

They Made \$13,000 in Three Years

They Now Have Housing Capacity for 3600 Hens

AN IDEA, a hog house, and courage to venture into new fields brought success to the Creightons in the poultry world.

But let us leave success to see the dark side that preceded it, for the path leading to it is not rosy, but at the same time not thorny enough to be discouraging.

Ten years of teaching in rural, grade and high schools alternated somewhat with a year at the Indiana State University, a short term at Purdue, and some time in the army led to poultry, but not directly.

There was a 38-acre tract, part of the old Creighton homestead, waiting to be farmed, so Hobart, the elder of the two brothers with whom this article is concerned, decided to raise hogs. His father, now retired from farming, had done well with hogs; so it was logical for the son to build a 30 by 120 hog house and proceed. The younger Creighton, Russell, took active charge of the hog farm while Hobart, the elder, taught school to help finance it.

"When the bottom went out of the hog market I went with it," Hobart remarked in way of summing up the hog episode.

Staked All on Poultry

The boys stuck their heads together and decided to try poultry. Hobart was to continue teaching while Russell started poultry, and on that basis a partnership was formed. Hobart, who owned the farm, furnished that while Russell stuck his meager savings into it.

A survey of the situation revealed that the old hog house could readily be converted into a laying house. The farrowing pens were ripped out, dropping boards and roosts were installed and the house was made ready.

During the winter of 1924-25, three thousand White Leghorn chicks were ordered for spring delivery. At the same time, ten coal brooders were bought and set up in the hog house, for it was necessary to save, and anyway the house was not needed until the pullets were ready to go in for the winter.

Only 2,800 chicks arrived, however, on the set date; so only nine stoves were used.

"All went well, especially well in view of our inexperience," declares the elder Creighton.

"It was tough sledding that summer.

By L. M. KLEVAY



Hobart Creighton

Russell Creighton

Coal cost money, feed cost money, and there was nothing coming in.

"A four-acre potato patch and good potato prices saved the day for us," Hobart reminisced. "We were lucky, for that was not planned," he added.

1,200 Pullets Housed

Twelve hundred pullets were put in the house for the winter. "We put in everything and kept all of them in all winter for we knew nothing about culling," Hobart admitted rather shamefacedly. But luck and foresight in making the chick purchase from a good man came to the rescue. In spite of the lack of culling the flock averaged 190.2 eggs per bird for the year.

This is a remarkable record for any flock, but for a flock of 1,200 uncultured pullets, it is simply marvelous. I saw the records, merely written on the wall of that house daily, not a good record system, but significant in its meaning, and I saw how these 1,200 birds laid in the neighborhood of 20,000 eggs each month of the year. Some months less; other months more, going as high as 22,000 in the spring.

"How did you do it?" I asked, and got the frank reply, "Don't know exactly. We mixed our own mash, putting in 20 per cent meat scraps, but in addition to that we fed all the skimmilk they would take. Perhaps the milk did it."

House of Unique Style

The hog house proved so satisfactory that the following year another one just like it was built, and this year a third was added. Part of this year's crop of birds was raised in the new laying house, part in 12 by 12 portable brooder houses that were built the second year. The capacity of the farm now is 3,600 layers. More brooder houses will be built to raise chicks next spring.

Recognizing their lack of poultry training the young men settled down to learn more about it. Russell had spent a year at Purdue in the agricultural course and learned something about poultry, but now they both

study extension courses and all available poultry literature. One of them manages to get away to poultry conventions and short courses given at Purdue poultry department.

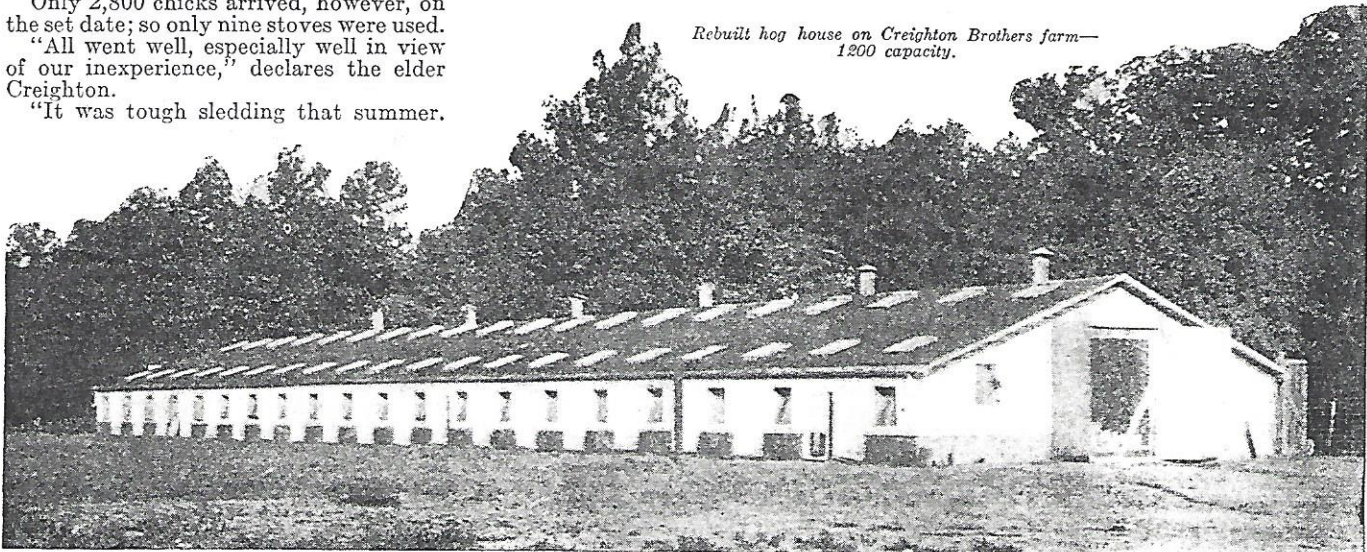
Splendid Chicago Market

Hobart seems to be the manager of business affairs. It was he who went to Chicago to find a market for the eggs. He seems to have found several, some wholesale, others grocery stores, that pay enough to make shipping more than worthwhile. Some of the eggs are shipped to New York through a cooperative egg shipping association of the county.

Any old market is not good enough for the Creightons. They study prices, demand, and conditions and dispose of their products wisely. Broilers and market hens are shipped wherever prices are best. Sometimes Chicago, sometimes Cleveland, then again home markets are used, but always the *final net* price determines where sales are made.

Poultry struck a popular chord in the Creightons. They like the work and are, therefore, making a go of it. Starting from practically scratch in 1925 they have grown to 3,600 hen capacity with an estimated investment of \$13,000. Successful? Yes! but they are looking forward to even greater achievements.

Rebuilt hog house on Creighton Brothers farm—
1200 capacity.



Cash Receipts

1926	Name of account Credited	L.F.		
May 1	Balance			89.
6	Eggs	22	169 13	
6	White City Egg Farm	26	11 00	
6	Trucking Expense - we Eggs	27	2 00	
12	Eggs	22	83 85	
13	Trucking Expense	27	2 00	
13	Eggs 115.87 OK	22	56 80	
20	Eggs	✓ 22	142 60	✓
26	Eggs Trading acct	✓ 38	46 50	✓
27	Eggs 142.60 Eggs Trading acct 11408	✓ 38	256 68	✓
27	Trucking Exp hauling eggs	✓ 27	1 20	✓
June 5	Eggs	✓ 22	723 60	✓ 4
5	Eggs Trading acct	✓ 38	114 08	✓ ✓
9	Eggs	✓ 22	65 92	✓ 4
	Eggs Trading acct Receipts			
	Cash Deficit			107534 5580

70 -1
70
4915
140

Dec 7 Fred Decker ^{bu} 55-30# - 77# to bu
13 " " 5055 net.
27 " " 4530 net.