

Poultry Raising—Profitable Industry for Florida

No Expensive Housing Required—Green Stuff Available Entire Year—Always a Good Market Within Borders of State

By A. W. POTTER, Staff Correspondent

Perhaps nowhere in the United States can poultry raising be made as easy and as cheap as in South Florida. With its warm winter and its not overheated summer, one does not need to build such houses as are necessary in the cold North. Hens lay as well for the same or less care; eggs are higher in price; broilers and capons sell for better prices than in the North; and even with bought feed, the profits are higher than North. As soon as home grown feed is assured, then profits will increase. We have tried milo maize and kaffir corn with good results; at least, we would have had a good crop if the birds had not "got there first." The problem of black-birds will solve itself as the country becomes more settled and there are more people to help take care of them.

We have tried sweet "mule feed" (cut alfalfa mixed with cracked corn, etc., and sweetened with molasses) and found that this, mixed with equal parts of middlings, or bran, with some meat meal and charcoal, gave a mash which was eaten up clean and with relish. Our feed was the above mash in the morning with scratch feed at night. We gave them plenty of green stuff—lettuce, turnip tops, Swiss chard, cabbage, etc. Our hens continued laying during what seemed to be with the neighbors the "off season."

Open Houses

One great thing about the poultry here is the cheap open houses which need only be built. A good shelter overhead, with side walls (full on the east, and half full on the south and north and open on the west) is all that is needed. Put the roosts high so that the rooster cannot stand erect; then you will never be annoyed with his crowing during the night or early in the morning.

If there is no sand in the yard it will pay to cart in some, as chickens like to scratch in sand and bury themselves in it to dust themselves and thus kill the lice. We feed the scratch feed by scattering it around widely on the sand. As soon as it is light in the morning—or even during the night on moonlight nights—the whole flock will be out hunting over last night's feeding ground for stray kernels.

Capons

With spring chickens at 40 cents a pound, and capons at 25 to 35 cents, it will pay well to cater to both these markets. If the incubator is started in October, the broilers will be ready for the January and February hotel trade and the chicks have the cool season for growing.

Caponizing is easy to learn and when well conducted will give good sized birds (from 8 to 12 pounds) in five or six months. These will bring from 25 to 35 cents a pound. Capons weigh twice as much as the cockerel of the same age and will bring twice the price.

One poultry man had 100 cockerels for which he could have received \$20. He caponized them and sold them in a few months for over \$200. The cost of the extra feed was little compared with the gain.

As more than one-half of a hatch is males, caponizing will be of great gain to the poultryman. And caponizing is not hard on the bird. A cockerel seldom, if ever, complains during the operation, and he will go to feeding as soon as through, without the least discomfort.

With a good book of instructions and (what is more necessary) a good set of instruments, anyone can learn to caponize, and have very few "slips."

A Year's Record

With 22 hens and two roosters our laying record for the year 1913 was as follows:

January, 202; February, 406; March, 444; April, 423; May, 370; June, 188; July, 270; August, 196; September, 177; October, 180; November, 202; December, 143. Total, 3,201, or an average of 160 for each hen. We did not use trap nests, as the extra labor involved could be spent to better advantage on the farm. Time on growing crops is worth more than half a dozen lazy hens. They should all be eaten, anyway, in two years.

Our stock is White Leghorns and Buff Orpingtons.

Hen Account DEBIT.

Cost of feed.....	\$ 33.05
CREDIT.	
3,201 eggs (267 doz.), at average price of 40c doz.....	\$106.80
Sold 6 broilers at 80c.....	4.80
Value of 13 chicks raised at 50c.....	6.50
Three hens sold at \$1.50.....	4.50
Total	\$122.60
Balance profit	89.55
Or \$4.07 per hen.	

This statement is not given to show what is a good record, but merely to show what everyone ought to do and can do, for our chickens have not had any special care. On an ordinary farm if there is one thing above another which is neglected it is the chickens. In this statement we have, of course, charged ourselves up with all eggs eaten at the regular price, as we could have readily sold them all at the average price given.

No Such Troubles Here

It makes a Floridian smile when he reads in the poultry magazines such headings as these:

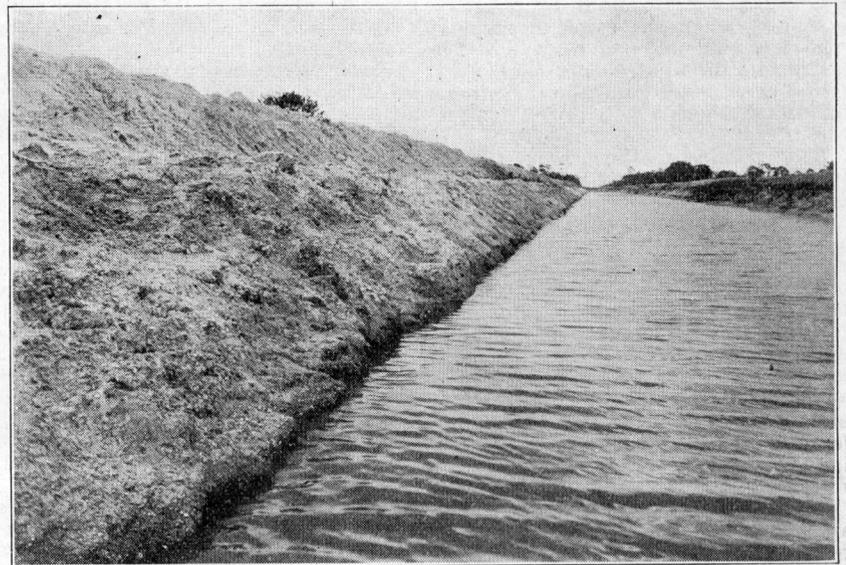
- Winter Precautions.
 - Warm Houses.
 - Winter Feeding.
 - Hot Mashies.
 - Warm Drinking Water.
 - Colds.
 - Frozen Combs.
 - Ventilation, etc.
- Our advice for the cure of all these

Indian River Farms Company Demonstration Farm in Charge of Mr. Fred Mueller

Mr. Mueller, who has recently resigned as Head Gardener of the Washington University of St. Louis, Missouri, and at one time in charge of The Shaw's Gardens of the same city, has been secured by the Indian River Farms Company to take charge of its demonstration farm.

The former manager of the Demonstration Farm, Mr. A. E. Conway, has been made Agricultural Advisor to the settlers. Mr. Conway's duties consist of visiting the various new settlers' farms on the Company's tract and giving expert advice as to the proper methods to pursue. Mr. Conway is a practical Florida farmer and a fruit grower of long experience, and for some months the Company has been looking for a man who could take Mr. Conway's place on the Demonstration Farm so that Mr. Conway could give his exclusive time to instructing the new settlers.

The methods of farming in Florida are so vastly different from those employed in the northern country and the new settlers in Indian River Farms are becoming so numerous that it keeps Mr. Conway moving at a very lively rate in order to give each and every one of the new settlers due and thorough attention. The placing of Mr. Conway in charge of this work will unquestionably help build up more rapidly a wonderful community which has started in Indian River Farms.



Showing Main Canal of Indian River Farms, Vero, Florida.

troubles is expensive, at the start, but very cheap in the long run. It is, bring your chickens to Florida.

Mr. E. R. Philo, the great chicken man, has done so. He ought to know. None of the above problems confront the South Florida poultry man.

There are a hundred other reasons why he should come here:

Eggs at 35 to 60 cents a dozen; chickens from 20 to 40 cents a pound; are two good reasons.

Chickens are easily raised and lay well are six more.

What Chickens Like to Eat

According to "Southern Farming" an experimental station has made a test of the different kinds of food in full, open hoppers, to ascertain just which foods the hens liked best. It was found that, in eight and a half months, five White Leghorns and five Buff Orpingtons ate as follows (in pounds):

Grains—Wheat, 102; corn, 77; millet, 72; sunflower seed, 42; kaffir corn, 41; milled oats, 29; oats, 23; cane seed, 17; burk-wheat, 8; cowpeas, 5; rye, 4; barley, 4; rice, 2.

Meat Food—Buttermilk, 324; dry beef scraps, 2; fish scraps, 2.

Mill Products—Rolled oats, 35; ground oats, 22; cornmeal, 14; shorts, 6; bran, 6; flour, 2.

Grit—Oyster shell, 20; grit, 5; charcoal, 2.

Water, 435.

Food consumed in the eight and one-half months, 559 pounds; water and milk, 759. Number of eggs laid, 1,144, or 114.4 each, or 13½ monthly average of each.

It will be seen that the hens ate more wheat than any other grain; next comes corn and millet. They preferred buttermilk and sour milk to meat scraps.

A Three Hundred Egg Hen

In the Oregon Agricultural College there is a hen which has just broken the world's record. The prize hen is a cross between a Barred Plymouth Rock and White Leghorn (seven-eighths blood of the latter).

Her record for one year was 303 eggs. The previous record was 282, made by a sister of this famous hen, which is known as C521. Five full sisters of this hen averaged 245 eggs each for the year. The 303 eggs were all large and weighed 42 pounds.

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