



NOTHING DELIGHTS the heart of a child more than the feel of a baby chick in his hand. Gale Ann Raynor, five year old daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Ralph Raynor of Mount Herbert, tries to interest her baby sister in one of the chicks being prepared for shipment from the Raynor Chick Hatchery but Melody Ruth is a bit cautious about picking up the chick.

Poultry R. O. P. Testing Improves The Standard

(By C.S. Scranton)

For many years, poultry breeders throughout Canada have been breeding pure bred strains of poultry. The better breeders have entered under Record of Performance which is a National Policy for the improvement of pure bred birds. This policy is divided into two parts one and two for pure breeds according to the size and nature of the test a breeder wishes to come under.

During the early part of 1957, it was realized that still further information could be gathered that would be of great assistance to the farmer. Therefore, Part 3 was added to the existing R.O.P. Policy. This part has to do with the testing of cross strains of cross breeds of poultry.

It is a well known fact that different crosses of poultry behave differently. Some lay better than others, some grow larger, some live better, while others have better feed conversion. The all important thing to test for is which breed or cross gives the greatest amount of profit per bird at the end of the year. This can vary in strains from one section of the country to the other.

QUICK ACTION

To meet this demand, some Island poultry breeders were quick to set up tests under the new policy for the testing of crossbred chicks that were sold commercially in Prince Edward Island. To accomplish this end, something unique was established at Central Bedeque where two breeders pooled their resources and set up the first Part 3 Random Sample Test in the province and the first in Canada using identical wire bottom pens.

These breeders, Wilfred J. MacDonald and Son, Alvin, together with Ivan Dawson, established this test on Mr. Dawson's poultry farm. They realized that by combining their efforts in one unit that more uniformity and greater results could be obtained than by each breeder working alone in a smaller setup.

The MacDonald-Dawson Part 3 Test as it is known was started in January, 1957, when one case of 360 hatching eggs was taken at random from each of twelve different flocks. The eggs were set to hatch on February 9. On that date, 125 pullets from each breed were saved and were floor brooded to three months of age at which time 110 of each cross were moved into separate wire bottom pens to remain there until the test is completed.

ACCURATE METHODS

Accurate records are maintained on these birds at all times. They are being tested for hatchability, livability, egg production, egg quality, feed conversion, and overall profit. The results of the first test are being compiled month by month and some interesting comparisons appear on the charts.

One thing stands out, that is that some crosses are producing one dozen eggs for more than two pounds less feed than some of the other crosses. This alone could mean a saving of 9 or 10 cents to produce a dozen eggs.

This first test will run until the end of June at which time they will be slaughtered and sold for meat purposes.

Testing of this nature involves an elaborate setup and a great deal of care and record keeping in order to determine the best possible breeds of poultry to be kept on Prince Edward Island farms. Messrs. MacDonald and Dawson realize that if they are to maintain and improve the high quality of poultry they have supplied farmers in the past, a constant endeavour to search for even better birds will be their goal.

INTENSIVE STUDY

Not content to rest on their laurels, a new test is in progress comprising seventeen different crosses and three-way crosses, some of which were never produced or tested before. This new test will go on record early in July this year and results will be completed in July, 1959.

Another test of a similar nature is being set up at Ralph Raynor's, Mt. Herbert. This breeder has not tested any birds under the Part 3 test but spent the first year accumulating other White Leghorn strains to combine with his own established strain of Leghorns. The first birds have been hatched and are being brooded at the present time.

During the past four years, a Random Sample Test has been operated at Ottawa. Here the leading birds from different parts

of Canada and some from the United States are tested. Ralph Raynor and W.J. MacDonald and Son have had entries in the Central Test since its inception. Although results are given over a long term average, it is becoming apparent that Island produced poultry stand high in National competition.

Tryon Lady Finds Geese Profitable

If you were to take time out on a trip up the Trans-Canada highway to stop at North Tryon, you would find Mrs. Frances Roberts actively engaged in raising geese and ducks in a commercial way. This lady has pioneered in the hatching of geese and ducks in modern electric incubators.

It all started back in 1953 when Mrs. Roberts decided that she would like to expand her then small business. It had been conducted in a way that gained her a lot of knowledge and experience, but the thought occurred to her that with better equipment her profit could be increased with little extra work.

She started to expand her business and the next spring saw her with two electric incubators. A small outbuilding served as her hatchery for the first season. Not

having enough eggs to fill her new machines, she started accepting geese and duck eggs from neighbours for custom hatching. Business increased so rapidly that soon she was faced with further expansion and this saw her renovating a large barn into a modern hatchery with eight electric incubators which, at the present time, are filled to capacity.

HAD SETBACKS

As in any business venture, it is not all sunshine, and Mrs. Roberts had a few setbacks. In her first attempt at hatching pheasants, she discovered to her sorrow that the pheasant breeding stock was diseased. This meant slaughtering and destroying all the old birds.

Many a person would have been discouraged and quit, but fired by a determination to overcome obstacles, she gratefully accep-



DIANNE ROBERTS 11 year old goslings at their Tryon Farm, old daughter of Mrs. Frances but doggie seems to take the at Roberts, tries to interest her in the, "He will have no part of cocker spaniel in a group of day these birds".



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MAINTAIN QUALITY

Island Yorkshires Lead All Canada

In 1957, P. E. Island again led all Canada in Grade A hogs with a percentage of approximately 55, while the all-Canada percentage remained at 30. This superiority in quality is further emphasized when we note that in all the hogs shipped between 140-170 lbs. carcass weight about 75 per cent make Grade A. Unfortunately, due to the viewpoint of quality and of profit to the producers, about 20 per cent of all Island market hogs reach the plant in a total annual loss of about 100,000 dollars to Island hog producers.

EXPECT INCREASE

The past year shows a low level of production in this province with less than 70,000 hogs marketed through inspected plants. During the war years this volume reached a record production of 105,000 head. Considering the increase in sows bred to farrow it is expected that this production will approach 100,000 head in 1958.

Due to the great increase in the number of large hog feeding units, the demand and price of feeder pigs has been quite high. This has led to increased production, it

ted a gift of disease-free stock in the form of hatching eggs from the Shubenacadie Game Farm in Nova Scotia.

This time her venture was successful and, with good breeding stock, she intends to raise some five hundred ring-necks to see if it will turn into a worthwhile project.

CUSTOM HATCHING

Much of the business at the Tryon Hatchery is the custom hatching of geese and duck eggs for neighbours and farmers in all parts of the province.

Many are old customers who from other years know that if their eggs are fertile, fresh, and properly cared for, technical know-how and modern machines can do the job better and in a bigger way than an old hen set on a half dozen eggs. Each day new customers come to her hatchery with the words, "Could you hatch a few goose eggs for me?"

Mrs. Roberts is specializing in Pilgrim geese and White Pekin ducks at the present time. The Pilgrim goose is a medium sized bird that has two distinct advantages. One is that its sex can be determined at hatching time since the males and females are different in color. The other is that fewer males need to be kept in a large breeding flock.

This strain was developed in recent years. White Pekin ducks are not a new strain but are considered by many breeders as excellent. They are large white birds that grow fast. The feathers on the breast are creamish white in color which makes pin feathers the same color as the flesh when killed. In consumer marketing this is a distinct advantage over birds with black pin feathers.

New and old customers are treated the same at the Roberts' Hatchery—a friendly smile, a few minutes to chat, constructive advice in how to handle goslings or ducklings, has won for Mrs. Roberts an ever increasing business.

is already showing evidence that less care is being exercised in the breeding and health of pigs sold as feeders. Already some of these larger operators are considering the proposition of raising their own feeders. It would be due to careless breeding and indifferent sanitation.

FOR BREEDING

In the production of breeding stock and in the sales to outside points during 1957, the volume has reached a record level. Shipments in quantity have been made to all provinces east of the Rockies. For the first time, carload lots of registered Advanced Registry sows and boars have been shipped to Ontario.

At the Brandon All-Canada Swine Show and Sale held last July, the Island entry was very successful. Mr. Stirling Willis won the Reserve Champion award for which he sold for \$335.00.

Mr. Almon Boswall had the highest priced young boar at \$325.00 this exhibit made a very favorable impression on swine producers in the West.

OTHER PRIZES

At the Maritime winter fair last November, Island swine exhibits won practically every prize. At Saskatoon Swine Sale stock of Island breeding captured top placings and the highest prices. At the November Calgary Swine Sale, Major Innes, Ogden Alta., won Champion boar and Reserve Champion sow with exhibits of pure Island breeding. At the Ottawa Summer Show, Lt. Col. George Reeves, Both, Ont., had the Grand Champion boar and won in the market classes with exhibits of Island breeding.

In the field of Advanced Registry, about one half the Canadian sows scoring 90 or over in slaughter were either Island bred or carried Island breeding in their pedigree.

The demand from outside buyers is prompted by the fact that the key breeders in this province keep in their herds, no sows which score under 85 and that almost all the boars kept in service or sold for breeding purposes are from sows scoring 90 or over. This high standard is showing results in the high percentage of Grade A carcasses from the province of Island stock shipped to other provinces. The amazing increase in the grading of N. S. and N. B. market hogs during recent years is in no small measure due to the boars sold to these areas by Island breeders.

INSPECTION

Recently arrangements have been made whereby all Island key herds of registered breeding stock will be periodically inspected by qualified veterinarians. This should serve as a protection to the outside buyers in that a certificate of health can be furnished when shipments are made. The prevalence of Rhinitis in Central and Western Canada makes such inspection of great value to prospective buyers from areas.

If the breeders in this province adhere to the breeding practices and to the standard of quality followed in the past there is little doubt that P. E. Island will continue to supply all other provinces with an increasing number of swine breeding stock. Breeders from other provinces have a good reason for buying

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Sniffing Pigs May Have A Serious Disease

Sneezing and sniffing in pigs may be relatively harmless, but all too often, the Canadian Veterinary Medical Association warns, they may be the early signs of the disease, atrophic rhinitis.

It is a condition which causes a wasting away of the bones in the nose. The stricken animals show a peculiar dish or twisted face and often are very susceptible to respiratory diseases. However, the greatest loss comes from poor feed utilization and general unthriftiness.

There is little that can be recommended in the way of treatment that offers any great deal of hope. However, veterinary medical scientists have developed a program which will prevent and eliminate the disease from most herds.

This program calls for drastic action. The farmer must be willing to either destroy or isolate the affected pigs then market the entire herd. Then the hog house and equipment must be completely cleaned and disinfected before more hogs are purchased. Breeding stock should be purchased from a herd known to be free of the disease.

However, a farmer may save valuable blood lines if he will isolate at weaning time, the healthy pigs he wishes to keep as foundation stock. A veterinarian should be consulted to supervise the program to prevent reinfection and

After the fall litters are weaned, in October or November, the sows should be brought up in condition for breeding in December or January, says C. G. Hickman, Central Experimental Farm, Ottawa. A feed mixture of two part wheat, or one of equal parts oats and barley, with additional protein supplement to bring the protein level of the ration to 14 per cent, is a basic dry or pregnant sow ration. Smaller amounts of barley or wheat may be fed.

The protein supplement should consist of approximately half animal protein and half vegetable protein. Skim milk, buttermilk, or whey are excellent protein supplements. One pound of a mixture of bonemeal and iodized salt in equal parts to 600 pounds of the above dry meal mixture will provide ample amounts of the necessary minerals.

Vitamin requirements are satisfied by either providing green hay freely or by including 5 to 15 per cent alfalfa meal in the ration. One pound of dry feed to 100 pounds of sow per day is a guide as to how much feed should be fed. The sows should not become overweight.

HOUSING NEEDS

Housing need not be elaborate. In winter, dry or pregnant sows are better outside with cabins for shelter and lots for exercise. Feeding some distance from the cabins provides the necessary exercise. Well drained land is ideal location for the cabins. Drafts can be prevented and heat retained in roughly built cabins by rounding all but the entrances with straw held firm with a snow

The brood sow, being such an important item in the hog business, deserved the feed and management that has developed from many years of research to make hog raising profitable.

A perfectly - packed parachute will open within 2½ seconds after the rip-cord has been pulled.

to keep a close check on the herd at all times. This is especially important for purebred breeders.

Why Schoolhouse Is Painted Red

There was a sound reason for painting the little red schoolhouse that color. Our thrifty ancestors had access to deposits of red iron oxide and linseed oil from the flux they grew themselves. A mixture of the two made a durable paint.

For a long time this simple paint was the only available kind, and barns, houses and public buildings alike were coated with the same all-purpose preservative. Long after white and other colors of paint could be had, the old custom of painting barns and other large structures with the old-fashioned red ochre persisted.

The red paint was durable because iron oxide could not be attacked by the atmosphere. It was already a completely oxidized material. Chemically it was a stable substance, the same as iron rust. No wonder it stayed in fashion with so much to commend it.

Frederick Browne, of the United States Department of Agriculture, thinks the old custom of having a white house and a red barn ought to be maintained. Mr. Browne, who seems to be an authority on such things, says the relative colors gave the house the necessary importance in the scheme of things. Where both barn and house are white, or the same color, the barn tends to overshadow and bury the house.

Prince Edward Island was a separate area from 1770 until entered Confederation in 1873.

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