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## EC1459 Questions and Answers on Poultry Management

Jane R. Redditt

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Extension Circular 1459

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# Questions and Answers on Poultry Management

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 Management

J. R. REDDITT

1. **How may the number of dirty eggs be reduced?**
  - A. Clean nests, (do not allow hens to roost in nests), plenty of nests, (1 nest to 5 hens) clean, dry houses, clean graveled yards and gather eggs often.
2. **Do flocks do better confined or on range?**
  - A. Breeding flocks generally do better on range and commercial egg flocks do better confined. It is difficult to use the same flock for both purposes.
3. **Which are preferred for breeding, hens or pullets, and why?**
  - A. Hens, every time. (1) Hens have generally had a rest and hatchability is higher. (2) hens have been culled and poor layers removed, (3) hens lay larger eggs, producing larger, stronger chicks.
4. **When should culling be done?**
  - A. All the time throughout the year, or whenever a poor layer shows up, take her out.
5. **What is the best way to break up broody hens?**
  - A. Take them off the nest as soon as noticed and confine in a lighted, wire or slat bottomed coop and feed them well.
6. **When is the best time to select breeding stock?**
  - A. Two years in advance. First, select large eggs of proper size, color and shape. Second, at two months of age select and mark largest, fastest growing cockerels and pullets. Third, cull closely at the beginning of the first laying season. Fourth, put into the breeding flock only those hens that have survived this rigid all year culling.
7. **How may naked back chickens be eliminated?**
  - A. This a hereditary trait. In order to control it, remove all young stock showing any symptoms of the characteristics. It may take several years to do it.
8. **What is the simplest way to control lice?**
  - A. Blackleaf 40 (nicotine sulfate) put on the roost just before roosting time. (Directions for use printed on containers.)
9. **What is a good spray for mites?**
  - A. Any good wood preservative. (Obtained from lumber yards.)
10. **Why is it so important to remove males when the breeding season is over?**
  - A. Male birds keep eggs fertile and fertile eggs do not keep. An infertile egg will not spoil if stored in a well ventilated place.

11. **What is the difference between high quality hatching eggs and high quality market eggs?**
  - A. None, except hatching eggs must be fertile and best market eggs must not.
12. **How many feet of mash hopper space should be provided for 100 hens?**
  - A. Fourteen feet.
13. **When should Leghorns be hatched to make them the best (a) breeders, (b) market egg producers?**
  - A. (a) February and March. (b) April.
14. **When should heavy breed hens be hatched to make the best (a) breeders, (b) market stock?**
  - A. (a) As early as possible, February. (b) Same.
15. **What is the best evidence of efficient poultry keeping?**
  - A. Keeping complete cost account records.
16. **Why are flocks of 50 or 500 hens recommended in Nebraska?**
  - A. The product from small carelessly managed side-line flocks is found to be inferior to the product of the larger commercial sized flock. Whenever a market surplus of any product fails to meet competition, it is usually at the mercy of the buyers. The cost of quality production from flocks under 500 is generally as much or more than can be realized from the sale of products. To reduce the cost, reduce the size of the flock to meet the home needs, or step it up to a size sufficient to justify labor saving equipment and efficient management.
17. **What are the causes of unhealthy flocks?**
  - A. Maangement, weak stock, late hatching, crowding, filth, incomplete rations lack of feed, lack of feeder space, dirty or unprotected feeders and waterers.
18. **What is a good treatment for worms?**
  - A. Try products of some reliable pharmaceutical company (ask your druggist for products of the firms making his drugs—prescription stock, not patent remedies.) Prevention through sanitation is easier, cheaper and more satisfactory. Any treatment to be effective must be followed with control measures.