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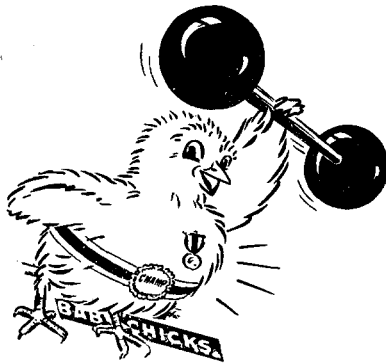


NORTH DAKOTA STATE UNIVERSITY

BROODING

STRONG

CHICKS



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EXTENSION SERVICE
NORTH DAKOTA AGRICULTURAL COLLEGE AND U.S. DEPARTMENT OF
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Brooding Strong Chicks

Your success with a farm poultry flock can be measured by the quality of the chicks which make up your flock.

A strong healthy flock depends on the use of a definite sanitation program.

Attention to small details of flock management often is the difference between profit and loss.

What Kind of Chicks



Buy the best chicks. Buy U.S. approved pullorum controlled chicks, or better. Buy from a hatchery near your home that is operating under the National Improvement Plan.

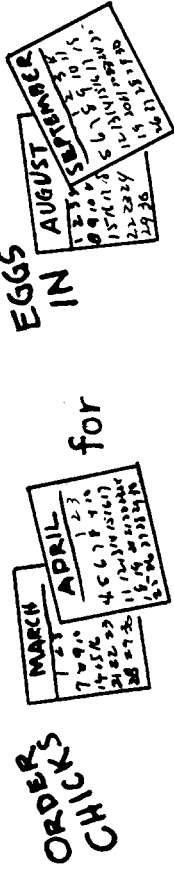
Buy chicks of a breed that is popular in your community. In North Dakota, the Leghorn, which lays white-shelled eggs, is the preferred light breed. White Plymouth Rocks and New Hampshire are the favorite dual purpose breeds. They lay brown-shelled eggs. The dual purpose breeds are somewhat better for supplying meat for the farm table than the Leghorn.

In some areas of the state, crossbreeds are popular. It is well to remember a cross-bred is not what is called a commercial hybrid, but is a simple cross between two or more breeds. It is not necessarily superior to standard breeds.

How Many Chicks

How many chicks to raise depends on the time you have available, the size of your buildings and the amount of equipment you have. If you want just enough for family use, buy 50 chicks. If you want a large project, buy a brooder house unit of 250 to 300 chicks.

When To Get Your Chicks



Chicks ordered during March and April will get into production in August and September when egg prices are on the fall rise.

Other advantages of early hatched chicks (before Apr. 15) are:

1. Lower death loss due to less disease, particularly coccidiosis.
2. Faster growth than late hatched chicks.
3. Lower laying house mortality than with late hatched pullets.

Generally, early hatched chicks are more profitable than late hatched chicks.

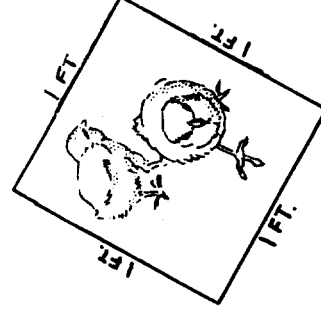
Systems of Brooding

The three general types of brooding are the battery system, the hot water system and the colony system.

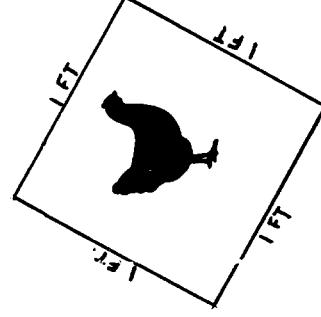
The colony system is the one used most in North Dakota. Oil, coal, gas and electric brooders and heat lamps (infrared) are used.

The Brooder House

The brooder house should be in good condition and insulated if possible. (It should be large enough to allow 2 chicks per square foot for the first 6 weeks and then 1 square foot per pullet.



TWO CHICKS
PER SQ. FOOT
AT FIRST



ONE PULLET
PER SQ. FOOT
AFTER SIX WEEKS

Before the Chicks

Come:

SCRAPE

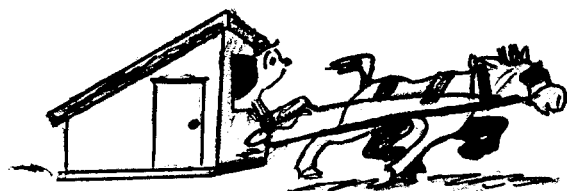
SWEEP

SCALD

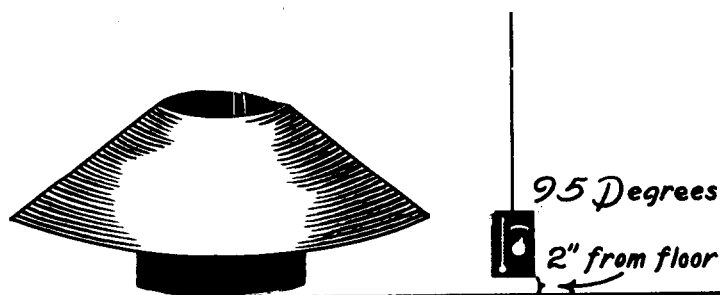
SCRUB



THE FOUR S's OF BROODER HOUSE SANITATION



MOVE BROODER HOUSE TO CLEAN GROUND



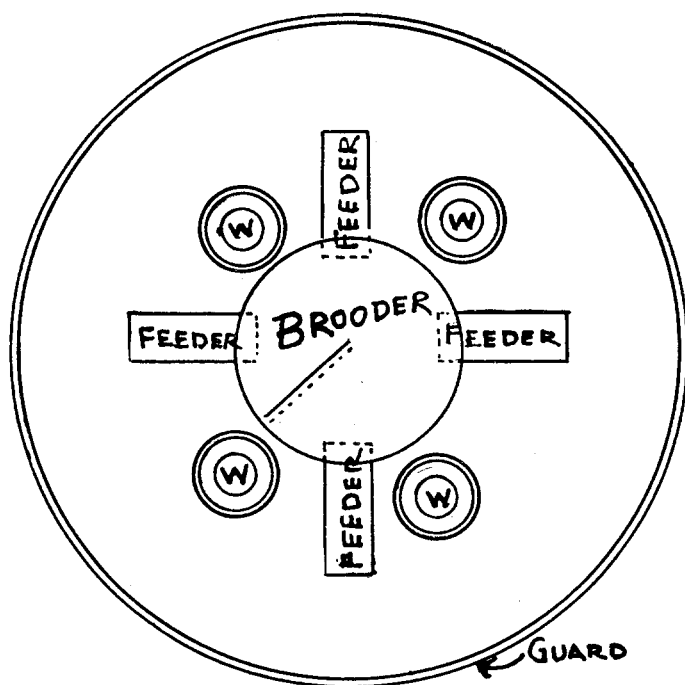
--Reduce temperature 5° each succeeding week.

Equipment Needed To Brood 100 Chicks

- Two accurate thermometers, one at edge of hover and one on wall.
- A reliable brooder big enough to supply adequate heat and one that will operate satisfactorily under various weather conditions. (Do not brood over 300 chicks per hover.)
- A supply of good litter, such as crushed corn cobs, shavings, chopped straw, peat moss, or other good commercial litter.
- A chick guard of hardware cloth, cardboard or metal. Guard should be 18 inches high and long enough to completely circle the brooder leaving a 3-foot space between the edge of the hover and the chick guard.
- Suitable water fountains. Four glass jars for the first 3 weeks. Larger fountains will be needed after 3 weeks.
- A good watering stand with a drip pan to catch any water spilled by the chicks and to prevent dampness around the water fountains.
- Two-foot hoppers open on both sides for the first 3 or 4 weeks.
- Use growing chick hoppers after 4 weeks.
- Small roosts to be put in the house when the chicks are 4 or 5 weeks old.

Things To Do Before Your Chicks Arrive

1. Clean the brooder house.
2. Sweep down the ceilings and walls and remove all dirt.
3. Wash and disinfect the brooder house thoroughly with a good commercial disinfectant, or use one can of lye to 10 gallons of hot water.
4. Move brooder house to clean ground.
5. Repair all cracks in walls and floor and replace any broken window panes.



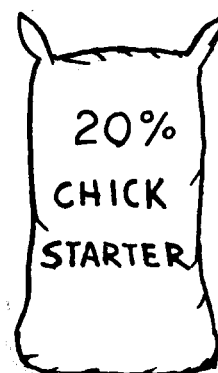
6. Set up the brooder in the house and operate it for two days before the chicks arrive. Be sure it holds an even temperature around 95 degrees 2 inches from the floor at the edge of the hover.

7. Place litter on the floor. (wood shavings, ground corn cobs, peat)

8. Put the feed hoppers, water fountains and grit hoppers inside the chick guard.

9. Have a fresh supply of chick starter on hand so your chicks may be fed as soon as they arrive.

10. Round off the corners of the house with building paper, wire netting, hardware cloth, or lumber, to prevent your chicks from crowding into corners and losing their way back to the brooder.



After The Chicks Arrive

1. Remove chicks from boxes and place under brooder near feed and water.

2. Avoid chilling chicks.

3. Feed a good starter mash immediately. Supply fresh feed each day.

4. Spread some paper or egg flats around the edge of the hover and sprinkle with feed the first two days. Fill hoppers to the brim until the birds learn to eat. Then keep at 2/3 full.

5. Supply fresh water, warm enough not to chill the chicks. Keep water founts and feed hoppers clean.

6. If the weather allows, lower the temperature 3 degrees to 5 degrees each week until chicks no longer need heat. Watch your chicks to make sure that they are comfortable. Uncomfortable chicks cheep constantly.