

Poultrynz

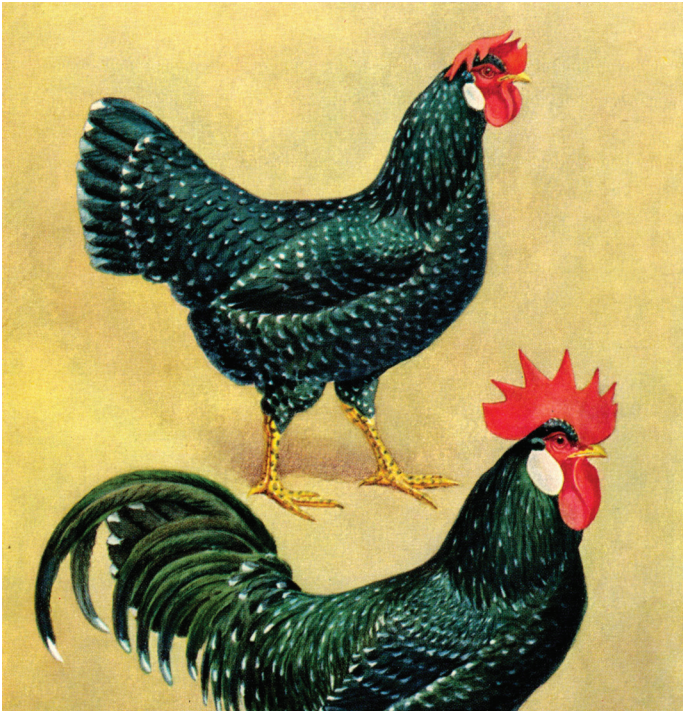
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Poultrynz Editorial

With the weather being so bad this year, especially in the North Island, some of the shows might be quite wet. Please don't let that put you off and even if you don't show Poultry a visit to your local Poultry Show is always a good idea. It is always a good place to buy different breeds of poultry as well as Ducks and Pigeons. It is a chance to see the

rewards of breeding birds in more detail which may excite your interest to give it a go and try to breed a Champion of your own. The next show I will be at is Whangarei and then off to the South Island for the National Show in Rangiora. Until the next issue. Regards, Ian Selby.

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BRAISED LAMB SHOULDER WITH WINE & TOMATO JUS

INGREDIENTS

Serves 8

2.2kg lamb forequarter

50g butter, softened

1½ tsp salt

½ tsp black pepper

1 tsp ground cumin

1 Tbsp fresh thyme leaves

1 tsp dried oregano

½ cup flavoursome white wine, such as chardonnay

1 Tbsp tomato paste

METHOD

- Preheat the oven to 190°C (fan-bake). Remove as much fat as possible from the lamb (do take the time to do this as it will affect the finished dish). In a bowl, mix together the butter, salt, pepper, cumin, thyme and oregano, then massage it all over the lamb. Put the lamb on a rack in a large roasting tin. Roast for 30 minutes to colour the top, then remove from the oven. Carefully transfer the lamb to a platter, remove the rack and pour off the fat. Return the lamb to roasting tin (without the rack) and pour the white wine around it. Lower the heat to 150°C (regular bake).
- Cover the lamb first with baking paper, then tightly with tin foil (the paper will stop the lamb sticking to the foil and tearing it). Return the lamb to the oven and bake for four hours (or up to five) without disturbing.
- Remove the lamb from the oven; lift off the foil and paper. Transfer the lamb to a heated platter and keep warm. Tilt the roasting tin and scoop off the fat, or use a fat-separating jug. It's important to get rid of as much fat as possible or the jus will taste greasy. Pour the juices into a medium-sized frying pan and mix in the tomato paste. Bring to the boil and bubble for a few minutes (don't over-reduce the juices, they should be thin and flavoursome). Transfer jus to a heated sauce boat or jug.
- Present the lamb on the platter. Shred with a knife and fork, pour over some of the jus and dish onto heated plates. Serve immediately with the remaining jus.

SINGLE COMB ANCONA MATING

by Van Hoesen 1923. Abridged

In the early 1920's a boom set in and large classes were seen at all the major shows. Big prices were paid for top class birds, 25 to 30 guineas being a common figure. Blacks topped the list and were easily the best of the four colours seen at the bigger shows and numerous specimens were shown approaching perfection.

The real Orpington is a large bodied fowl standing on short legs with a broad deep front and the breast well forward. The back should be broad and flat with a gentle rise to the tail, and last but not least a good green sheen. If you can get a male bird with the side fluff, showing a green sheen, he is an ideal bird to use on dull black or weak sheened females. Never breed from a bird overdone in headpoints: a firm strong comb is what is required.

A lot of ignorant people are always running the Orpington down, calling them balls of fluff and saying that they can hardly lay enough eggs to reproduce their kind. However, if bred and judged correctly, the best Orpingtons in any of the colours will lay more and bigger eggs than most show Australorps. I have often seen winning Australorp pullets full of poor laying characteristics. Some judges look at the face only, and I would like to remind these foolish men that it takes more than a good face to make a good layer. The committee that drew up the Standard for Australorps would always persist in adding a bit more hackle (by this I mean saddle hackle) to the standard drawing. This craze for hackle is always detrimental to any utility breed, and the over hackled males used by some in breeding Black Orpingtons gave many strains a bad name and the same thing will assuredly lower production in Australorps.

The thing that did more harm to the Orpington and many other breeds was the banning of imports. It was a sad day for the Poultry breeder when we became controlled by men totally ignorant of the laws of breeding, most of whom have never bred a good fowl in their lives. Let me remind you that the same laws apply to the breeding of good poultry; all strains peter out if inbred too long, and an infusion of fresh blood would bring out the latent good qualities that are already there.

These breeding laws apply to all our domestic



Ancona Pair

stock and the above will be noted in some other of our domestic animals before many years. My advice is don't inbreed any more than you can help and always remember that bad points are established as well as the good; a lot of bad points are overlooked, particularly if the bird or bird have won a few major prizes. Next comes the Buff variety and I venture to suggest that they have more good qualities than most other breeds. They are hardy, good layers and have very fine flesh. The scientifically fed poultry of today could not hold a candle to them; the meat was tasty, tender with plenty of it in the right places. I strongly advise anyone looking for something to breed good table birds to get some.

The Buff is a magnificent show bird and when well conditioned, they always attract attention. You will hear some people say never take a Buff breed because they are too hard to condition, but if ordinary common sense is used this is not so.

White Orpingtons are nearly non-existent, the

one time good strains having petered out but the colour is now making a comeback. A more beautiful fowl would be hard to find and they were great layers of big eggs. They were once very popular.

A particularly good strain of the 'stay white type' and you frequently came across birds with pink quills; this was the secret of the stay white birds as pink quills in any white breed indicates purity of colour. The worst fault that I could find with the White Orpington was early laying in the pullets – this invariably stopped them making size and they petered out quicker than the other varieties.

The Blue variety has never been really popular. Like all Blue breeds they do not breed true, splashed white chicks often out numbering the Blues. Blues are extremely hardy and excellent layers, but will never be very popular because of the mixed chickens one gets from each setting. A good Blue in show condition is certainly a grand fowl and one that will always command attention. There have been some really good Blues; a big well known shaped female with the correct ground colour and lacing is hard to pass. All Blues can be bred if a splashed white male is mated to blue bred Blacks females and I have had very satisfactory results this way.

I strongly advise any young fanciers to take on



Ancona Tipping

one of the Orpington varieties as he will get endless pleasure breeding this truly grand fowl.



Ancona Legs

A Guide To Poultry Breeding

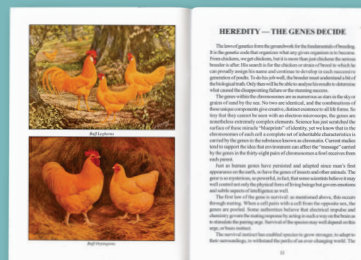
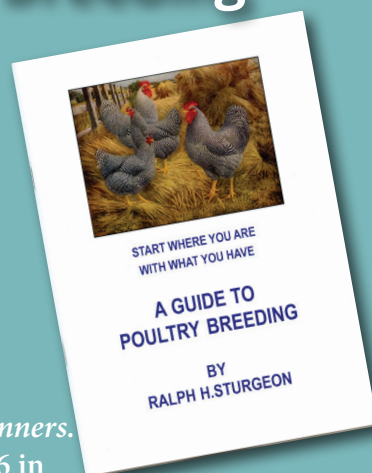
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MAINTAINING STANDARD QUALITY

by W. E. Gordon, New Zealand

In this article I raise the question of whether the standard of quality is being maintained by the rank and file of breeders. I would say that the breeds and varieties of many breeders have somewhat fallen to a fairly low degree in type and quality. Now there must be a very good reason for this apparent decline and I wish to state my views on the reasons why and suggest a remedy to counter it.

When one looks back, as I think we have occasion to, to the great shows held and remember the large classes of Black Rosecombs, Sebrights, Modern and Old English Game and other breeds which were all of grand type, colour and feather. They were just nearly perfection and judges were hard put to select the winners as quality was so high in all the classes.

The Rosecombs were all so regular, small, jaunty little fellows with grand headpieces, short strong necks well furnished in hackle, full chested, nice short backs with a lovely sweep from neck and saddle to a high well carried tail of wide sickle and main tail feathers and when in full show condition, showing that nice beetle green.

The Sebrights of both colours were identical for type and carriage differing only in colour. The ground colour of both was sound and solid and the lacing could not be seen through the overlaying feather. The feather was broad and open and the lacing was even and clear right round the blade of the feather. Some of the present day specimens have not that density of ground colour and evenness of lacing of the top quality birds, the lacing shows through and often is only half around the blade of the feather, just like a horse shoe.

The Modern Game was a sight to behold. All colours were exhibited in good numbers and type was regular. Training and condition were often the deciding factor in getting the winning award. Tall reachy specimens, with long snaky heads, long arched neck, good square shoulders, short flat back, closely whipped tail, carried just above the back line. Close carried wings, short, narrow, hard feather all carried on well placed, firm, bold limbs with long slender



Silver Sebright Bantams

well spread tapering toes and the back toe of good length in line with centre toe. Such a bird would show perfect grace and movement. Some of the pres-

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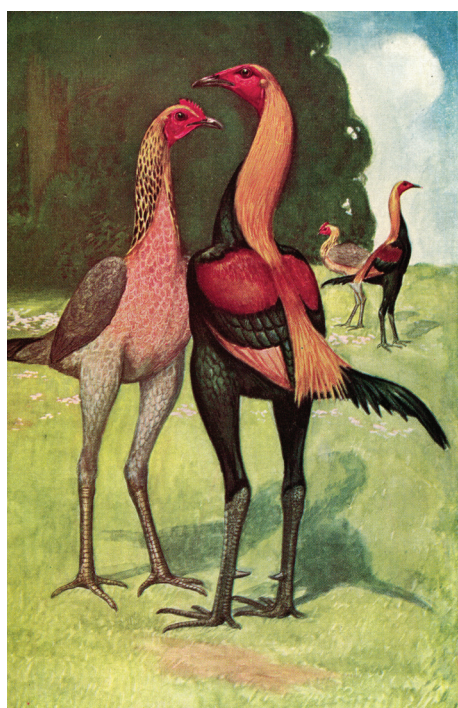
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ent day Moderns are too long and wide in feather, too long in wing and inclined to be too short in thigh and too long in shank. If the thigh was longer there would be a much cleaner stern.

Now why the decline with some breeders and what would be the remedy. First I think there is too much out crossing by the new breeders. A beginner wants the best and they buy winners from several sources and does not fully understand how to mate the stock and in a short time they gives up because of poor results. Secondly the successful breeder is badgered into selling their best winners at high prices and they lets the stock go which they should retain to carry on their line. Even in a closed flock full brothers and sisters in a similar mating do not reproduce the same quality, so, a closed flock of the highest quality is essential to continued success. To gain this ideal we have to select the best quality male procurable. Nearly perfect in all sections and to procure at least four females of high quality of the same strain as the male and at least two of them could be half sisters to him. Number the hens 1, 2, 3, 4 and set all eggs of each hen separately and on hatching toe punch all chicks and there will be no chance of confusing the product of each hen. Maybe one hen will produce no chicks of high quality so can be eliminated from the flock. The other produced from the three hens can be cress mated — the best male from hen No.1 mated to the best female from



Modern Game

hen No.3 and the best from No.2 to the best from No.4, etc. and the best male back to the original hen, not his mother. With toe punching all chicks a record can be kept as to the parentage, and if any deformity comes along the origin can be traced. Again referring to the



Black Rosecomb Bantams

Sebrights, what a great lesson Sir John gave to the poultry world in producing such a grand breed to perfection from practically nothing and we present day breeders have at our disposal and at hand a quantity of good quality stock to set about to renew the high quality of any breed to what they should be.

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PREPARING BIRDS FOR EXHIBITION

Courtesy of the American Bantam Association. 1971.

Have you ever put your Birds in a show to find out how good birds you have? One of the best ways to find how good they are is to exhibit them along side other birds and let the judge pass on them. Birds will frequently look good at home but not good enough to stand hot competition. Don't go to a Poultry Show and say you have a whole lot better birds at home — perhaps you have — but can you get them to the Poultry Show looking as well or better?

One should not exhibit birds unless they takes an intense interest in their birds and likes to see them look their very best. It is work that requires a good deal of time and close attention, if it is done successfully. Nor should one exhibit Birds unless they is a good loser as well as a good winner.

The primary thought that underlies judging exhibition birds is the beauty or artistic quality of its make-up. Study your birds for their beauty for each one is a live painting.

To thoroughly prepare birds for a show begin several months ahead of time in order to get the feathers in best condition, with the tails properly grown and the birds feeling and looking their very best. If you wait until just before the show you may not have the opportunity of getting some of your best birds into condition for showing.

In picking out the birds, first look for the general outline or get-up of the whole bird. The individual points, that is, the head, body, and tail should only be considered after getting the proper appreciation of the make-up or balance. It is harmony of parts that wins and not a bird that is merely good in one or two sections. The exhibitor that is showing for the first time is inclined to place too much emphasis on one or two things, such as the number of points on the comb, particular colour of plumage or particular type of marking. It is quite important that the feathers should be smooth and give a fine surface to the birds. A rough, uneven, lined condition is not at all desirable.

The heads should always show strength, indicating a strong, vigorous individual. The neck should generally be full and melt or fuse into the body so that there is one smooth, even curve going from the head to the body depending on the breed.

In picking out the birds for showing, study the particular desires of the judge who is going to place the ribbons since all judges do not agree as to what is the



Head of a Cockerel with a Bright Eye and a Fresh Face

most desirable kind of a bird, even though the Standard outlines the kind, and since the fashions change from year to year. While all judges should place the

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birds in the same way we know that human nature naturally makes certain people place more emphasis on some points than on others. Consequently, two conscientious judges might make entirely different sets of awards on the same class of birds. Make it a practice to show under different judges. Some shows engage the same judge or judges year after year and this is neither good for the exhibitor or the show.

It is particularly important that the birds should be in the right physical condition at the time of showing. Practically without exception a pullet or hen should be just coming into laying. Unless a bird is very full in the abdomen she will look her best just as laying starts. Most exhibitors try to hold their birds back in production until just before exhibiting them or try to have them start laying after they reach the show.

Male birds must be in the very best of physical condition to show themselves off properly. An inactive, stupid, wild male bird has very little chance in reasonably hot competition.

It is not generally necessary or desirable to wash coloured birds unless they are very dirty and their feathers badly soiled. In that case they may be washed. For washing use a pure soap such as Ivory. Always use soft water, preferably rain water, rinse the birds a number of times after soaping them so as to make sure that the soap is all out. If the soap remains in the feathers they will become sticky and become dirty



A Poultry Show

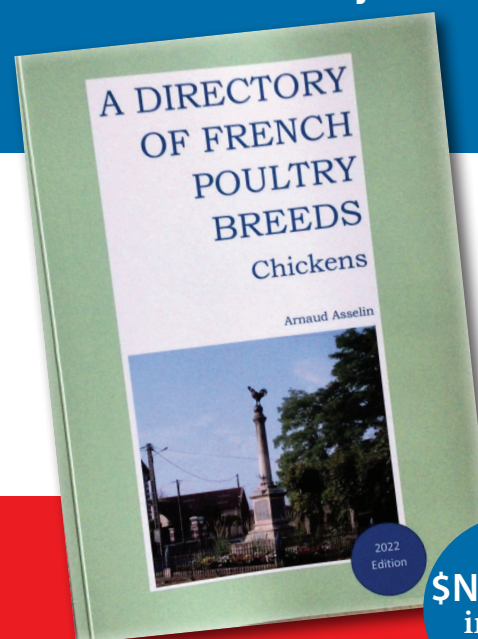
very quickly. If the birds are put too near a hot fire the feathers are liable to curl in drying. Place them in a moderately warm coop with a wire bottom so that the water can drain out without soiling the feathers. It is best to take several hours for drying so that the birds can help smooth out the feathers and work the water out of their feathers. Do this washing in the daytime.



Brown Leghorn hen showing good abdomen

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INSECT PESTS

Author unknown

THE THREE GROUPS OF PEST

The losses in the poultry yard, both among the young and the adult stock, through parasitic infection, are very great indeed. Cleanliness is a major element of success.

Without any attempt to give a scientific description of the very numerous insect pests that afflict poultry, it may be briefly stated that there are three distinct groups of insect and mite pests, viz.: (1) fleas, (2) biting lice, (3) mites.

1. The flea affects the poultry house, with the laying nest and sitting box, and they feed upon the blood of the fowl. They are only found in dirty and neglected places. If the old straw, hay, or other material of the nest were cleared out once a month they would seldom be found. It is the same with the sitting box. The material should be changed after each hatch of chicks. The flea lays her eggs (nits) in these places, and the warmth of the hen hatches them. The nits give rise to little white maggots, and a wriggling mass of them may



Poultry Flea

be found at the bottom of a neglected nest. These larvae take two or three weeks to mature, so that if a nest is clean to start with there is little chance of any being found at the finish of the hatch. The most frequent case of their presence is a broken egg. If this soils the nest material and it is allowed to remain, fleas are sure to generate. If a hen on the nest

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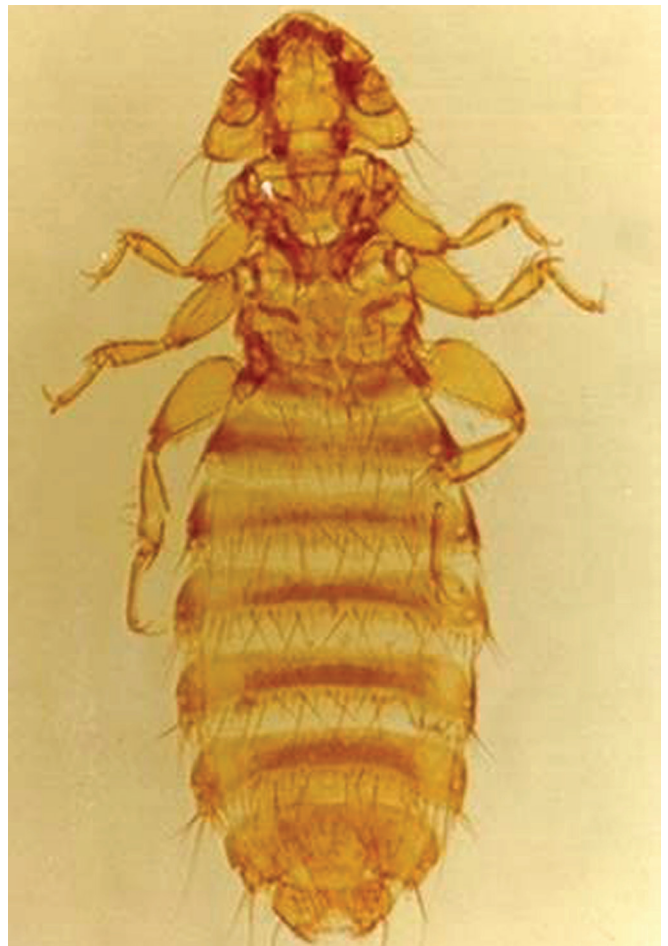
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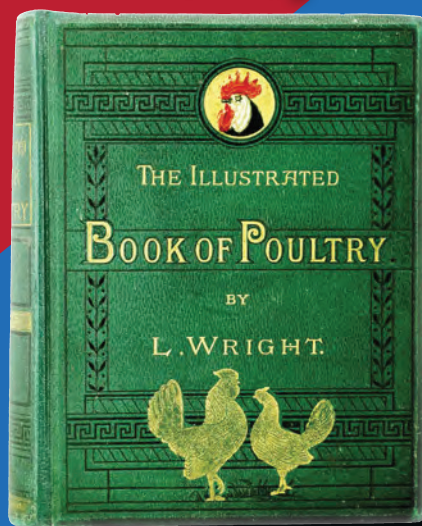
breaks an egg it should be removed at once. The remaining eggs should be washed in water of a temperature of 105° F, and the whole of the hay or other material of the nest be removed, and fresh hay put in its place. A little Poultrynz D.E. sprinkled in the bottom of the nest, mingled with the surface of the soil before the hay is placed in position will prevent a recurrence. And the same treatment should be followed if from any other cause fleas or their larvae are found. The feathers of the hen's breast should also be cleansed. Thousands of valuable sittings of eggs are spoilt every year through neglect of these simple precautions. In a well conducted establishment fleas find no home.

2. Lice are much more difficult to deal with and are very numerous in variety. One kind affects chickens and another adult fowl; one kind affects the head and another the tail; and others for different parts of the body. The dust bath is Nature's remedy and the fowls' chief means of effecting a riddance. They subsist chiefly on the skin and feathers of the fowl, and cause intense irritation. Adult fowl ought to be periodically examined and dusted with Poul-



Poultry Lice

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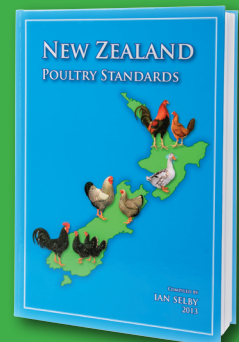
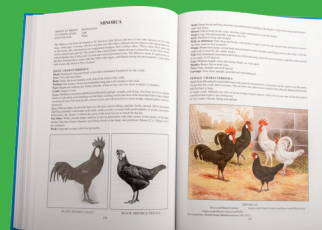
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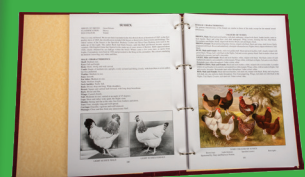
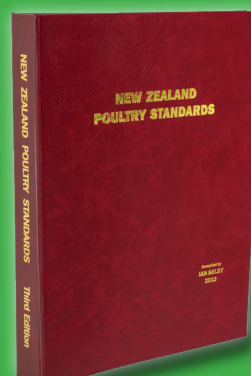
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trynz D.E. The male stock bird in particular should be frequently dusted. The deaths from lice among young chicks are very numerous; and wherever a chick appears to be ailing and its wings drooping, and it goes about with a mournful 'peep, peep', lice may be suspected. One kind which affects the head and neck of the chick and commonly called the tick, is especially fatal. They cling very tightly to the skin of chickens, and are difficult to clear away. Chicks should be periodically examined to ensure their entire freedom from their greatest pest. The bodies of the chicks, as of the hen, can be cleared from ordinary lice by the use of Poultrynz D.E.

3. Two main types of Mite are another scourge.

1. The Red Mite, which infests the poultry house and the nests. It is found when present most easily under the ends of the perches upon which the fowl roosts. They are very minute in size, and in colour vary from a pale grey to a blood red. The younger ones are pale, but the adults are changed with the life blood of the fowl upon whom they feed at night. They live in the crevices of the house, or in any crack or unevenness of the perch. Poultry cannot thrive in an infested house, and thousands of hens are killed upon the sitting nest through their infestation. They multiply with alarming rapidity, and they often swarm where least suspected. The best cure is to use the Poultrynz Management programme.

2. Feather eating or Depluming Scabies is the other kind of mite. It lives at the bottom of the



Red Mite

feather of the fowl, and is so irritating to the birds that they pluck the feathers out to get rid of the pest, and often thus learn a vice which is difficult to cure. Fowl may often be seen with the feathers eaten off close to the skin, and with necks and head nearly bare. Regular use of Poultrynz D.E. is required.



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