

Poultrynz

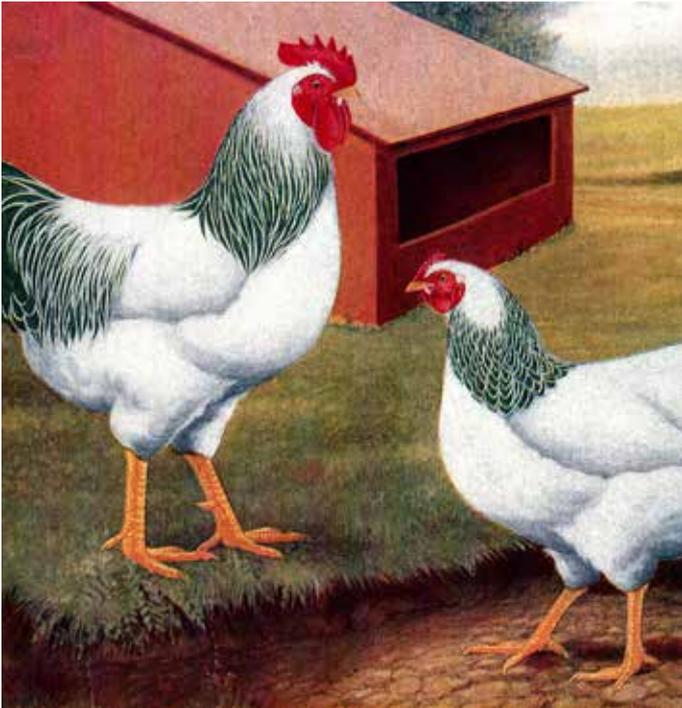
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02 POULTRYNZ
OUR PRODUCT CATALOGUE

03 RECIPE
BLUEBERRY MUFFINS



04

**THE COLUMBIAN
PLYMOUTH ROCK**



07

HOW I RAISE CHICKS



09

INCUBATION FACTS



11

**INFERTILITY OF THE
BREEDING STOCK**

Poultrynz Editorial

Although it may not seem so at times, Spring is here and the warm weather is coming. In New Zealand we are expecting a very hot Summer. So I am expecting a massive influx of Red Mite for everyone. I can not impress more the need to attack those mites and indeed lice before they take hold. Recently I have come across a few people who say they do not have

Red Mite and they can't see any on the fowls. It really is a shame and I do feel sorry for these people as I know, as in the past, the mites will catch up to them when it may be too late. My old saying is: Keep them Dry, Clean and Warm. I hope everyone checks for Red Mites and catches them early. Until next issue. Regards, Ian Selby.

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1 litre Poultry Shield + 300gm D.E.		\$40.00	\$10.00	\$20.00
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BLUEBERRY MUFFINS

INGREDIENTS

Serves 15

- 1 cup flour
- 2 teaspoons baking powder
- ½ cup each: desiccated coconut, rolled oats
- 1 cup blueberries, or 1 punnet (125g)
- ½ cup wholemeal flour
- 1 cup Soft Brown Sugar
- 2 eggs
- 60g butter, melted
- 1 cup milk
- ½ teaspoon baking soda
- ¼ cup Golden Syrup
- Icing Sugar to dust

METHOD

- Preheat the oven to 190°C. In a large bowl, combine the flour, baking powder, coconut, rolled oats, blueberries, wholemeal flour and Soft Brown Sugar and stir to combine and coat the oats and blueberries.
- In another bowl, whisk the eggs. Add the melted butter, milk, baking soda and Golden Syrup. Whisk to combine.
- Fold the wet ingredients into the dry ingredients and mix very gently until just combined. Spoon the mixture into greased muffin pans. Bake in the preheated oven for 12-15 minutes until golden and puffed up. Dust with the Icing Sugar before serving.
- TIP: These muffins are delicious serve with spiced butter. To make the spiced butter, simply combine 50g of soft butter with half a teaspoon of mixed spice.

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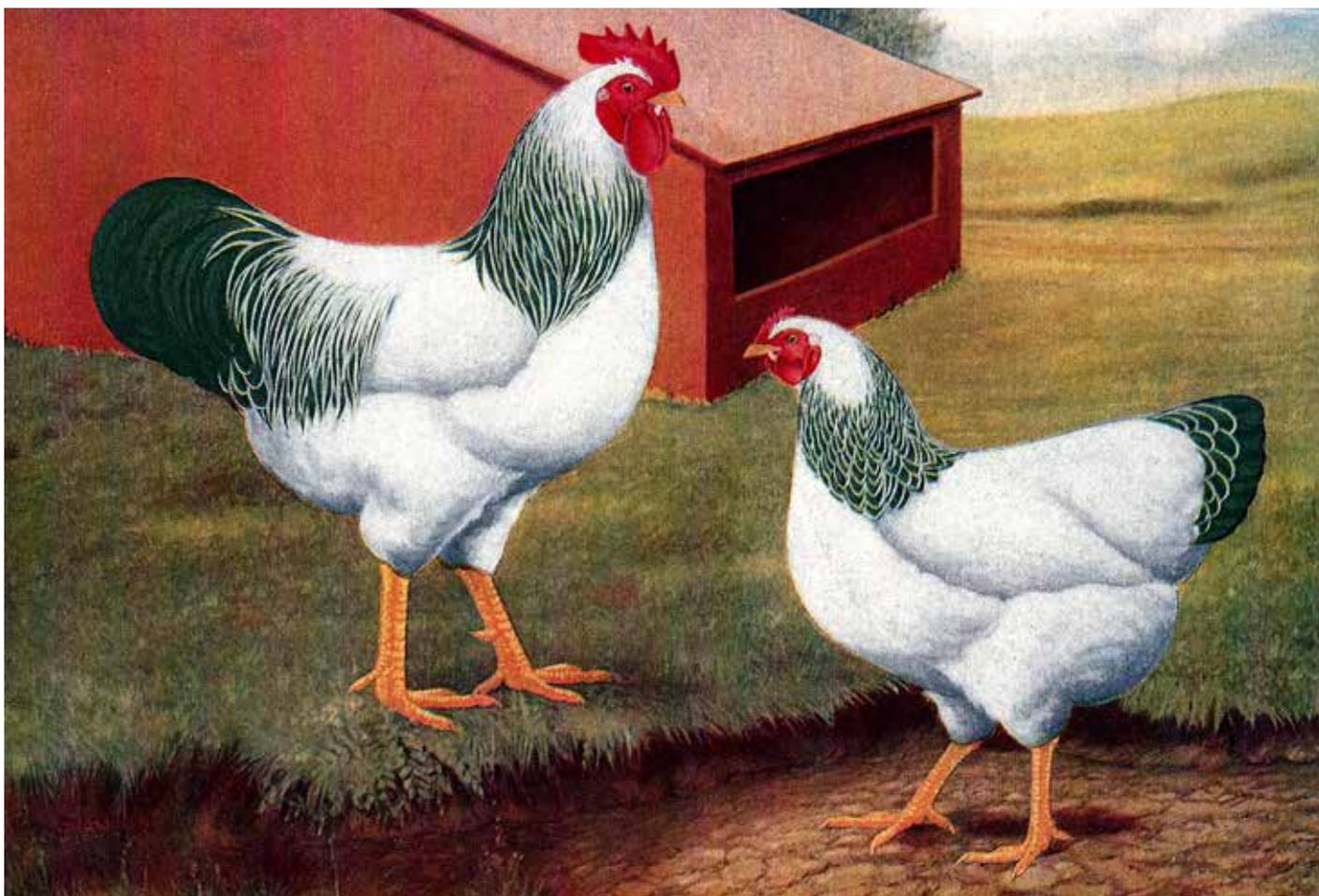
LARGE COMBO
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THE COLUMBIAN PLYMOUTH ROCK



Author unknown

Columbian Plymouth Rocks have come from a number of sources.

A chance bred male of Plymouth Rock shape and light Brabma colour was mated with both Barred and White Plymouth Rock females and these matings produced a strain of Columbian Rocks. Another strain was produced from a direct cross of Light Brabma males with white Rock females. Yet another strain was originated by mating Light Brahma Males with White Rock females and re-crossing the off spring with the males from the other two strains and with single comb off spring that came from Columbian Wyandottes.

Columbian Rocks were developed by selecting the best birds of their kind and mating them in many cases without regard to their origin. These matings produced better shape in the off spring but with it came increased difficulty in the production of colour and markings. This is the natural result of too quickly intermingling so many different strains and varieties of fowls.

Columbian Rocks made their first appearance as sports from Columbian Wyandottes. Following this, several strains of Columbian Rocks were made and when sufficient interest had been aroused in them to attract attention, the American Columbian Plymouth Rock Club was organized, and a standard was adopted, and application was made to the American Poultry Association for the recognition of this variety, it was admitted to the American Standard at

EPSOM SALTS

MAGNESIUM SULPHATE

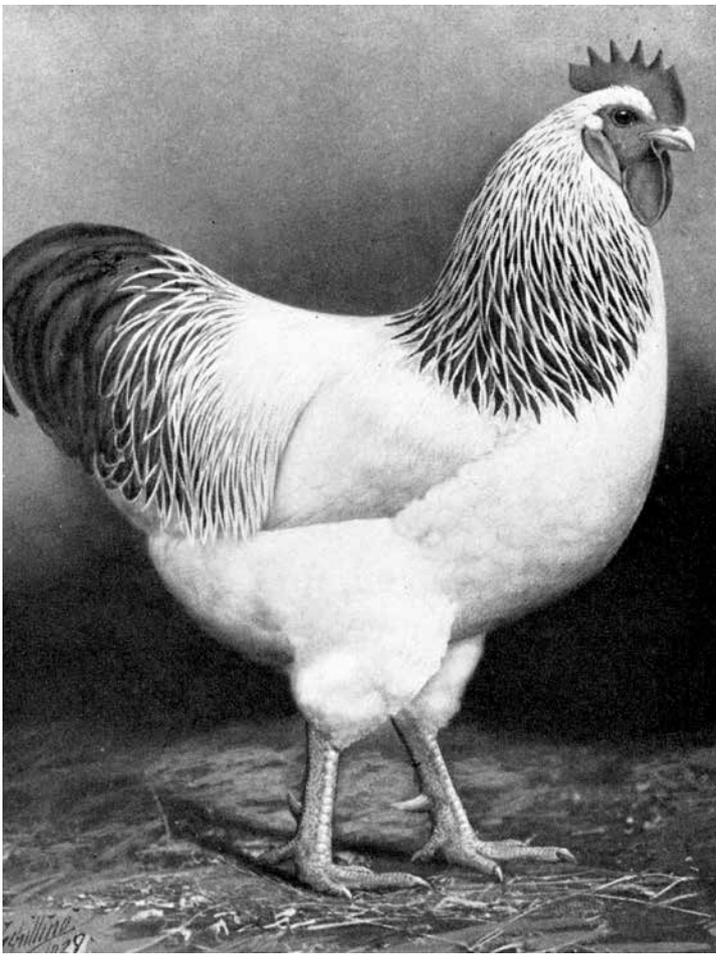


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Standard Columbian Plymouth Rock Male

the meeting held in St Louis in 1910.

The Standard description adopted by the American Columbian Plymouth Rock Club stated that fowls of this variety should have the same shape as those of other varieties of Plymouth Rocks, that in colour and markings they should conform to Light Brahas, and that they



Columbian Plymouth Rock Pullet

should be disqualified for any feathers on shanks, feet or toes and the unmistakable indication of feathers having been removed from these parts. The shanks and feet must be yellow or reddish yellow, the face, comb wattles ear lobes and eyes must be red. In weight and breed characters, fowls of this variety shall conform to those of the white variety.

In mating Columbian Rocks, those having the shape and colour described in the Standard must be selected. The line of division between the white and black in the surface plumage should be well defined; the colour should not overlap and mix. Hackle feathers of males should be white with a distinct black strip following the shape of the feather and extending from near then point to near the root; the less break there is in the colour of the hackle feathers of males the greater will be the tendency to improve colour in the off spring. The proper proportion of black and white in primary and secondary feathers of the wings is of importance. The main tail feathers should be black and surrounding them are black sickles and coverts. The coverts next to the tail plumage should be marked with white as described for Brahas. The white the plumage of the back, the more likely the bird will be to produce well marked off spring. The under plumage should be of bluish white or slate

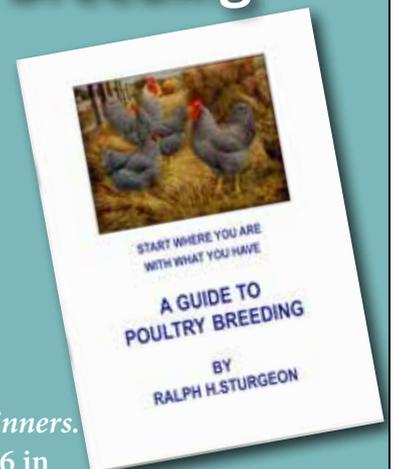
The hackle feathers of the female should be of good length; the web should be white, with a black stripe

A Guide To Poultry Breeding

By R. Sturgeon

\$20

postage \$4.50

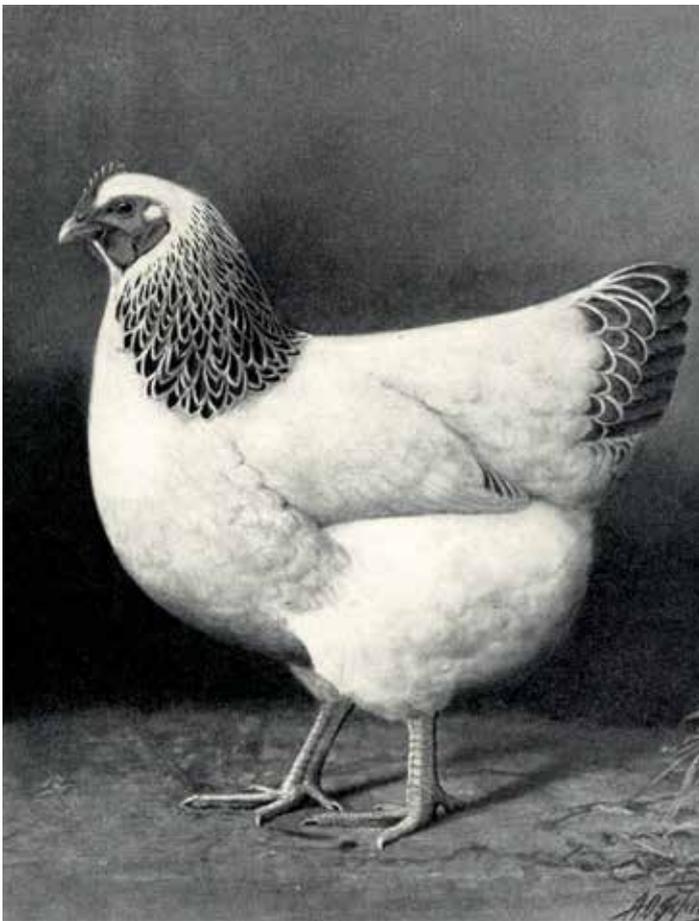


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Standard Columbian Plymouth Rock Female

in the centre. The nearer the markings of the neck hackle approach the markings of the Light Brahma the more valuable the bird will be for breeding. For producing good colour in the off spring, the surface plumage of breeding birds should be as white as possible, and the under plumage should be bluish white. Fowls that have black under plumage will intensify the black in the web of the black plumage. Primary feathers of the wing should be as black as it is possible to have them; main tail feathers should be black and the tail coverts edged with white. Females of this kind are likely to increase the amount of black in the plumage of the offspring. It is better to increase the black gradually than to hasten it. A few of the females having dark under plumage may be mated with males that are fairly free from smut or dark shade in under plumage.

The greatest improvement will come from strains established by selecting the best and breeding them in a careful manner, thus establishing a strain that are Plymouth Rock in shape and which have proper colour and markings as demanded for the exhibition of Light Brahma.

It is of marked importance to select fowls strongly Plymouth Rock in form and blood lines, produce better progeny than a bird excelling in one or two particular points and failing in several others.

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HOW I RAISE CHICKS



by J.A. Butler, Australia 1999

Being very successful at raising (or brooding) bantam chicks, I have often been asked how I do it, which has prompted me to write this article, and in doing so I hope to pass on to others, not so successful as myself, some of my methods that may be helpful, also to help the beginner. I am not going to say these methods are correct, but they have always been the methods I have adopted in raising about 80% that I have hatched from egg to maturity.

From now on I will use the word 'we' instead of 'I' because I hand to my wife the credit of my success. Being a triple certificated trained nurse, one of which is baby welfare, probably accounts for her patience and ability to care for baby chicks.

We will start from the setting of the hen. We always have about twelve small coops (old packing cases) about three feet square, with bird wire netting fronts, also a small door in front. Before the breeding season commences we paint these coops thoroughly with wood preserving oil; they are then stood in a row on the grass. They have no bottoms, the ground being the floor. The nests we make from full size kerosene tins, laid on their sides with pieces of wood 2 inch square nailed through the

tin on each end to prevent eggs or nest from working out the front. We paint this can (or nest) with wood preserving oil, allowing plenty of time to dry. We then construct a cup shaped nest in the tin with earth; if a little damp it will set into the required shape and not move throughout the season. Then line the nest with a thin layer of soft grass and in each corner of the tin we place one moth ball. The nest is ready to be placed in one corner of the 3ft square coop ready to receive the hen and eggs. Also place in the coop, a suitable drinking vessel. We use a 4 inch earthenware flower pot, blocking the hole in the bottom with a little cement. The hen is placed in the nest and three or four china eggs, and a piece of bag dropped over the front until she settles down. Most of the Silkie crosses will settle down immediately on the eggs without the china egg precaution. Going back to the kerosene tin nests, don't forget to punch a few holds in the top and high up on the sides to allow the air to circulate through same. Give the hen a good dusting with diatomaceous earth (Poultrynz D.E.) before placing on eggs and your troubles are finished re vermin.

About the seventh day test the eggs for fertility. Candle the eggs with a light or torch. Discard all clear eggs and

dead germs. We always do our testing at night. Hatching takes place after 21 days.

While the hatch is taking place we inspect about every two hours and remove the empty shells to avoid them capping the unhatched eggs. Through the day we remove any early hatched chicks and place them in an old woollen jacket in a box indoors. All chicks are given back to the hen at night. When the hatch is complete we remove the nest and place an empty pollard sack on the grass floor of the coop.

The first feed is when the chicks are twenty four hours old and it consists of crushed arrowroot biscuits and hard boiled eggs. We crush the biscuit by rolling it with a bottle and press the egg through a piece of zinc gauze. The gauze is tacked to a small box for this purpose. Before feeding the chicks we remove the hen and give her a good feed of wheat in front of the box, with only the wire netting dividing the mother from the chicks. By doing this the mother does not devour too much of the chick feed when replaced with the chicks. Chicks are not fed until the hen is replaced back with them. We use this feeding method for five days then start on an assortment of food, such as alternate feeds of dry oats, rolled oats mixed with milk,

bread and milk boiled rice and now and then we boil one egg, cut in half and place in the coop for them to pick at their leisure. We feed this method until the chicks are about 8 weeks old; then we feed the ordinary chick mixture until they are old enough to take adult food. The soft feather varieties are given a bran and pollard mash at about six weeks old.

Going back to the day before the hatch is due out, take the hen, if she is a silkie or soft feather and clip off all the long body feathers from under the wings and on the breast. When I say all, I mean about one inch of the body feathers. If this is not done, you will lose many chicks by strangulation. In other words, the feathers on the mother's breast become knotted together on the ends by coming in contact with droppings, etc., and the chicks when pushing themselves under the hen shove their heads through the loop and become hanged. Until we started clipping the ends off these feathers we often found the hen walking around with a chick hanging underneath, sometimes dead, sometimes alive.

We never give our chicks free range until they are old enough to be taken away from the mother. We maintain that the mother runs the legs off the little fellows if let out too early. We give hen and chicks about one hours freed before bedtime each evening. If you have crickets or big white grubs around the yard, watch your baby chicks very closely when they are out. We lost several by



Hen feeding chick

being choked by crickets and grubs.

In cold weather we place the coops containing the mother and brood in a shed made for this purpose. As soon as it possible to take the chicks from the mother we do so. We have six small coops about three feet square with 8ft by 3ft bird wire netting runs covered in on top and drop bag sides for wet weather. In these coops we place about twenty chicks to each coop, keeping the different sizes together. If a chick is not doing as well as his brother of the same age and is small in comparison, we place him with a pen of smaller chicks.

The chicks are taught to roost immediately they are placed in these weaning pens, and the method we use is as follows: We construct a framework of roosts the same size as the sleeping quarters (3ft by 3ft) and made similar to a ladder so as to lean against the back of the coop. The roosts are cross pieces of this framework are place about 4 inches apart, and they are made from 1in by ¼in strips of any class of wood without open grain (such a pine, coachwood etc.); the close the grain the easier to keep clean and no flaws or cracks to encourage red mite etc. Underneath the framework or bottom side of the framework we tack a piece of bird wire netting. The prevents the chicks from falling to the floor if they should slip off the roost and it also allows the droppings to fall through on to a dropping board. It also prevents the chicks coming in contact with the droppings. This framework of roosts can be removed at will for the purpose of washing down and cleaning; also the dropping board for the same purpose, which we do once a week, and once a week we wash the whole coop out with disinfectants.

When the young stock have developed to a stage when it is easy to pick the sexes, we separate the cockerels from the pullets and place them in two bigger pens and runs, all breeds together, and there they remain until they are fully developed. The birds showing exhibition quality are then penned separately in the original coops used for the setting hens.



Hen teaching newly hatched chick

INCUBATION FACTS

From the 'Fanciers Gazette.'

LOSS OF WEIGHT IN INCUBATING EGGS

Birds' eggs lose weight during incubation because of the escape of moisture through the pores of the shell. This loss can be detected either by periodic weighing of the eggs, or by measuring the increasing air cell with an ordinary egg candler. The loss of weight in eggs is influenced largely by humidity, temperature and air movement. A good method of determining the optimum humidity is to start a hatch in an incubator at the same time as one is started under a hen. By candling the eggs in the natural method and comparing the size of the air space with that of eggs in the incubator. If the air space in the incubator eggs is larger than that of the eggs under the hen, it shows that there is insufficient humidity. Ofcourse, the porosity of individual egg shells will also have an effect upon the rate of evaporation. It would be well, therefore, to candle a number of eggs under the hen, and also a number in the incubator before coming to a definite conclusion.

IMPORTANCE OF TURNING EGGS

Turning of incubating eggs at regular intervals is an absolute necessity. In the nest, a mother bird normally moves the eggs about, at approximately 15 minute intervals. She often deliberately turns each egg by placing her beak under it and flipping it over. The need for turning eggs can be compared to the movements a person makes when asleep in bed. They will make some form of movement every several minutes, and deliberately turn completely over several times during the night. When a person lays for a long time in one position, they may wake with their hands or feet tingling, and they may say "my hands are asleep" or "my feet are asleep". The condition is caused by restrictions of the nerves and impairment of circulation. The growing embryo in the shell has the same needs, to be turned over. They can not do it himself. An outside force must turn the eggs, either the mother hen, the incubator or the attendant to the incubator. Without regular turning at intervals reasonably close to nature, an embryo will not fully develop in its extremities. The feet and legs may be totally paralysed. The degree of damage will be proportional to the neglect in turning. A chick may hatch with one crippled foot or with crooked toes and still live and mature with the handicap. If the impairment is greater, the embryo can not make the necessary maneuvers to peck out of the shell and will not hatch.

WHEN CHICKS HATCH

When chicks hatch, leave chicks under the hen for about twelve hours, but give her food and water on the nest. The next day, leave them in the nest while giving the hen a good feed of grain and a drink in the coop she is to occupy. Then give her the chicks and she will settle down. For almost the whole of the first day she will keep them under her wing, so let her alone. The second day scatter chick crumbs to encourage the

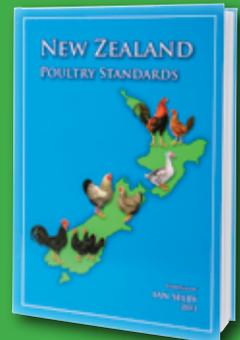


Incubator with auto-turner

NZ POULTRY STANDARDS

The definitive guide to standards for judging and showing poultry in New Zealand

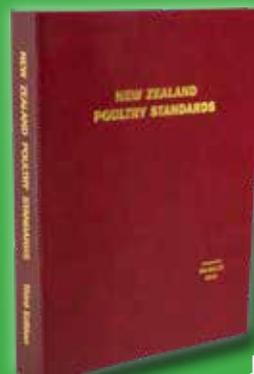
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baby chicks to move about. They will investigate curiously, especially when the hen clucks for them to eat. Give water from the commencement, in a shallow trough which the hen cannot soil. No harm comes from clean water. It is stagnant, foul water that causes trouble.

Many people used to advocate hard boiled egg and bread crumbs for the first few days, but I disagree. Hard boiled egg is not only somewhat indigestible, but is troublesome. A little biscuit meal scalded with milk and dried off with baby chick mash is better; and probably the most successful method of rearing is to feed completely dry for the first three weeks on baby chick crumbs in hoppers alternated with chick grain. If you use soft foods feed them nearly dry and merely warm, not hot.

Feed frequently, say every two hours at first, gradually reducing the number of meals until at a month old they are only fed four times a day at most; but the dry feeding method outlined above is a great time saver, because the baby chick crumbs are constantly in hoppers before them.

As an appetiser, after the first couple of weeks the first and last meals each day can be soft food, and this gives an excellent chance gradually to wean the chicks to growers mash and more normal, less expensive foods. Don't spare expense, though, in baby chick food. They eat so little the first three weeks that the heaviest economies present practically no saving.

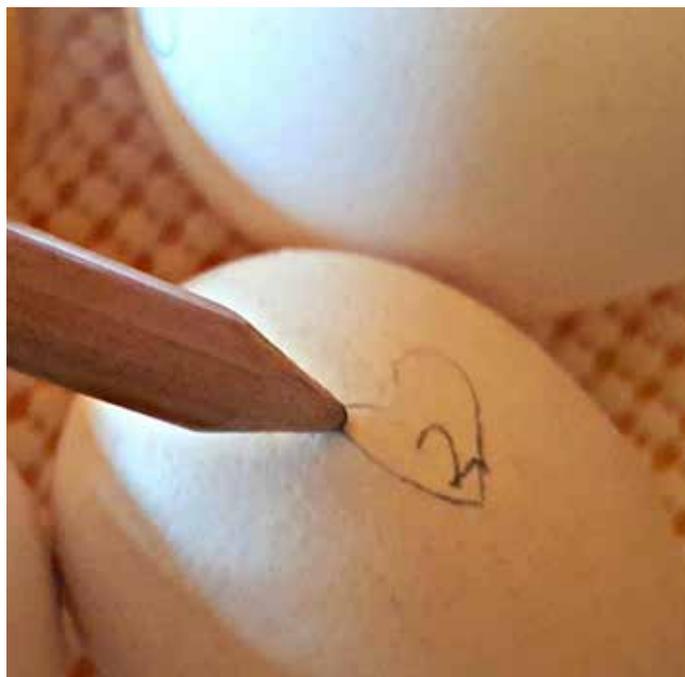
A little chopped grass is excellent for chicks reared intensive-



Newly hatched chicks from a small incubator

ly. Cut it very short with scissors and they will eat it greedily without danger. I suppose most baby chicks are reared intensively for the first few weeks. Once they are outdoors they can run on grass or be given a turf on which to scratch. A good way is to put a large turn of turf in their run, scatter their grain food on it and see them scratch.

Feed regularly and well. Never feed for small size, breed for it instead.



Marking hatching egg

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INFERTILITY OF THE BREEDING STOCK

There is no doubt that in many cases infertility in the middle of the breeding season is due to fowls losing breeding condition. At the time of mating up birds, they should be fit for the job, they should be well-fleshed, not over or under weight, and of course, both males and females will have had a period of rest which is essential if the best results are to be achieved.

The above is applicable, whether mating naturally or utilising artificial insemination which is common place amongst breeders these days and especially of breeds with abundant feather such as Pekins, Silkies, Orpingtons etc. as well as heavy breeds such Indian Game.

During the breeding season many things can and usually do happen unless we pay careful attention to the breeding stock which can quickly lose their optimum breeding condition through a variety of reasons, not the least if which is becoming over fat.

Overfeeding of second-year and older stock is a very common error and it is necessary to use considerable discretion in feeding these birds bearing in mind that they do not come into the lay as rapidly as pullets. A high protein ration will certainly enhance a pullet's performance and maintain them in first class condition, but the same ration to a mature hen can quickly result in such females becoming too fat and thus reducing the number of eggs for the season from these valuable breeding birds.

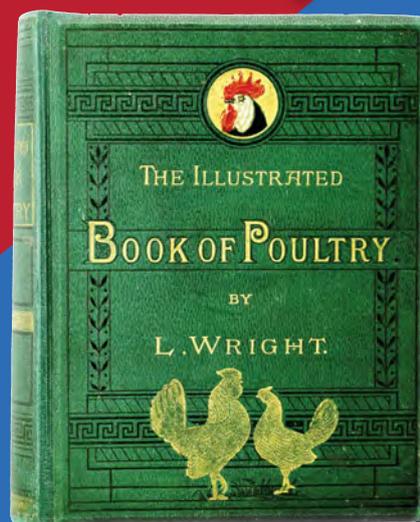
The feeding of too much wet mash and corn is not conducive to a lean, hard condition which is essential for good fertility. Poor fertility, which is usually followed by poor hatchability, is frustrating and wasteful in terms of eggs from your best birds. But most of these problems can be overcome by sensible feeding practices and suitable housing.

These days there are a number of commercially produced balanced breeder rations available to take all the guess work out of what to feed your birds to get the best results. Take advantage of this type of feed as, generally, it has been designed by experts to meet the needs of poultry fanciers. It might be a little more



Old Male for breeding

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expensive but the investment is well worth it in the end, especially when one looks at the number of chickens on the ground at the end of the season.

WATCH YOUR BREEDING MALES

The maintenance of your breeding males is essential to success at this time and, if mated naturally, observe your males regularly especially when feeding as often the over-attentive male will forego his feed in lieu of his mates resulting in rapid loss of condition and poor fertility quickly follows.

Conversely, if your males are penned separately and artificial insemination is being utilised, watch that they do not become overweight as this reduces the amount of semen as well as its quality whilst also making it difficult to extract in the first place. Exercise can improve fertility and it is best not to give unlimited access to high protein breeder rations for breeding males housed

intensively as this too can have a detrimental affect on fertility. Some breeds are more prone than others, notably heavy breeds especially when housed intensively, often gain weight rapidly and thus reduce their potency amongst their partners.

If birds are being mated naturally one often finds great variance with regard to the number of companions a male can successfully serve. This varies from bird to bird and breed to breed and fanciers need to assess the vigour and activity of their males



Old males, like this Buff Orpington, need more attention

and either add to or reduce the number of females in such pens. An overzealous male can be just as harmful as one with not as much get up and go. The females become nervous and exhausted which results in poor fertility.

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