

4-1931

## EC1458 Questions and Answers on Poultry Breeds and Breeding

J. R. Redditt

Follow this and additional works at: <http://digitalcommons.unl.edu/extensionhist>

---

Redditt, J. R., "EC1458 Questions and Answers on Poultry Breeds and Breeding" (1931). *Historical Materials from University of Nebraska-Lincoln Extension*. 2574.  
<http://digitalcommons.unl.edu/extensionhist/2574>

This Article is brought to you for free and open access by the Extension at DigitalCommons@University of Nebraska - Lincoln. It has been accepted for inclusion in Historical Materials from University of Nebraska-Lincoln Extension by an authorized administrator of DigitalCommons@University of Nebraska - Lincoln.

C.1  
585  
E7  
# 1458 c.1

E.C. # 1458

Extension Circular 1458

April, 1931

## Questions and Answers on Poultry Breeds and Breeding

The University of Nebraska Agricultural College Extension Service  
and United States Department of Agriculture Cooperating  
W. H. Brokaw, Director, Lincoln

## Questions and Answers on Poultry Breeds and Breeding

J. R. REDDITT

### 1. Distinguish between breed and variety.

- A. Breed refers to type and shape—shape makes the breed—as the Wyandottes, Plymouth Rocks, etc. Variety refers to color and comb—within a breed there may be a number of varieties. For instance, there are eight varieties of Wyandottes and in each it is color that determine the variety. In Rhode Island Reds are the single and rose comb varieties.

### 2. What is the meaning of “strain?”

- A. Strain refers to some family of chickens that has become prominent for some particular characteristic and generally prominent winners at poultry shows.

### 3. What is the difference between the English and American strain of White Leghorns?

- A. The so-called English strain is a larger and rather coarse Leghorn of good, though not superior, production ability. The modern American Leghorns seem to possess all the good qualities of the English strains and fewer of the poor qualities.

### 4. What varieties of chickens should be produced in Nebraska?

- A. The common popular varieties such as White and Barred Rocks, White Wyandottes, Buff Orpingtons and S. C. Leghorns seem to give all one needs or can expect from poultry. Fewer varieties will lessen the variation in the products.

### 5. Where, then, may one secure dependable breeding stock?

- A. Preferably at home, from someone whose flock can be visited. If this is impractical find out who the reputable breeders are. Health and production are the result of management more than breeding. Yet, breeding is important and must not be overlooked.

### 6. How may we determine the reliability of the 300 egg strains advertised?

- A. There are no 200, 250, 300 or 355 egg strains. (Corn may yield one bushels to the acre under some conditions, yet one could hardly call it 100 bushel strain corn.)

### 7. How many females for male birds do breeders recommend?

- A. In heavy breeds one male to ten hens, medium weight, one to 12 and light breeds one to 15 females.

### 8. Under farm conditions how long is it advisable to use the same male bird?

- A. Generally young vigorous cockerels one year of age are more satisfactory. However, the same males may be used a second season or as long as they are satisfactory as breeders.

- 9. What is line breeding?**
- A. Line breeding is systematic inbreeding and is done with a definite purpose in mind. To be most effective, the system requires pedigree breeding and systematic records.
- 10. What is cross breeding?**
- A. Cross breeding is the crossing of breeds. The result of a first cross is a cross breed.
- 11. Is it recommended or of any benefit?**
- A. Efforts are being made to discover sex-linked characters which when crossed will permit sex identification at hatching time. Some cross breeding is done in England to produce larger market poultry.
- 12. From a breeding standpoint what factors affect hatchability?**
- A. (1) Vigor and health, (2) age, (3) inbreeding. Length and intensity of laying prior to hatching does not necessarily effect hatchability provided the flock has been properly managed.
- 13. How soon after mating may egg be saved for hatching?**
- A. One week to ten days, provided there has been no previous mating. In case of previous mating, it may be four weeks or more before it is safe to save eggs from the new mating.
- 14. Which are preferred for breeding, hens or pullets, and why?**
- A. Hens. (1) Hens have usually had a rest during the winter and as a result hatchability is higher. (2) Hens have been culled and poor layers removed so there is greater possibility of improving the flock. (3) Hens lay larger eggs, producing larger and stronger chicks.
- 15. When is the best time to select breeding stock?**
- A. Two years in advance. First, select uniformly large eggs of the right size, shape, and color. Second, at two months of age select and mark some of the largest, fastest growing cockerels and pullets for future breeders. Third, cull closely at the beginning and throughout the first laying year. Fourth, put into the breeding flock only those hens that have survived rigid all-year culling.