

# EFFECT OF METHOD OF REARING S. C. WHITE LEGHORN CHICKS UPON RATE OF GROWTH, FEED EFFICIENCY AND MORTALITY<sup>1</sup>

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Several methods of raising chicks are used by the poultry industry for the production of broilers and pullets.

The more common methods are: (1) rearing chicks in confinement in cages, or in brooder houses on wire, wood, concrete or dirt floors; (2) rearing chicks in brooder houses on wire, wood, concrete or dirt floors, with either limited or free range. Either method or a combination of methods is used by poultrymen.

Information on the applicability of various rearing methods to Florida conditions should be of value to poultrymen.

In this bulletin the comparative results of 4 methods of brooding and rearing will be presented from the standpoint of rate of growth of chicks, efficiency of feed utilization and incidence of mortality of Single Comb White Leghorns.

The experiment was conducted at the West Central Florida Experiment Station, Brooksville, Florida.

## REVIEW OF LITERATURE

Charles and Knandel (3)<sup>4</sup> reported that chicks raised in confinement on an all-mash diet to 16 weeks of age consumed an

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<sup>4</sup> Italic figures in parentheses refer to "Literature Cited" in the back of this bulletin.