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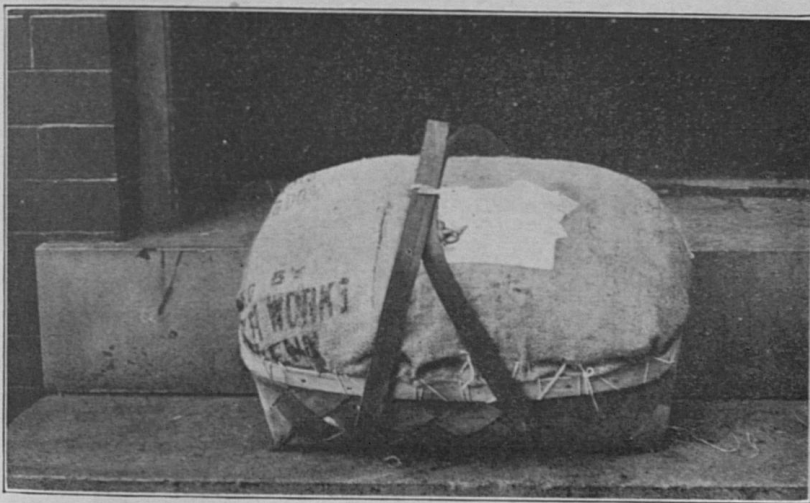
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Eggs for Hatching

BY

J. HOLMES MARTIN and J. R. SMYTH



EGGS WELL PACKED FOR SHIPMENT

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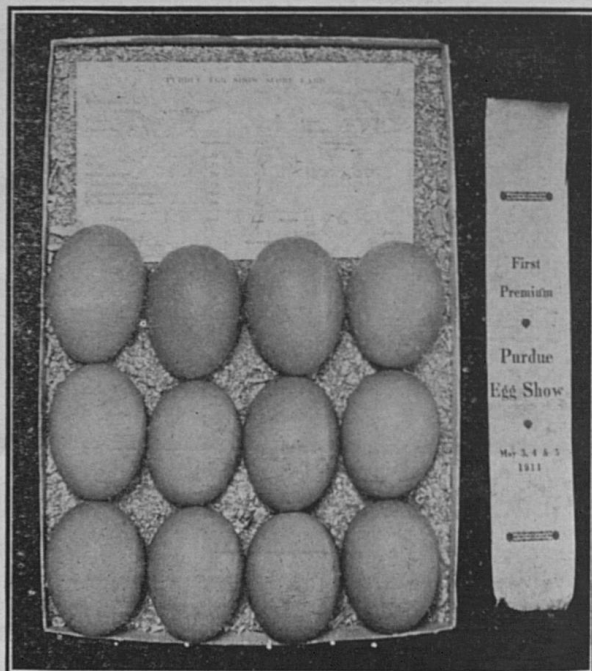
Eggs for Hatching

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Eggs which have been shipped long distances do not hatch as well as those which have been secured in the immediate neighborhood. This is due to the jolting and jarring of a long trip, which tends to disturb the contents of the egg, thereby weakening the germ, especially if the eggs have been poorly packed. This trouble may be overcome partially by careful selection, handling and packing of the eggs. When it is possible to secure eggs from desirable flocks in the immediate neighborhood or near-by counties this should be done.

SELECTION OF THE EGGS

Color. Eggs for hatching should be true to color for the breed. Eggs from the Mediterranean class of fowls (Leghorns, Minorcas, Anconas) should be pure white, free from any yellow tint or foreign



The type of eggs to select for hatching. Courtesy Purdue Experiment Station.

color. If from the heavier breeds (Plymouth Rocks, Wyandottes, Rhode Island Reds, Orpingtons) they should be brown. The color may vary from a light to a clear, dark brown, but each shipment should be all of the same shade.

Shape. Eggs for hatching should be as near as possible the normal shape for the breed they represent. They should not be too round or too oblong. (See cut on page 2.)

Shell. The texture of the shell should be firm, containing no weak places, large, abnormal pores or ridges. It is these abnormal eggs that are usually broken in shipping, hence they should never be selected for hatching.

Size. It is very important that eggs for hatching be large. This does not mean, however, to set abnormally large eggs. The size will vary somewhat with the breed, but each egg should weigh at least two ounces. A setting (15) of hatching eggs should weigh about two pounds.

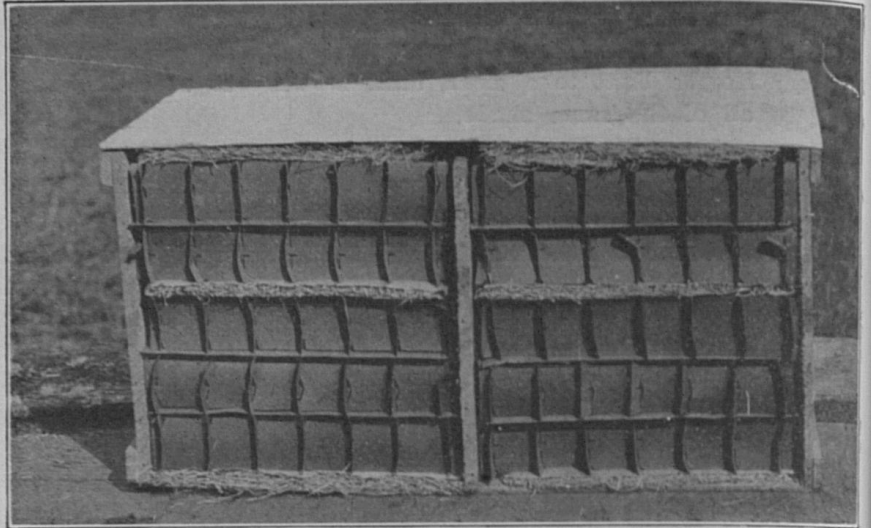
HANDLING HATCHING EGGS

Length of Time to Save Eggs. Eggs for hatching should never be held longer than ten days. If they are to be shipped they should be sent out when only one or two days old, to insure good hatching quality when they arrive.

Care of Eggs. They should be kept in a room with a temperature ranging from 50 to 60 degrees Fahrenheit. Wrapping eggs keeps the fresh air away from the shell and thereby tends to weaken the germ. In shipping eggs they should not be wrapped until ready to pack. When receiving eggs they should be unpacked and unwrapped immediately. They may be set immediately upon receiving them if the hen or incubator is ready. Eggs held more than two or three days should be turned once each day.

Packing and Shipping Eggs. Cardboard cartons made especially for shipping hatching eggs, can be bought and are very satisfactory. They are made in sizes holding from one to a dozen settings.* Another satisfactory method is to use a common market basket or round bushel basket (see title page). It should be well lined with excelsior and each egg wrapped in a layer of paper and enough excelsior put around it to protect it from the other eggs. Pack the eggs securely in the basket and cover with another layer of excelsior. The basket should be covered with a piece of cloth which can be sewed on the basket or the edges pushed up under the outside rim of the basket and securely tacked. If eggs are to be shipped in large quantities an ordinary egg-case can be used (see cut on page 4). The eggs should

*The following firms manufacture cartons for shipping eggs: Ripply Mfg. Co., Grafton, Illinois; O. B. Andrews Co., Chattanooga, Tenn.; J. C. Bulis Mfg. Co., State Life Bldg., St. Louis, Mo.; Surety Egg Box Co., Hohokus, N. J.; The Edgerton Mfg. Co., Plymouth, Ind.



An effective egg-crate pack. Courtesy of the New Jersey Experiment Station.

be wrapped individually and packed so that they cannot move. It is advisable to put in extra corrugated fillers or excelsior pads at both the bottom and top of the case and near the middle.

The illustration shows a crate completely packed with cover nailed on, one side removed to show the method of packing. Note the three layers of excelsior pads, one at the bottom, one between the third and fourth layers of eggs and one on top. By this method of using pads every layer of eggs except one (the second) comes directly in contact with excelsior and thus allows plenty of protection and spring. Note the bulge in the center of the top. NEVER TRY TO NAIL AN EGG-CRATE COVER AT THE CENTER. Pack for the bulge. It means pressure enough to hold the contents from jarring and breaking. This gives a natural cushioning for the eggs in the excelsior with which they come in contact and produces a springiness which insures safe transportation.

Each shipment should be marked "Hatching Eggs—Handle With Care." Both express and parcel post have proved satisfactory in shipping hatching eggs. Broken eggs in shipments are usually due to poor packing.