

# Producing Health Eggs for Fancy Trade

How "Creighton Brothers Health Eggs" Are Produced—How We Raise Our Chicks And Feed Our Layers—Sanitation Very Important On Our 8,000 Layer Farm—Food Value of Eggs Depends On What Is Fed.

By Hobart Creighton, Warsaw, Indiana

**E**IGHT years ago Russell and Hobart Creighton of Warsaw, Indiana, formed a partnership, and started in the poultry business. Russell had been a student at Purdue University, and Hobart had been teaching high school. We remodeled a hog house 30 by 120 feet into a house in which to start our young chicks. This house later became our first laying house.

Starting out in the spring with 2,800 White Leghorn chicks we placed 1,200 good pullets in the laying house in the fall. Hobart continued to teach school for a year and Russell took care of the chickens. The new venture proved quite profitable and the following year the capacity for laying stock was doubled, both boys giving their undivided attention to caring for the chickens. Russell is now superintendent of all of the operations on the farm while the general management is assumed by the elder brother, Hobart.

## Capacity 8,000 Layers

The business has grown in eight years to one of the largest of its kind in Indiana. Our capacity is now 8,000 layers, and of these we trapnest about 1,200 pedigreed birds. All of the birds from which we produce stock for our own farm are pedigreed. We are members of the Indiana Record of Performance Breeders Association. The hatchery turns out about 100,000 White Leghorns Chicks each season.

Each spring the brooder houses are scrubbed out with boiling water after which a fire gun is used to thoroughly disinfect them. The brooders are moved each year to new ground on which no chickens have been raised, and on which no poultry litter has been scattered. The chicks are put out under hard coal or electric brooders, about 350 chicks to the house. Ten by twelve and twelve by twelve houses are used. They are started out on an all mash feed containing plenty of dried milk, dehydrated alfalfa leaf meal, cod liver oil, and all of the other protective and necessary ingredients. They are kept on this feed with clean water to drink until they are four weeks old when cracked corn and



The Creighton boys, Hobart (right) and Russell, found poultry farming more profitable than school teaching. They started eight years ago and today they have one of the largest commercial poultry farms in Indiana.—The Editor.

wheat is added to the ration in separate feeders. They are given all of the grain they will eat, and the mash is still kept before them.

Cockerels are separated at an early age to give the pullets more room, and less trouble. All of the cockerels to be used as breeders on our farm and to be sold to other breeders and hatcherymen are isolated on another farm along the Tippecanoe river where they have abundant room, shade, and clean surroundings.

The pullets are housed at the age of about five months by which time they are coming into production. The birds are quite largely kept under confinement after they are once placed in the laying house. Exceptions are sometimes made to this rule in the case of breeding stock. Confinement of laying stock protects the birds from contamination from sources outside the house, keeps the eggs cleaner, and gives better production. It has a lot to do with the quality of the eggs, too. The birds are always

fed a good ration, one containing all of the protective ingredients mentioned in feeding the starting chicks.

## High Food Value of Eggs

It is very essential that the laying birds be fed a feed that contains all of the minerals and vitamins necessary. It not only keeps the birds in better condition but also produces eggs that carry a high food value. No egg can contain anything that is not in the feed. It has been definitely proven that the amount of vitamins in the eggs varies with the vitamin content of the feed used to produce the eggs. For this reason "Creighton Brothers Health Eggs" are produced from healthy hens that are fed a ration containing such ingredients as cod liver oil, dried milk, dehydrated alfalfa leaf meal, fish meal, potassium iodide, and yeast, which ordinarily are not found in laying rations.

There is no substitute for sanitation. The houses must be kept clean. Dropping boards are covered with netting so

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the feet of the birds are kept clean. Water founts must be scrubbed and fresh water must be available all times. We have fresh running water before all of the birds on our farm continuous stream of clear cool water makes it easy for the birds to drink plenty of water which is as essential for chickens as for other animals. We provide one nest for each five hens, except in the trapnest units where we have a nest for each two and one-half hens. Eggs are gathered frequently during the day, and are immediately taken to the basement of the house where they are cooled. After being cooled they are candled, graded and packed ready for shipment.

### How Eggs Are Sold

Most of the eggs on Creighton Brothers farm are shipped to Chicago and New York. Special trade in Chicago takes a lot of the eggs. They go to hotels, restaurants, and groceries in Chicago, and in New York they are shipped to regular receivers who then turn distribute them to fancy trade.

This farm is located in a poultry tract centering about Kosciusko County in Indiana, which is recognized as one of the best poultry counties in the midwest. As high as 5,000 cases of eggs are shipped from this county in a week. Several egg shipping organizations have come into existence so that eggs are going out of about five or six points in the county to New York City. Eggs are all shipped in car lots, and delivered to the various distributors in New York City by the trucking firm to whom the car is shipped. Each shipper marks the cases to the distributor to whom he wants his eggs delivered, and the following week gets his check direct from the New York receiver.

A firm has also been organized to take care of the feed and supply business of this territory supplying most of the large poultry farms in this vicinity. There are over 200 stockholders in this association and last year the company prepared and distributed over 12,000,000 pounds of poultry feed. The poultry business is certainly considered the backbone of agriculture in this county.

About all of the hatcherymen and larger poultrymen cooperate in all projects that are for the betterment of conditions that have to do with the poultry business, and there exists a spirit of fellowship among them all. All of these cooperative movements bring the producers closer together, and make it easy to put over any of the new ideas of value to poultrymen.

### Poultry Disease Service

Free folders covering diseases of chickens, turkeys, ducks and game birds can be had by writing J. C. Harrell, Manager, Sparco Laboratory, Drawer 8, Spartanburg, S. C. This laboratory also offers free laboratory diagnosis and information. Write them your troubles.