

# Poultry Pointers For May

By DR. ROY S. DEARSTYNE  
(Head N. C. State College Poultry Dept.)

1. The time has arrived to separate cockerels and pullets in groups of early hatched chicks. As these develop, more floor space, hopper space and more waterers are required. Over-crowding during the early period of the bird's life may lead to poor development, feather picking and other vices.

2. Infestation with intestinal parasites may be present among young birds, especially those over eight weeks of age. A careful examination of the intestinal tracts of birds dying at about this age should be made, or if undeveloped, devitalized birds are present this may be the cause. The alert poultryman will always be on guard against this menace.

3. Coccidiosis season is here. This trouble may be present in younger birds, but acute outbreaks are more common in chicks from six to 12 weeks of age. Rigid sanitation and careful management from the baby chick age on should reduce chances of acute outbreaks to a minimum. If acute outbreaks occur, kill all birds having the trouble; confine birds and clean houses daily, replacing the litter with new litter or with clean sand until all indications of disease have disappeared.

4. Leg weakness in any of several forms may appear, usually the result of a nutritional deficiency which necessitates a careful study of the feeding program.

5. Get the young birds on the ground whenever the weather is fine. Natural conditions lead to healthy development.

6. Culling must be constantly practiced, as poorly developed or crippled chicks have little chance of developing into good birds. Have your baby chicks made satisfactory development under good management? If not, were they satisfactory chicks at the start? The poultryman must look to the future. If chicks from your own flock were not up to standard, the fault is yours. If hatchery chicks, a change in source of chicks is indicated for next year.

## Hatch Turkeys Early for Best Results

Early hatched poults grow much faster and require less feed per pound of gain than do late hatched poults, and are usually easier to keep free of such troubles as coccidiosis and worm infestations, according to P. H. Gooding, Clemson College extension poultryman, who advises practices that will result in more eggs, more poults per hen and greater profits.

"Most turkeys produced in South Carolina are grown in small farm flocks," says Mr. Gooding. "The common practice is to let the breeding stock range over the fields with no feed but a small amount of grain, and hens do not start laying until late in the Spring. The hens are then allowed to lay out a clutch of eggs, set, and brood the poults. Because of this practice the poults are usually hatched late in the Spring. To get the earliest poults it is best to have the first turkey eggs hatched in an incubator and brood them with artificial heat or with chicken hens.

"To get early hatched poults the hens must be stimulated into early egg production, by keeping them confined and feeding a laying mash with ample grain.

"Any poultry laying mash is satisfactory for turkeys, but if one prefers to mix his own mash, a good formula is two parts by weight of yellow corn, two parts of wheat middlings, and one part of fish meal. Meat scraps may be substituted for the fish meal. This mixture should be kept always before the turkeys and all the grain they will consume given late in the afternoon."

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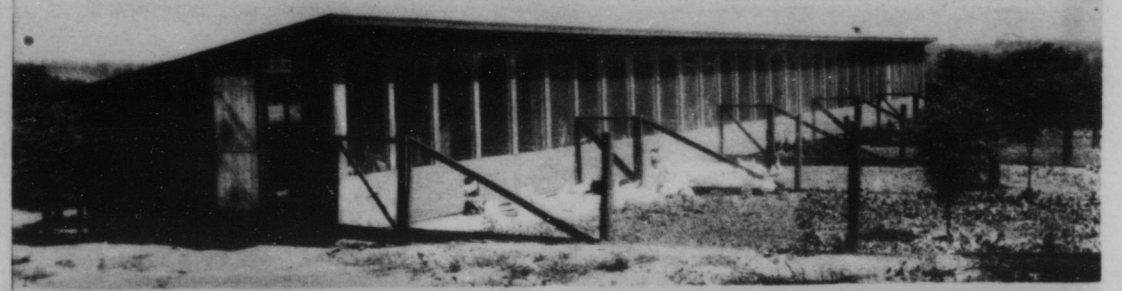
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