



The Poultryman's Paradise—Florida

(By J. H. WENDLER, of Lakeland, secretary and manager of the Florida Poultrymen's Association.)

"Can ye raise chickens in Floridy?"

Well, I should say so.

This question, however, has been asked a thousand times and when we consider what Florida has done until the past few years it is little wonder that this question is asked, for Florida has been dormant for years as a poultry state, and like other industries that have been neglected, is just awakening to her birthright.

That we can raise chickens in Florida is evidenced by the fact that a certain breeder of the state has exhibited his fowls all over the southeast and central states and has never failed to take off the majority of the blue ribbons at each and every show and at some has been "hog" enough to take all the blues in all the varieties that he breeds, and at one show won sweepstake cockerel with a bird about five months old.

All this is not said for the benefit of that breeder but simply to show that we can raise chickens in Florida, and that a five months' old bird is sufficiently developed to win over older birds raised in other states that should have been more mature for their age.

Now let us see why we can raise chickens here that are mature at an early age. Primarily one of the first essentials to chicken raising is good range and fresh air, for fowls that are raised in closed doors with poor ventilation are always delicate and weak, whereas chicks raised in the open are just the contrary. But the northern breeder cannot raise his chicks out or doors, at least, not the early hatched, for the severity of the northern winters and early springs will not permit of this.

Our ability to raise green feed twelve months in the year is another important factor in chick development, for nothing beats greens for both mature and young chicks.

Now let us consider the cost of chick production and see if this is not verily "a poultryman's paradise."

To start with let us take the breeding stock. Fed on plenty of good green food they produce good eggs and plenty of them with the strongest vitality possible in the germ, which in turn produces strong, healthy chicks that grow off into fine robust specimens; thus insuring the health of the breeders. This green food should be one-half of a chick's diet and can be supplied in the form of collards, cabbage, lettuce, celery tops, rape, rutabaga, etc., and can be grown at a very minimum of expense. Green food not only furnishes nourishment but bulk also, which is essential to a chick and helps to keep down the grain bill; hence the cost of production in the feeding end of the game is no more, or even less than the cost of feeding chicks where the grain grows.

The next item of expense to consider is the incubation and brooding.

If this is done by artificial means then one can readily understand why

in this climate where we seldom have any cold weather the cost of operating an incubator is very little for the flame need not be turned up very high as there is no outside temperature to combat.

The same condition holds good in operating the brooders for we need only a small flame in the lamp and that only for a few days or a week at the most, then the chicks can take care of themselves; and in the spring of the year a fireless brooder will answer the purpose to a nicety.

We have now cut down the feed bill and the cost of incubation and brooding and should be on our way to have a nice flock coming along, in all of which we have the advantage of our northern brethren. But we still have another advantage and that is the ability to raise chicks at a time when all the rest of the world sleeps, so to speak.

Most of the hatching in Florida is done in the winter and early spring months and we are ready to supply broilers and fryers before the other fellow commences to hatch, hence we get a better price for them and there are times in the year when one can go down Franklin street in Tampa with a load of broilers and get his own price for them, but they always command a market at 75 cents to 90 cents each, while eggs will average the year around 35 cents a dozen.

Now brother chicken crank, can you doubt that this is "a poultryman's paradise?" Come down and try it for a while and if you have the get-up in you and the good sense to buy good healthy stock to consider, with our ability to hatch off stock at an early part of the year we are able to get fine matured specimens ready for showing to take or send to the fall fairs up north and win with them, while our more unfortunate brothers are still taking care of the brooder house and the competition in the northern shows is getting to be such that no man expects to win without matured specimens; and where will they have to come for these specimens? Can you guess? I can.

Then there is also the fact staring us in the face that Florida is fast settling up as an agricultural state and every new settler coming here usually wants to get some good breeding stock to start a flock with. This again gives the poultryman a chance to sell his wares, so with the ability to produce and the ability to sell and the ability to raise the feed we have verily a poultryman's paradise.

When I first came to Florida I wanted to go into the fruit business, but after I was here a while I found something better, so went back into the chicken business and now want to sell my groves. There is more money in it and it doesn't take so long to get a start.

The next year will see some of the biggest and best farms started in the poultry business that have ever been seen in the country and I look forward to the day when Florida will be the biggest and best poultry state in the Union.

A Hint for Southern Schoolmen

Last week's issue of the Manufacturers' Record contained a letter from John D. Shoop, First Assistant Superintendent of Schools of Chicago, giving his impressions of the south as the "land of promise," which is worth repeating with added emphasis here. Mr. Shoop in his letter says:

"The South today is the 'land of promise.' When its field of opportunity is made known to the world a tide of immigration will cover its hills and flood its plains with an eager throng of homeseekers. Its varied topography provides all necessary elements for the full cycle of a multitude of industries. Rich in soil and minerals, attractive in scenic landscape, ideal in climatic comfort, and, above all, abundant in its wealth of sterling manhood, its future is radiant with the dawn of a new industrial awakening. It is harnessing the force of its streams to the wheels of the factory, and products that hitherto have been exported as raw material are now loaded on railway and steamer ready for the consumers' use. In no section of our country have the products of modern invention wrought a more distinctive industrial revolution. With facilities for combining and unifying all the agencies of complete production, the South will go forward to realize on her resources, and to work out her inevitable destiny as a territory that must be reckoned with in working out for our country the business policies of the future."

This is the view of a western man identified with educational work who has recently been studying the South. How many teachers in our public schools and professors in our colleges throughout the South could state the case about their own country as well as Mr. Shoop has done? How many of these teachers and professors are teaching these facts to their classes in such a way as to give to the boys and young men of the South a fair conception of the unequalled possibilities of their own land? If in every school and college throughout the South, the facts which Mr. Shoop has stated could be presented day after day and year after year, we would see within the next ten or fifteen years an amazing effect upon the rising generation. The South would be the richer for keeping at home its own young people by having them fully understand the possibilities of their own country, and these young people would find in their own land opportunities which they cannot find elsewhere. It behooves every school commissioner in the South to see that the teachers in public and in private schools, in colleges and in universities understand the South so well that they can present its inspiring story in such a way as to give to the young people of the South a realization of what their own country is and what it offers to every active man.

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A DAIRY LAND OF PROMISE.

The South Can Maintain Cows at the Lowest Cost.

By H. T. Morgan.

In the twenty-fourth report of the Department of Agriculture it is stated that \$22,957,882 worth of northern and western dairy products were shipped into fifty southern cities during the twelve months covered by the report. There is no valid excuse for such a condition. The South can supply her own needs in this line more cheaply than can either the North or West. The natural advantages for dairying which the South possesses cannot be surpassed, all things considered, by any portion of the United States. And there are no better markets for dairy products than the cities and towns of the South.

These advantages, both of production and of markets, are beginning to attract the attention of shrewd dairymen from the North and West, and many of them have already bought cheap land in the South and are making money. Well-informed dairymen declare that in the South a dairy cow may be maintained at a cost of from

a dollar to two dollars a month less than in other sections of the country.

The cheapest and best feed for the dairy cow is that which she gathers by grazing. This should, of course, be supplemented by a proper grain ration. It is impossible to secure a full flow of milk from a cow that does not have an abundant supply of succulent feed either from pastures, soiling crops, roots or ensilage, and the pasture is preeminently the best and cheapest in the southern states.—Country Gentleman.

TOO FEW PRODUCERS.

"At the present time we have too few producers of food products in proportion to the number of non-producers or consumers. In the years gone by the great problem was to find a foreign market for our food products. Today things have reversed and the real problem is to find enough of the products to feed our own people. Unless present-day conditions are radically changed, and that in the very near future, the problem of feeding our American people will be a most serious matter."—From the Chicago Daily Farmers' and Drovers' Journal.