

LIVE AT HOME HINTS

1. Keep five hens for each member of the family.
2. Eat cull hens.
3. Preserve eggs while cheap.
4. Extra care means profit.
5. Use milk to balance home grown feeds.
6. Dust setting hens.
7. Keep ground limestone before the layers.
8. Set two hens for each member of the family.
9. Clean the brood coop thoroly.
10. Build a Brick Brooder.

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COLLEGE OF AGRICULTURE
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Chickens Help You Live At Home

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average family of five. Similar budgets could easily be arranged for different size families. Such a flock with a little extra care should produce 100 or more eggs per hen in a year, or enough to furnish one egg per person per day, several dozen to set and some to sell. However, if the flock laid as few as 60 eggs per hen, there would still be sufficient eggs to supply the family with 186 eggs per person per year (the average consumption), set 10 hens and allow 35 dozen eggs for sale. Five to seven dozen eggs per person should be preserved in water glass during April, May or June while they are plentiful for use next winter when eggs will be scarce and high in price.

HOW TO PRESERVE EGGS

The water glass or sodium silicate method is the best way to preserve eggs. If the price of the water glass (which may be bought at any drug store) is about 30 cents a quart, eggs may be preserved at a cost of approximately 2 cents per dozen. It is best not to use the water glass solution a second time. Follow these directions: (1) Select a 5 gallon crock* and clean thoroughly, scald and allow to dry. It should hold 15 dozen eggs. (2) Boil the water and allow it to cool. (3) When cool, measure out 9 quarts of water, place it in the crock, and add one quart of water glass, stirring the mixture thoroughly. (4) Chill the eggs over night before placing in the solution. If sufficient eggs are not on hand when the solution is first made, additional eggs may be added from time to time. Be very careful to allow at least two inches of the solution to cover the eggs at all times, adding boiled water (that has cooled) occasionally to offset evaporation. (5) Place the crock containing preserved eggs in a cool, dry place and keep covered to retard evaporation. Care should be exercised when removing the eggs to prevent breaking them. If preserved in quart or half gallon jars pour off the liquid, lay the jar on its side and remove the eggs with a tablespoon.

CARE NECESSARY

If the flock is expected to do well, extra care will be necessary, as the average annual egg production per hen in the State of Kentucky is only 80 eggs. Last year the demonstration flocks averaged 157 eggs per hen and these flock owners received \$1.19 from each hen in their flocks,

*A wooden pail or ordinary half-gallon Mason jar or any kind of glass containers may be used.

plenty of corn it should be used as the basis for the poultry feed.

LAYING MIXTURES

Scratch Feed

Shelled corn 10 lbs.
Or
Shelled corn 5 lbs.
Wheat 5 lbs.

Mash

Ground yellow corn 4 lbs.
Mill run feed*(Shipstuff) 4 lbs.
Tankage (60% protein) 2 lbs.
Salt (3 level tablespoons)

The mash should be thoroly mixed by shoveling four or five times after which it is placed in a self-feeder or hopper and kept before the chickens at all times. The grain may be scattered in the litter morning and evening or kept in a self-feeder. Oyster shell or ground limestone should also be kept before the hens in a small box or hopper. No grit need be fed as farm hens pick up enough such material. If as much as one gallon of milk daily for each 25 hens is available a mash mixture is not essential. One gallon of skim milk or buttermilk, five medium size ears of corn and about one half pound of ground limestone or oyster shell daily provides a balanced ration for 25 hens.

HATCHING EGGS

Eggs that are to be set should be gathered often, kept in a cool place where the temperature does not fall to freezing or go higher than 65 degrees. Fresh eggs hatch better than those that have been kept for some length of time. Eggs more than 10 days old should not be set. The eggs set should be uniform in size, shape and color and have strong shells. Hatching eggs should weigh one and a half pounds to the dozen (2 ounces each). Never set small eggs or those that have thin porous shells. Neither should the eggs be washed before they are set. If the eggs are otherwise suitable, except being a little dirty, they may be set and a good hatch obtained.

SET 10 HENS

During the spring months not less than 10 hens should be set on 14 or 15 eggs each. From this number of eggs 86 or more chicks should be hatched and 55 or more raised, furnishing 25 fryers, a few roasters and 20 to 25 pullets to be kept as layers for next year. Hens that are

* Ground wheat or equal parts bran and shorts may be used instead of the mill run feed.

The broody hen should be dusted with some good louse powder before transferring her to the nest where she is to hatch the eggs. Sodium fluoride which can be bought for about 30 cents a pound at drug stores, is a satisfactory louse powder. Dust the sodium fluoride on the skin under the feathers at the base of the neck, under each wing, below the vent and on the fluffy part of the thighs. The hen should be dusted again about 10 days after she is set. Do not disturb the mother hen while the chicks are hatching.

DO NOT DUST BABY CHICKS.

The baby chicks should not be dusted with sodium fluoride until they are feathered. The mother hen should not be dusted at night as the powder might injure the chicks. She may be dusted on a bright sunny morning after it is warm enough so that she would not have to cover the chicks during that day. Never use any grease or oil on a hen that is brooding little chicks. If it is desired to put grease on the heads of the little chicks to kill lice, be sure not to let the chicks out in the hot sun.

A GOOD COOP IS DESIRABLE

A brood coop which provides room and ventilation for the hen and chicks should be ready at hatching time. This coop may be made from a box at virtually no cash outlay. It should be rat-proof and placed on 2" x 4" runners so that it can be moved to new ground occasionally. The floor of the coop should be tight and covered with two inches of litter. Change this litter as often as it is necessary to keep the coop clean and sanitary. If an old coop in which chicks have previously been brooded is used this year, scrape it, sweep well and then scrub with boiling water to which one-half pound of lye has been added to each 10 gallons. Then spary with a 5 percent solution of compound cresol or some other good disinfectant. After cleaning, move the coop to new ground.

It is best not to disturb the hen after the eggs begin to hatch. However, if she becomes restless and wants to leave the nest before the chicks are all hatched, remove the chicks that are dry and keep them in some warm place until the hatch is completed. Care should be taken to prevent smothering or chilling the chicks. After the hatch is completed the chicks can then be put with the hen that is to raise them. During early spring, say March and April, it is better not to put more than 20 chicks with each hen, but in warmer weather one hen can brood as many as 30 baby chicks.

The feeding of shelled corn to the hen soon after the chicks are hatched, will tend to keep her more contented and quiet.

the expense of brooding would be very low.

On many farms a wood house or some other out-building can be used for the brooder house. Some farmers are using the stripping room and putting the brick brooder in the center. If you are interested in building a brick brooder or brooder house see your County Agent or write the College of Agriculture for instructions.

BABY CHICK FEED

Egg cornbread, hard boiled eggs, rolled oats, cracked corn and milk are among the feeds commonly given baby chicks. These materials give good results if properly fed. However the following chick feed is to be preferred.

SCRATCH GRAIN

Cracked corn 5 lbs.
Wheat 5 lbs.

STARTING MASH

Ground yellow corn 3 lbs.
Mill run feed (shipstuff) 5 lbs.
Meat scrap* 2 lbs.
Salt (3 level tablespoons)

This chick ration is to be fed when milk is not available, however with plenty of milk a starting mash, tho desirable, is not essential. Feed cracked corn and wheat, mixed in equal parts, and sour skimmilk or buttermilk for a fairly well balanced ration. If wheat is not available, cracked corn as the only scratch grain will give satisfactory results. The chick feed should be given until the chicks are frying size and should then be changed to the laying mash. The chicks may be fed as soon as they are hatched, but it is best never to wait longer than 48 hours.

EAT OR CAN CULL HENS

During the summer and early fall at least 15 of the old hens should be eaten, supplying meat for 15 to 20 meals. Stew or bake the roosters in May or June, when thru saving hatching eggs. If you can not eat all of the cull hens you may can them for use later on. Should you desire information about canning chicken see your County or Home Demonstration Agent or write the College of Agriculture at Lexington for Extension Circular 220.