

Teaching Biddy To Lay and Pay

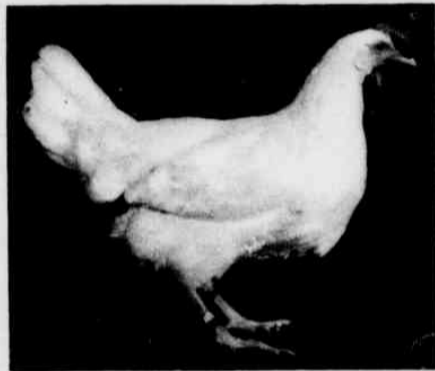
BY A. B. BRYAN

Seven Oaks poultry farm, two and one-half miles from Spartanburg, S. C., is the laboratory in which T. L. Green and his son, O. H. Green, have found diverting interest and satisfying profit in working out scientific poultry production practices that led to heavier production of large eggs. Incidentally, Seven Oaks farm has become the center of a better-poultry community through the sale of hatching eggs and baby chicks to neighboring farmers.

It is 10 years since T. L. Green, growing tired of his grocery business in town, bought 16 1-2 acres of Piedmont rolling land a few miles from town, equipped it with poultry farm needs and conveniences, and started out with a determination to produce egg layers that would be profit payers.

Skillful Breeding

For seven years, Seven Oaks farm has been the home of 2,000 or more large White Leghorns that average 175



This hen laid 313 eggs in her pullet year.

or more eggs each per year. Aiding in the good work, O. H. Green, son of T. L., graduate of Clemson, the state agricultural college has joined his trained efforts with the father's to make the best better.

The Greens are frank to ascribe their success to superior breeding stock, careful management according to advice of poultry specialists, and trap-nesting.

"Eight or ten years would be too short a time to breed up a flock to lay as our hens lay if we had started with poor run-down stock; but we didn't," said the senior Green. "We started with the best obtainable by purchasing from a breeder who was a constant importer of high-producing birds. We then ordered 12 pedigreed males. The results were so favorable we have had for several years hundreds of hens that produce 200 to 300 eggs per hen yearly, and they are some of the biggest White Leghorn hens in the South.

Trap Nests Don't Lie

"Without the aid of trap-nests we could have done little. The only way to tell how many eggs a hen lays is to trap-nest her and count the eggs. Which hens are laying of-colored, badly shaped, or pee-wee eggs can be told in no other way.

"We weed out hens that lay small eggs. We have hens that produce eggs weighing 26 ounces per dozen. Our pullets, because of their excellent body weight and development-at maturity, start off by laying large eggs."

Sales have spread to a half dozen or more states, with never a dissatisfied customer. The premium on eggs and chicks sold for breeding has been a big factor in the profit made at Seven Oaks.

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