HATCHING AND REARING OF CHICKS

By W. E. VAPON

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Hatching and Rearing of Chicks
(By W. E. VAPLON, State Leader Boys' and Girls' Clubs, Colorado Agricultural College, Fort Collins, Colorado)

Origin of Domestic Fowl

According to some investigators, all modern breeds of fowls are the offspring of a common ancestor, and the claim is generally made that the jungle fowl of India is that ancestor. Others claim that some of the larger breeds of fowls, such as the Brahmans and Cochins have different ancestors than the smaller breeds. We know, however, that the breeds and varieties with which we are most familiar have been produced by careful selection and breeding, and that the size of our fowls has been greatly increased by these means and by good care. Even the jungle fowl, which weighs about three pounds in the wild state, increases much in size under domestication.

Pair of Jungle Fowl. Courtesy of H. R. Lewis

Classes of Poultry

Fowls are divided into CLASSES because of a common place of origin and because of common points of character or traits. Only four of the ten or more classes will be dealt with here, Asiatic, English, American and Mediterranean.
Breeds of Poultry

There are many breeds of poultry but only about nine which are popular and profitable enough to be well known. In the nine breeds, there are about fourteen varieties well known to most people.

A breed of fowls is a race or family of fowls, possessing in common a distinctive SHAPE or TYPE. A fowl is recognized as belonging to a certain BREED because of its SHAPE, and not because of its color. Some Shorthorns are red, some white, some mixed in color, but the same shape characters brand the animal as being of the Shorthorn breed; also in fowls, shape makes the breed; some may be white, others buff, others barred, but if all have the peculiar and decided shape of body, head and comb, all are of the same BREED. COLOR decides the VARIETY to which a fowl belongs. A barred Plymouth Rock is a variety of the Plymouth Rock breed; a white Plymouth Rock is another variety of the Plymouth Rock breed, and so on.

Breeds of the Asiatic class of fowls have been likened to the meat breeds of cattle; breeds of the American class of fowls may be likened to the general or dual purpose breeds of cattle. Breeds
of the Mediterranean class, because of size, shape and production may be likened to the dairy breeds of cattle. The milking strain of Shorthorns, a type of Shorthorns bred as much for milk production as for meat production, is very popular where both products are wanted. Perhaps this two-purpose Shorthorn takes the same place in the cow family that the American class of fowls fills in the hen family.

![Image of Hen Type Compared to Cow Type]

**Asiatic Class.**—In the Asiatic class are grouped the Brahmas, Cochins and Langshans. The Asiatics have feathered legs, though the Langshans are not as heavily feathered as the Brahmas and Cochins. They probably originated in China, hence the term Asiatics. They were imported to this country about the middle of the last century and have been greatly improved in size and appearance by American breeders. The Cochins have been with us about as long as have the Brahmas and both breeds have been used in making our American breeds. The Light Brahmas, the Buff Cochins
and the Black Langshans are the best known varieties of these breeds, although there are several other varieties of the three breeds. They lay rich-colored brown eggs and some individuals have good records as layers.

The weights of the Asiatics are as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Cock</th>
<th>Hen</th>
<th>Cockerel</th>
<th>Pullet</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Brahma</td>
<td>12 lbs.</td>
<td>9 1/2 lbs.</td>
<td>10 lbs.</td>
<td>8 lbs.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cochin</td>
<td>11 lbs.</td>
<td>9 1/2 lbs.</td>
<td>9 lbs.</td>
<td>7 lbs.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Langshan</td>
<td>9 1/2 lbs.</td>
<td>7 1/2 lbs.</td>
<td>8 lbs.</td>
<td>6 1/2 lbs.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

A Light Brahma Hen. Courtesy of Poultry Culture. Dr. B. F. Kaupp

The Asiatics have not proven popular as commercial fowls, chiefly because the growing season is short and very early hatching is costly, and unless Asiatics are hatched very early they will not mature to laying age at the time eggs are highest in price. They do not make desirable broilers because at broiler age they are not plump and full, and the roaster market has not been sufficiently developed to warrant growing poultry flesh except where a high class retail trade is built up.

English Class.—Of the second class mentioned, the English, only the Orpingtons will be considered here. The buff and white
varieties of the Orpington breed or family have become very popular in our country. They are generally good layers, have a blocky body and make good broilers. There is less objection to the white skin of the Orpington than formerly.

*American Class.*—The Plymouth Rocks, Wyandottes and Rhode Island Reds are in the American class. The names would suggest this. The Barred Plymouth Rocks were first known about 1869 and are the first American-made variety. A cross between white and black fowls was used in making the Barred Plymouth Rocks; they are probably the most popular fowls in America today.

The weights of the three breeds are as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Breed</th>
<th>Cock</th>
<th>Hen</th>
<th>Cockerel</th>
<th>Pullet</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Plymouth Rocks</td>
<td>9 1/2</td>
<td>7 1/2</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wyandottes</td>
<td>8 1/2</td>
<td>6 1/2</td>
<td>7 1/2</td>
<td>5 1/2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>R. I. Reds</td>
<td>8 1/2</td>
<td>6 1/2</td>
<td>7 1/2</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Fowls of the American class are called general purpose fowls because they so well answer the purpose where both eggs and meat are required in profitable quantity. As the name suggests, there is but one color of Rhode Island Reds, but there are two varieties, the distinguishing feature being the comb, one variety having a single comb like the Plymouth Rocks, the other variety having a rose comb like the Wyandottes.
The Plymouth Rock hen is oblong in shape; the Wyandotte hen would almost fill a circle leaving her head and tail outside the circle; the Rhode Island Red hen is shaped like a Plymouth Rock hen but is a little longer in proportion to her size.

White Plymouth Rock Hen

While the Wyandottes are about a pound less in weight than the Plymouth Rocks and have round, blocky bodies, sometimes a White Wyandotte hen looks very much like a White Plymouth Rock hen; but there is always this distinguishing feature, the Wyandotte has a rose comb, and the Plymouth Rock has a single comb.

Types of Combs. (1) Rose Comb. (2) Pea Comb. (3) Single Comb.

Fowls of this class most commonly chosen for the farm are: of the Plymouth Rocks, the barred variety; of the Wyandottes, the white variety; of the Rhode Island Reds, the single-comb variety. Hens of the American class lay brown eggs.

The Mediterranean Class.—The home of the fowls in the fourth class is told in the name. Minorcas, Leghorns, Spanish, Andalusians and Anconas are called Mediterraneans because they came from countries bordering on the Mediterranean Sea. Of these the Leghorns are best known, and the white variety of Leghorns is the most popular. The Mediterraneans are called
“egg breeds” and “egg machines”. They are usually chosen where egg production is the chief purpose of raising fowls, and where the production of meat is no object. The Jersey cow and the Leghorn hen are both lean in appearance; both are active, small, and energetic; both have been bred and selected for generations for a definite purpose; both are capable of turning into a finished product a large amount of raw material at a good profit. Both the Jersey cow and the Leghorn hen are wedge-shaped, smaller in the fore part, larger behind; neither is given to laying on fat or making flesh but make all surplus feed into milk or eggs. Hens of the Mediterranean class lay white eggs.

Choosing a Breed

In choosing a breed for commercial purposes, one should forget personal likes or dislikes. Market requirements should be considered. Sometimes a white egg brings more on the market than a brown one. Sometimes it is the other way. Especially if one is supplying a retail trade, should the likes and dislikes of the trade be considered. If a family trade, which requires eggs, broilers and roasters, is being supplied, it would be unwise to select either the Asiatics or Mediterraneans as the stock; the choice should be made from the American class. If an egg trade is to be built up and there is no desire to produce meat for the market, then the Mediterranean class would be the logical choice, as the smaller hen has proven herself the most economical producer of eggs. The Leghorn broiler, weighing three-quarters of a pound to a pound and a half, when well finished, brings the top price on the market, but for meat production generally, they are not profitable.

A farmer plows shallow or deep, in fall or spring, for a PURPOSE. He plants broadcast or in rows, heavy or light, for a PURPOSE. He keeps, or should keep cows for a definite PURPOSE; and in the choice of fowls the DEFINITE PURPOSE should never be lost sight of. If hens are bred for a certain purpose, definitely and consistently, they will respond with results. If the purpose in raising poultry be size and shape of body or color of plumage, these may be had by careful selection and breeding; if the desire be to produce eggs in the greatest number or fowls for the market at the least cost, then selection and breeding for these purposes must be carefully practiced. However, the greatest success along both these lines cannot be attained in the same individual fowl.

Hatching the Chickens

Natural Incubation.—By natural incubation is meant the hatching of eggs by means of the hen, nature’s own way. There
are three important factors to be considered in natural incubation, none of which may be slighted if good results are desired. These factors are the HEN, the EGGS and the NEST. An excitable hen usually spoils the hatch; eggs of poor fertility mean a small hatch or weak chicks; a deep nest, or a hard nest, means broken eggs, and a dirty nest means lice and disease.

The Hen.—The Asiatics are persistent sitters, but their weight and clumsiness cause more or less loss of eggs by breaking. There is also some objection to them as mothers for the same reason. The Mediterraneans are sometimes called non-sitters, as they are not much inclined to become broody, especially in the spring months when the chicks are most wanted. During the hot summer months they make good sitters, and as mothers they are unexcelled. The American breeds, the fowls of medium weight, are the best sitters. They are not heavy enough to be clumsy, usually stick to the nest when they become broody and are easily handled.

A hen should not be removed to the hatching nest until she has shown signs of broodiness for at least two or three days. Hens break up more easily in the early part of the season than during summer weather. At the first signs of broodiness, the hen should be dusted with lice powder. The powder should be sprinkled thoroughly over every part of her body to the skin. The hen should then be turned loose to return to her old nest of her own free will. When removed to the hatching nest, she should be examined for lice; when lice are present, they can be easily seen by quickly parting the feathers, especially on the lower parts of the body. About a week before the eggs hatch, the hen should receive a second powdering. A bathing place made of loose soil should be provided for the sitting hen. When this is done a second powdering is seldom necessary. Often when hens break up after being placed on eggs, it is because of insect pests such as body lice, or the bloodsucking mites or bedbugs which hide in the nest.

Sitting hens that are kept closely confined should be provided with plenty of feed and fresh water. Corn, milo or kafir are the best grain feeds. If some of the feed is scattered in litter to induce exercise, it is much better for the hen. However, she should not be obliged to remain off the nest too long in cold weather and should always be able to find plenty of feed easily. Not much of a variety need be given, but a few greens, or some vegetables are good.

If the hen is a little restless at being changed to the hatching nest, she should be fastened in for the first day. It is usually better to change her at night. In the morning she should be lifted from the nest and should be replaced after eating. If she stays on the nest, the second night the hatching eggs may be given her.
The first day a few nest eggs or other eggs may be given her. From the time she is given the hatching eggs until all the chickens are hatched, she should be left alone as much as possible.

The Hatching Eggs.—One of the discouraging phases of poultry raising is the poor hatching of eggs. It is estimated that not one-half of the eggs placed under hens hatch and many reasons are given why this is so. It would be rather a difficult task to find any unhatched eggs after hatching time in the nests of wild birds, and yet many wild birds' nests are poorly built, some only of sticks, allowing the wind to blow through them and the rain to beat into them. Whether the nests are built in trees or on the ground, the eggs of wild birds hatch well when not disturbed. There may be no rain or much rain during the time of incubation, no wind or much wind, still the hatch is usually good. Trying to regulate the amount of disturbance by sprinkling the eggs which are given to the hen, or trying to provide the right amount of “airing” by keeping the hen off the eggs for a certain time daily, may do more harm than good.

A doctor of medicine can by examination usually tell of what disease a patient is suffering, but no one can positively tell why eggs do not hatch, or why weaklings or cripples are hatched. Too many eggs set under a hen in cold weather may be the cause of a poor hatch or weak chicks. A foul nest, causing the eggs to become dirty, may spoil the hatch. Eggs becoming chilled, especially during the first few days of the hatching period, may be the cause of poor hatching. Sometimes a hen becomes sick while on the nest, but this is not likely to occur if she is well fed and kept clean of insects.
Probably the chief cause of poor hatches is the condition of
the stock furnishing the eggs. Lice and mites may be sapping the
vitality of the breeding stock. On the farm the stock may be able
to find a variety of feed and plenty of exercise, but in yards greens
and exercise are often lacking, which may harm the hatch. Some
of the stock may be young and undeveloped; the old hens may be
out of condition by reason of over-feeding and lack of care, or
when good care has been given them, may have been forced to lay
heavily for months previous to the hatching season. Good, vigorous
stock which has been given plenty of exercise and a variety of feed
will usually produce eggs of strong vitality. This is the reason that
farm flocks furnish better hatching eggs than do flocks kept in
small yards even though those kept confined may get better care.

Setting Nests

The Nest.—The nest should be from 12 inches to 14 inches
square, depending upon the size of the hen. It should be in a
quiet place. It may be made on the floor or on shelves or in boxes
along the wall. It should be made so the hens can walk into it, not
jump into it. The excelsior, straw or hay used in the nest should
be dry and clean. Old nest boxes should be sprayed or painted
thoroughly with sheep-dip, zenoleum, creolin, coal oil, white wash
or any lice remedy. Grocery boxes or orange boxes make
good nests and can be destroyed after hatching time. thus
destroying whatever insects may be hidden in them. Plenty of nesting material should be used but the nest should not be made deep. The nest should be concave and shallow so the eggs do not pile up. If the nest becomes soiled, clean nesting material should be furnished.

Healthy hens, plus clean nests, plus good feed, plus fresh water, plus earth bath, plus fertile eggs, minus mites and lice, minus filth, minus fussing, equal a good hatch.

**Hatching Time**

The TIME of hatching is a big factor in determining the profits of the business. For early-laying pullets, for broilers that will bring high prices, for exhibition stock for fall fairs and also for winter poultry shows, chicks should be hatched at proper times. It takes ten to twelve weeks to produce a broiler; a pullet will not lay before she is six to eight months old except in individual cases. The nearer she is to that age the better will she appear in the show room. All this means early hatching. March and April are probably the best months. Chickens of the larger breeds should be hatched a little earlier than those of the smaller breeds. A chicken hatched early in March will sell when broilers are high, in late May and early June. A pullet of the American breeds hatched in March or April will lay when eggs are highest in price, in November, December and January. Chickens hatched in these months will not be matured by the time of the early fairs, but will be well feathered and large enough to make a good showing.

Mediterranean breeds may be hatched a month later than American breeds for early winter laying, for high priced broilers they must be hatched as early.

Early hatching, plus warmth, plus cleanliness, plus good feed, plus clean milk and water, plus exercise equal high-priced broilers and early layers.

**Sanitation**

The definition of sanitation is, “The Preservation of Health”. A motto which is well to remember is, “An ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure”. Well hatched, vigorous, well cared for chicks seldom require doctoring. The mother hen should be kept clean of lice. The brood coop should be sprayed or whitewashed before using. The hen should be kept in the coop during the first two or three weeks, the chicks may run out. Chilling is fatal to young chicks, and the hen is likely to neglect brooding them when they are chilled if she is running at large. The coop floor should be covered with earth and straw. The sun will help to keep this
dry. Clean feed troughs, clean water dishes, clean feed and clean water, are easily supplied and easily forgotten.

Clean surroundings are important. If chicks have free range, the coops should be changed to new ground often. If chicks are kept in small yards, a portion of the yard should be spaded up often. Green feed and sour milk are means of sanitation. Chicks grow rapidly and soon require more room. Crowding in small coops is not sanitary.

Shady places should be provided and these places should be kept clean to preserve health. Spading or plowing up places where chicks gather frequently, is good sanitation.

Warmth, plus sunshine, plus shade, plus clean feed, plus clean water, plus green feed, plus milk, plus exercise, plus clean surroundings, minus mites, minus lice, minus crowding, equal strong chicks.

**Chick Diseases**

Whenever chicks appear to be sick, the first thing to do is to look for lice on their bodies and on the hen. Moldy grain, foul drinking water, spoiled meat, chilling of the chicks, may cause looseness of the bowels. Prevention is better than cure. The cause should be removed. Warmth, scalded milk or boiled rice may help in case of diarrhoea. A dose of epsom salts, at the rate of one teaspoonful to ten or twenty chicks is a good medicine. Sick chickens should be removed from the brood.

**Roup.**—The disease which causes the most loss among larger chicks is roup. Roup is a germ disease and naturally gets a hold upon the weaklings first. Runts and weaklings should never be permitted to live, at least not with the flock. The very best and strongest of the flock may become temporarily weakened or out of condition because of neglect, insects, or bad weather, which may cause them to take cold. Then is the time the roup germ can get in its work and the poultryman must pay heavily for having kept the weaklings in the flock.

Swollen heads, a bad smelling discharge from the nostrils, coughing and wheezing are symptoms of roup. A solution of one part zenoleum or other coal tar preparation, and five parts water is sometimes a help in case of roup. The head of the chick should be held in the solution, causing it to choke and strangle. This will cleanse and disinfect the nostrils and throat. Roup is contagious. In bad cases, when eyes are closed and the odor and discharge from
the nostrils are very bad, the chickens should be destroyed. The bodies should be buried or burned.

**Chicken Pox.**—This is a contagious disease, causing sores on the face and comb. It is a disease not very common in Colorado.

**Parasites**

There are two common varieties of lice found on domestic poultry. The large louse found on the heads of baby chicks can be controlled by greasing. A very small amount of lard or vaseline rubbed into the down on the top of the chick's head will kill these lice. The body louse, so common on grown fowls is generally controlled by means of the earth or dust bath. Chicks should be examined for lice frequently until they are old enough to cleanse themselves in the earth bath.

Lice and mites sap the strength of chicks. When weakened they are not able to resist disease germs. Crowding them in small quarters and then turning them out on cold, wet mornings often causes colds. Chicks should be kept indoors during wet, cold weather and when the wind is cold and piercing. When kept in, exercise should be furnished by scattering the grain in clean litter.

A sitting hen kept free from lice will mean liceless chicks. Probably lice cause more loss among little chicks than any other one thing.

**Feeds**

The composition of a growing pullet’s body is as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Component</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Water</td>
<td>55.5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Crude protein</td>
<td>21.2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fat</td>
<td>19.9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ash</td>
<td>3.4%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Chicks on range can usually find the things that are needed to build up strong bodies. Chicks penned up must be furnished a variety of feed in order to develop properly. While only part of the food eaten by the chicks is digestible and therefore usable in building up the body, that portion which is indigestible has a service to perform.

The safest rule in feeding chicks that are kept penned, is to furnish as much of a variety of feed as possible. They should have all the bulky feed, such as vegetables, grass, or alfalfa they will eat, and some form of animal food, such as beef scrap, fresh ground bone, or milk. On free range, a large variety need not be furnished because the chicks find worms, bugs, and grasshoppers to take the place of beef scrap and ground bone. Sour milk or buttermilk should always be furnished when possible. Waste grain
and seeds furnish a variety, and of course green feed is found in abundance.

The protein in the feed goes to make flesh, muscle, feathers, blood, etc. For this reason feeds which contain a large amount of protein are valuable for growing chicks. The carbohydrate portions of the feed go to produce heat and energy.

One reason fowls are so valuable on the farm is that they make such good use of waste material. "A penny saved is a penny earned." As far as possible, home-raised feeds should be used, as profits depend largely on the cost of raising chicks to marketable or to laying age, and on the cost of producing eggs.

Water Pans

Tin cans and lard pails make good water dishes. Two holes in the can just below the level of the top of the pan permit the water to flow out gradually.

Many good things recommended for chickens are very costly, such as oatmeal, green cut bone, etc. A good substitute for oatmeal is ground oats as it is bought at the mill; the hulls sifted out can be fed to the grown fowls, pigs or other stock. Skim milk, sour milk, or butter milk are good substitutes for fresh cut bone and usually cost much less.

A GOOD RATION

\[
\begin{align*}
\text{Cracked corn} & \quad 4 \text{ pounds} \\
\text{Cracked wheat} & \quad 4 \text{ pounds} \\
\text{Oatmeal} & \quad 1 \text{ pound}
\end{align*}
\]

This should be thoroughly mixed and fed in fine chaff or litter so the chicks will have to dig it out. A separate feeding place should be provided so the larger fowls will not rob the chicks. After feeding a few times, one will learn how much to feed, by digging into the litter to see how much remains after the chicks finish their meal.

MIXTURE FOR MASH

\[
\begin{align*}
4 \text{ parts bran} \\
2 \text{ parts fine corn chop} \\
2 \text{ parts sifted ground oats} \\
2 \text{ parts middlings}
\end{align*}
\]
The above should be measured and thoroughly mixed. Ground oats and middlings may be hard to obtain and may be left out, although one or the other should be used if possible. This mixture, thoroughly moistened with milk or water, should be fed once a day. The same mixture made into johnny cake and baked in the oven offers variety; this should be fed in pieces allowing the chicks to pick at it at will.

Feed Trough for Small Chicks. Courtesy of A. G. Phillips, Indiana Agricultural College

One-half inch mesh hardware cloth placed in the trough prevents chicks scratching out the mash.

Greens.—Vegetable matter is easily furnished during the summer. There is no danger of overfeeding greens, but they should be furnished fresh and crisp daily if chicks are penned up.

GOOD MEDICINE

- Fresh water
- Milk, any kind
- Cleanliness; of body and surroundings
- Greens; lawn clippings, alfalfa, vegetables
- Fresh earth for the bath
- Shade
- Sunshine
- Exercise

Broken beans and peas, sunflower seed, kafir, milo and ground barley are all valuable feeds, and may be used in addition to the other feeds mentioned, or as substitutes.
Coops

This coop is 2 feet square. The open end being low, prevents rain beating in. No cover for the front is needed. There are no hinges. The loose board acting as a cover is the door. Cleaning is made easier work through this opening than through a door in the side. The slide in the side can be opened slightly for the chicks to pass through, or wider for the hen.

Brood Coop

Brood Coop With Yard
Courtesy of Poultry Culture. Dr. B. F. Kaupp

Feed troughs, water dishes, nests, coops or any appliance or fixture about the poultry yards or buildings should be made so as to be easy to clean and handle. The coops and appliances shown on these pages can be made at home and are as practical as any that can be bought. Dry goods boxes make good material for making chick feed troughs, small coops and nests.
HATCHING AND REARING OF CHICKS

Exhibiting Poultry

Too little care is given by poultry exhibitors to the condition of the exhibition coop. The coop should be clean, freshly painted, and when cloth covered, the cloth should be clean and bright. The entire coop, rods, frame and cloth, should be of the same color. The color of the coop should be a contrast to the color of the plumage of the fowl. For instance, a white fowl, or one having white in its plumage, should never be shown in a white coop. A blue coop offers a sharp contrast to white plumage and brings out every line and curve of the fowl and causes the plumage to appear whiter. There is no color of coop more suited to all the colors of plumage of poultry than robin's-egg blue, although a better color may be found for certain individual colors of plumage.

Keeping Accounts

Only he who practices business methods may hope to succeed in poultry raising. The business of producing eggs and meat for market may be called a manufacturing enterprise. The manufacturer must know how to buy his raw materials at the best possible price, and how to sell his finished product at the best possible price. He must also know how to turn the raw materials into the finished product at a price which will insure a profit.

When books show a loss, the matter can often be remedied by a careful study of the business. Perhaps feed has cost too much or has been wasted; perhaps too much time has been given to the work; perhaps the best market has not been found; perhaps the eggs and poultry have not been of high grade and have been sold at too low a price to be profitable. Only by keeping records is it possible to know whether or not the business is paying what it should.

Things to Remember

That early hatching equals high-priced broilers.
That early hatching equals early-laying pullets.
That chilled chicks mean weak chicks.
That weak chicks mean sick chicks.
That lice and mites on the chicks mean dead chicks.
That greens, clean water and milk are better than medicine.
That weaklings and runts mean loss.
That sunshine and shade are friends of the chicks.
To keep books, to count the cost, to know what it costs to produce the egg, the chick, the broiler and the laying pullet.
To study the market, to sell when and where the price is best.
Boys' and Girls' Poultry Clubs

The purpose of the poultry club work is to encourage poultry raising on a larger scale, especially on the farm, because the people of our state are not raising enough poultry for their own use. Every year Colorado sends away about $2.00 for eggs and poultry for each of her inhabitants. More boys and girls should know how to properly manage poultry; it will help them to make money while attending school, and will help to make Colorado more prosperous.

First Year Club Work

The first-year work will be the raising of baby chicks. Members may hatch as many as they like; they must keep records of the cost of feed, the weight of their chicks at two and at four months of age; they must make an exhibit of their chicks at some place which will be selected by the county leaders; when called for, they must write a story of the work done with their chickens. Record blanks will be furnished.

Second Year Club Work

Those members of the First Year Poultry Club, whose work has been satisfactory, or boys and girls 14 years of age or older, may take up the second-year work.
The work of the Second Year Poultry Club will be the care of the entire home flock. Extension Bulletin No. 110, "Poultry for Profit", will explain fully the nature of the Second Year Poultry Club work.

**Basis of Awards**

The character of the work done by poultry club members will be shown by their stories and records. Grading will be as follows:

- Making an exhibit (of chickens) ................. 20%  
- Keeping of Records (of numbers hatched, feed, cost, etc.) .. 40%  
- Written Story (How I did my work) ................. 40%  

100%

**Constitution**

**Name.**—This club shall be known as the............................................Poultry Club.

**Purpose.**—The purpose of the club shall be (1) To obtain a better understanding of the profits in poultry raising; (2) To learn better methods of housing, feeding and rearing of poultry; (3) To determine better and more direct methods of marketing poultry products; (4) To develop and stimulate social activities.

**Membership.**—Any boy or girl between 10 and 18 years of age, inclusive, may become a member of the club by signing the membership roll.

**Dues.**—Members shall pay no dues except such as may be mutually agreed upon. If dues are assessed they shall be used for club purposes only.

**Duties.**—Each member must study the lessons received from the State Agricultural College, attend meetings of the club regularly and promptly, when possible, furnish reports of work as requested, and obey all instructions given by the leaders.

**Officers.**—The officers of the club shall be a President, Vice-President and Secretary.

**Exhibits.**—At a time to be determined by the leaders, members will be expected to show the results of the season's work at a local or at the county fair; proper instruction will be given each member and prizes may be furnished by the local community or fair association.
By-Laws

1. The President shall preside at all meetings.

2. The Secretary shall keep a record of the names of all members, a record of the proceedings at meetings, and shall attend to all correspondence of the members with the County and State Leaders.

3. A Local Leader, the teacher or other interested person, shall be appointed by the County Leader to aid the President and Secretary in their official duties.

4. This club shall hold meetings of each month. The officers may call such extra meetings as shall be deemed necessary.

5. In connection with the meetings, the club shall entertain the parents and friends of the members with a special program consisting of readings, music, discussion of club matter, lectures by the County Leader or others.