Guidepost to \$500 More a Year.

WE PUBLISHED these two hen pictures in our Poultry Special last year; but they are so much to the point that we cannot refrain from letting you see them again. No. 1 is a hen bred by the Maine Experiment Station from a strain of prolific layers. She laid 251 eggs in one year, and many of her mates laid over 200. No. 2 was raised at the same place from a strain which had been bred without any regard to egg production. She had the same care and feed as the other, and laid 8 eggs in a year.

These two hens represent extreme types, of course, but these records are a final answer to the oft-repeated claim that scrubs will lay as many eggs as pure bred fowls. To be sure, there are strains of standard breeds which have been bred only for show purposes with no regard to their productive qualities, and such birds may be little better than the ordinary mongrel; but on the other hand, as Uncle Jo recently said, all the strains which have been selected for high productive capacity have been pure-breds, and there is scarcely a variety of chickens of which such well bred strains are not to be found.

The egg production of the AVERAGE hen is very low—not enough in fact to pay for good treatment and liberal feeding. The average hen, however, does not get either liberal feeding or good treatment; so she probably pays her way. But in the United States according to the last census figures, the average egg production was less than 90 eggs per year for each hen. Maine, the State with the highest average, was credited with only 101 eggs per hen, while in most of the Southern States the average was between 50 and 60 eggs per year.

Doubtless these yields could be greatly increased, even with the kind of fowls now kept, by better care and feeding, but we know one man who has bred up a strain of White Wyandottes to an average of 160 eggs per year, and at the same time kept them so close to standard requirements that they win prizes at leading shows. No one can deny that there is money in such chickens as these. Even if he didn't refuse offers of \$50 for a single hen—as he has done—or have more orders for eggs in the breeding season than he can supply, the fact that his hens lay 160 eggs each per year and that these eggs are uniform in size and appearance, and so command an advance over the regular market prices, would make his chickens highly profitable.

And it is just along this line that every reader who keeps poultry should work. Even the farm flock, though not bred for show purposes, should be of pure bred birds of a good laying strain; and when the hatching season comes around the best hens—those that lay the most eggs and have the typical breed requirements—should be mated with a cock of the same type to produce the chickens for another year. In this way and with proper housing and feeding the average egg yield COULD SOON BE DOUBLED ON MOST FARMS, and both eggs and chickens would bring higher prices and be in greater demand.

IT PAYS TO HAVE THE BEST of chickens as of anything else; and whether or not poultry pays on your farm is determined by the kind of fowls you keep and the care you give them.

The question is: Will you go in to get the most out of poultry by keeping the kind that can be expected to return good profits, or will you be satisfied with unproductive and unprofitable scrubs?



No. 1.—This hen of fine stock was bred to lay—and did it: 251 eggs in one year. The result of careful selection and breeding for a definite purpose, such breeding as every poultry raiser should do. A splendid example of the kind of poultry that pays.



No. 2.—This hen, though in appearance much like No. 1, is a mongrel, bred for no especial purpose—and answered it exactly: 8 eggs in one year. The result of haphazard reproduction, and a striking example of the kind of poultry that does not pay.

Index to this Issue.

A Southern Man Honored	12
Bear With Us a Little.....	12
Carrots for Stock Feeding	15
Do Hens Pay on the Farm? Cal. Husselman..	7
\$500 More a Year: How to Make It—IX.	2
Farm Work for March, W. F. Massey.....	3
Fence in Your Poultry Yard, H. B. Geer....	18
Fertilizer Questions Answered, W. F. Massey	8
Filth and Chicken Cholera	23
How One Flock Paid, Mrs. H. P. McPherson..	6
How to Cook Meats—II., Mrs. W. N. Hutt... 10	
How to Examine a Horse for Purchase or Soundness—III.	14
Preserve Eggs Fresh	12
Raising Turkeys for Profit, Mrs. L. W. Summers	17
Set Out Some Fruit Trees This Spring, E. D. Pearsall	7
Some March Gardening, W. F. Massey.....	3
"Speak for Yourself, John"	12
The Stock Food Humbug, W. F. Massey....	3
Three Essentials of Success, W. C. Taylor... 24	
We Raise Only Half the Poultry We Consume, Uncle Jo	6
What Do You Do in the Country?.....	11
Why the Poor Profits From Farm Poultry? Miss Mollie Tugman	4
"What's the News?"	13

This Week's Features.

HONESTLY, now, did you ever see more really helpful and practical poultry talk in one issue of any paper than is to be found in this "Poultry Special?" Beginning with the convincing statement in our "\$500 More A Year" article as to why we of the South get out of our poultry only a fraction of what farmers in other sections get, and on to the very last page, there is both inspiration and help.

Take, for example, Miss Tugman's experience. It is a striking illustration of what a Southern girl can do—and make others do—when she makes up her mind. Her experience is one, too, that can be duplicated on hundreds of Southern farms where the poultry is now permitted to run at large and destroy more than it is worth.

Mr. Husselman makes clear some other reasons why poultry does not pay on many farms, while Mrs. McPherson and Mrs. Summers in their clearly-written papers show in detail just how the women on the farm can make money with chickens or turkeys.

One little article you must not miss is the one by Mr. Taylor on page 22, entitled "Go Slow at

First." Many persons have lost money by ill-advised ventures in poultry raising. Here, as elsewhere, it is better to go a step at a time and profit by experiences obtained at small cost.

But there is money to be made in poultry, and Mr. W. C. Taylor, we think, comes pretty near to giving the three essentials for the breeder who would get his share of this money. (1) Good birds, (2) well advertised, and (3) sold for just what they are, mean money to the man who raises and sells them.

This, then, is our Poultry Special, and we trust it will help you to raise more and better poultry and to make more money out of it. To do this you must have the right sort of birds—healthy, pure bred fowls bred for eggs or meat production as well as show points; you must give them the right sort of care—have comfortable houses for them, select the best only for breeding purposes, keep them clean and healthy and out of the garden and grain crops; you must feed them properly—give them an egg-producing ration with plenty of grit and green food; and you must put up your product in an attractive shape for market—whether you are selling eggs to your grocer or breeding stock to other fanciers.