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THE CARE OF EGGS ON THE FARM

By

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Sell the Roosters

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What causes losses of eggs?

I. Roosters in the flock.
   (1) Cause fertile eggs.

II. Keeping eggs in warm places.
   (1) Causes the embryo to develop in fertile eggs.
   (2) Causes eggs to shrink.

III. Damp, dirty nests.
   (1) Cause eggs to mold.
   (2) Cause dirty, badly flavored eggs.

IV. Leaving eggs in the nest too long.
   (1) Causes fertile eggs to incubate.
   (2) Causes broken and dirty eggs.

V. Holding eggs at home too long.
   (1) Allows fertile eggs to spoil.
   (2) Causes eggs to be graded lower.

How to prevent these losses:

I. Kill, sell or confine the roosters.
II. Keep the eggs in a cool place.
III. Provide one good, clean nest for every five hens.
IV. Gather the eggs twice daily.
V. Market the eggs when they are fresh.

Every egg that becomes a "rot" or is graded below a first represents an economic loss. It has been estimated that about $1,500,000 were lost on eggs in the State of Kentucky last year; about $950,000 of this loss was caused by roosters running in the farm flocks.

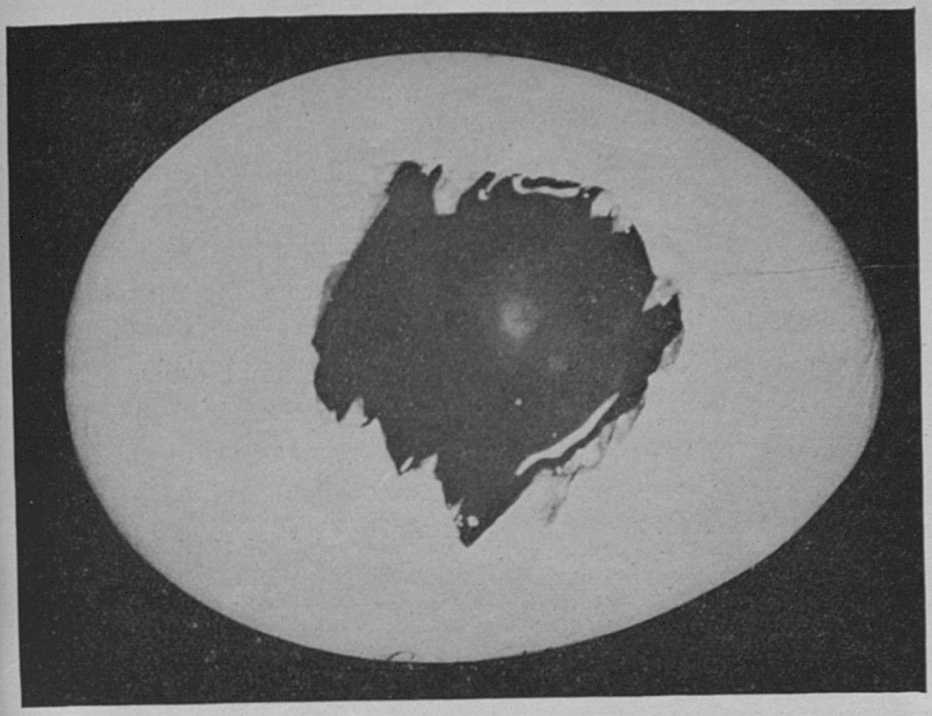

Fig. 1. An infertile egg that has been kept at 103 degrees F. for 48 hours. It is still good for food. The white spot in the center is found in all eggs. A fertile egg would have become like Fig. 2.

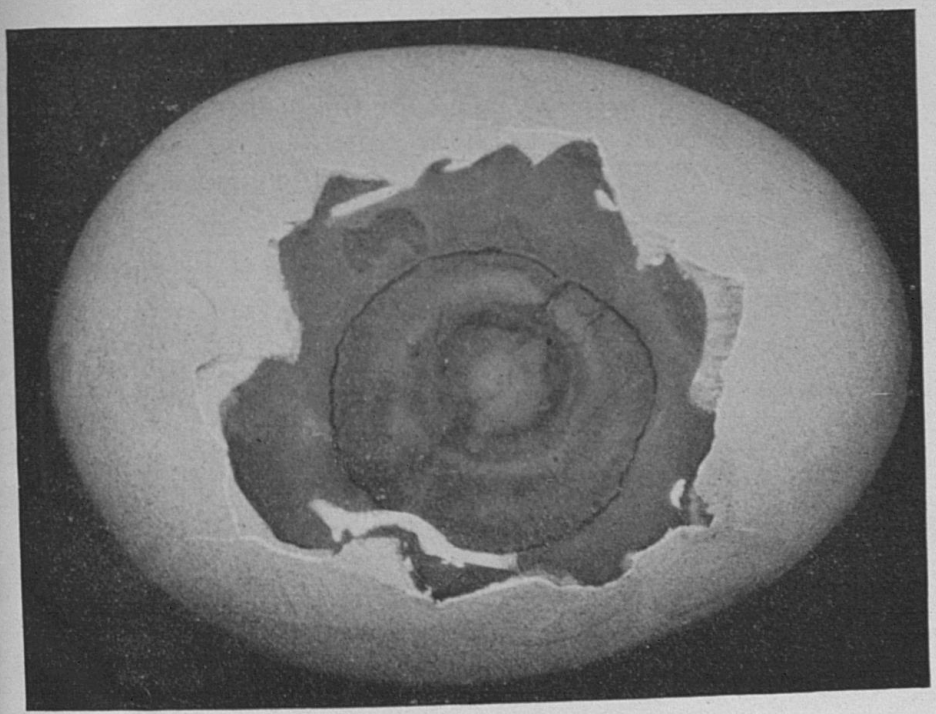

Fig. 2. A fertile egg that has been kept at 103 degrees F. for 48 hours. Blood has formed and made the egg unfit for food.

A fertile egg may become unfit for food in twenty-four hours of warm weather. An egg does not need to be incubated in order to spoil, because warm weather will cause development of the germ. An infertile egg may be kept in an incubator at 103 degrees for seven days and still be good for cooking.

Experiments have shown that it does not pay to hatch chickens after the first of June. This being the case, there is no reason for keeping roosters with the flock during warm weather; the hens will lay just as well without them. The old roosters should be sold or killed in May or early June and the young roosters just as soon as they reach the frying size. Any cockerels kept over for breeders should be confined. This will also permit the cockerels to grow more rapidly and to a greater size.

SUMMARY

Eggs should be gathered twice a day during the hot summer months because this will tend to prevent broken, shrunken and badly flavored eggs.

Eggs should be kept in a cool, well-ventilated room to prevent deterioration. If the eggs are kept in a cave, care should be taken not to place them near onions or any other objects that might cause the eggs to absorb odors. They should be put on a table or box to allow free circulation of air around them.

Do not wait until you have a whole case of eggs before you take them to town. Make it a point to take your eggs with you every time you go, even tho you have only a dozen eggs.

Cooperate with your egg dealer, because what he receives for your eggs governs what he pays you.