

Stop Egg Losses and Improve Quality

Farmers lose \$45,000,000 annually by using improper methods in producing and handling eggs, estimates the U. S. Department of Agriculture. This loss can be greatly reduced if male birds are removed from the flocks, eggs gathered often and properly cared for, and clean nests provided.

Removal of male birds from the flock as soon as the breeding season is over will greatly reduce the annual egg loss. Approximately one-third, or \$15,000,000 of this loss is preventable because it is due to partial hatching of fertile eggs which have been allowed to become warm enough to begin to incubate.

The male bird makes the egg fertile. The fertile egg when exposed to sufficient heat for a short time will make the blood ring. Eggs showing blood rings are unfit for food purposes and are a loss. Infertile eggs exposed to a temperature of 103 degrees for 72 hours can still be used for cooking.

Gather With Care

Fertile eggs exposed to 103 degrees for 36 hours are not good for food. Hence, the necessity for removing the males from the breeding pen as soon as the breeding season is over.

Strong, healthy and vigorous males from high producing hens should be put in separate pens and carried over to the following year for breeding purposes.

During the hot weather, eggs should be gathered at least twice daily in a wire basket and immediately removed to a cool room or cellar where the temperature is 68 degrees or less and where a relatively high humidity is maintained. They should then be placed on a clean table or spread out on a wire screen and allowed to cool thoroughly before packing. Heat is a great enemy of fertile and infertile eggs.

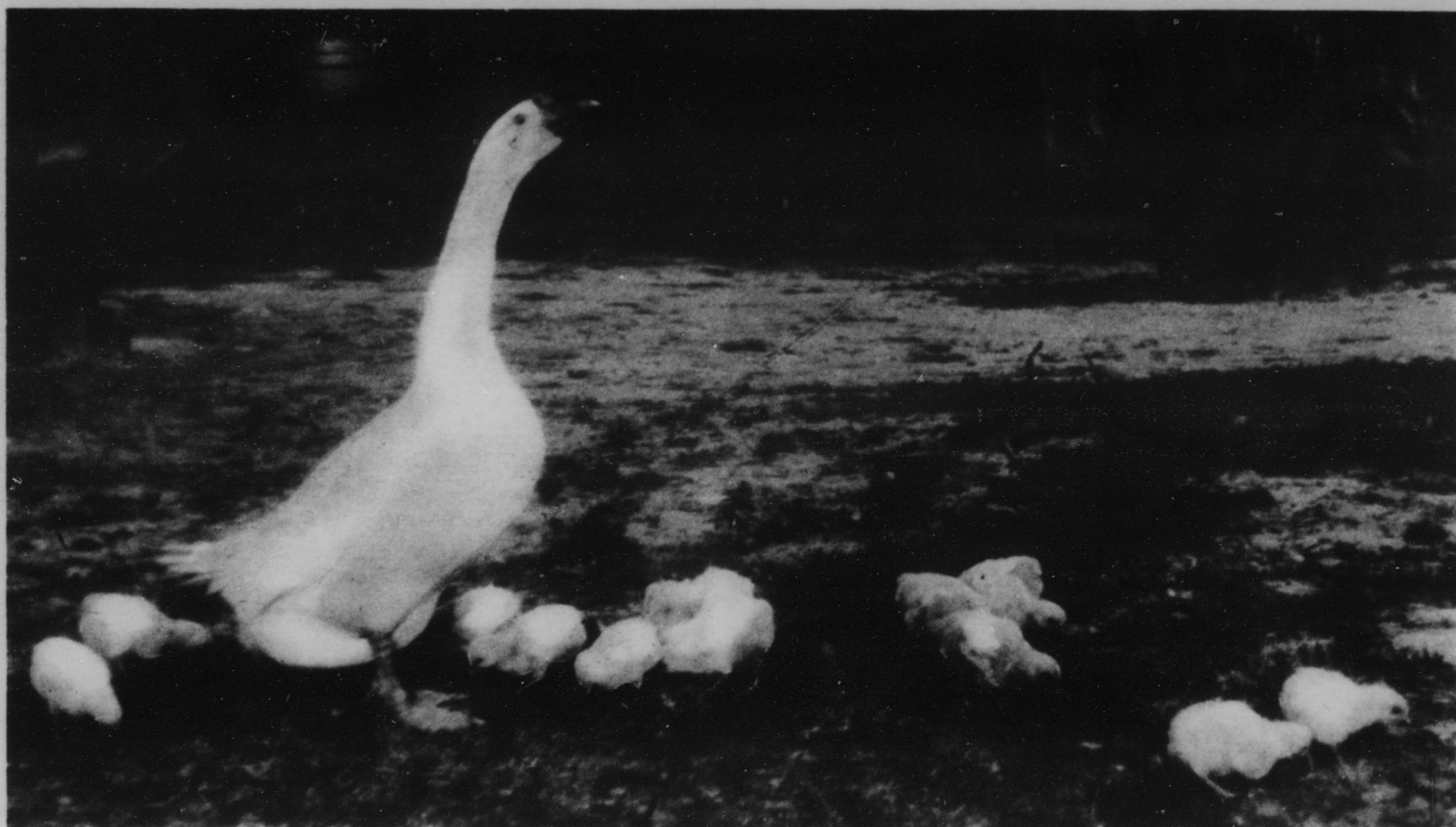
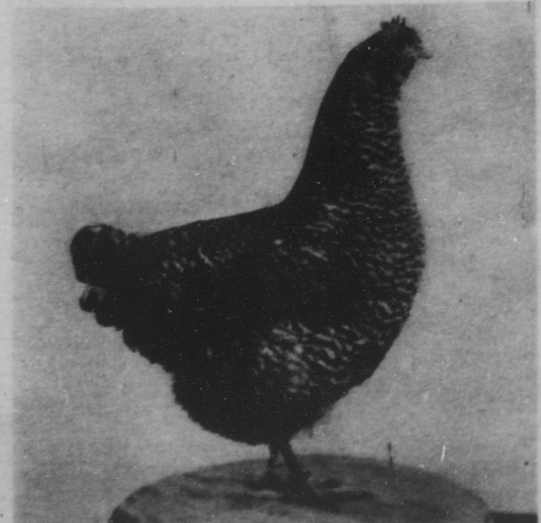
Alarming Loss

The number of good, edible eggs placed in a lower grade and bringing a lower price because they are dirty is alarming. This loss can easily be curtailed if sufficient nests are provided, proper sanitation maintained, and proper nesting material used.

Provide at least 20 nests 12 inches by 14 for each 100 laying birds. To keep birds from soiling eggs with their feet, keep plenty of clean litter on the floor; place poultry wire on the under side of perch poles and over dropping boards to prevent birds from tracking in the droppings.

In curtailing egg soilage and breakage in the nest, first provide plenty of nests. Second, good clean and soft nesting material should be provided. Excellent results are being secured where beardless chaff, excelsior, shavings or soft hay or straw are used. However, no nesting material will prove satisfactory unless changed often and supplied in sufficient quantities.

A good layer. Note the strong, deep body, broad back, prominent eye, and general up-standing characteristic of this bird.



Home on the Range! Daddy Gander's in full charge of this family of chicks at the home of Mrs. Bedford Chaffin, near Baxter, Tenn. What's more, according to Mrs. Chaffin, this fatherly gander fights inquisitive visitors who come too near to the 20 incubator hatched chicks, who've taken a real liking to him as their custodian.

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