

USE OF ARTIFICIAL LIGHTS TO INCREASE EGG PRODUCTION

By LEO J. FINCH, '28.

Artificial Lighting May Be Practiced With Commercial Benefit and Economic Advantage; Poultry Keepers Are Using This Method To Increase Profits More and More

THE use of artificial lights in laying houses during the winter months has become a common practice on many commercial poultry farms. The lights do not increase the annual production of eggs as much as it increased the proportion of eggs laid during the fall and winter months, when egg prices are relatively the highest.

One of the best methods of supplying artificial lights from the standpoint of labor and time is to outfit the laying houses with electric lights, and provide a control switch in the dwelling, or install an automatic alarm clock switch. Of course this is only possible where electricity is available, and if not available other

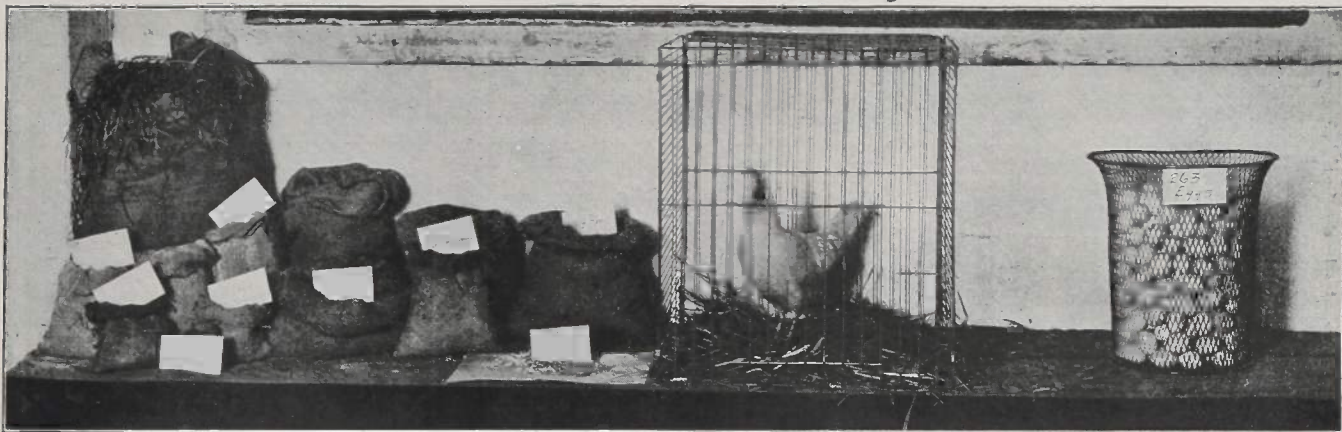
when he fed the birds scratch feed in the morning.

A more convenient method than the above is to throw the scratch feed in the litter on the last round at night, and after the birds have gone to roost. This will save time and labor in the morning which can be put in on some other duty, and will obtain the same results.

Some poultrymen use light in the morning and at dusk, usually have the lights on approximately one hour each time. Whether lights are used in the morning only or during the morning and evening, they should not be kept on for a longer time than will give the laying stock from about 13 to 14 hours of working time. An excessive

A continuous use of lights after March 31 by poultrymen in general will make an abnormal surplus of eggs on the market which will lower the cost of feed it takes to produce them, besides making a drain on the birds' vitality which will make them unfit as breeders that spring and as egg producers for the following fall and winter.

The outstanding advantage in using artificial lights in the laying houses is to increase feed consumption, which in turn gives rise to increased production. As stated previously, an excessive use of lights is to be avoided, but where they are used judiciously the layers can be kept in better physical condition than when



Attention to Details Is One of the Things That Makes Record Egg Production Possible.

means of illumination must be used. Where one can use the electricity, however, it will prove much more convenient, and as cheap, when labor is taken into consideration as expense.

In an experiment conducted by the United States Department of Agriculture, in which one 75 watt light was used in each of two pens of 50 White Leghorn pullets, it was found that 50.2 and 60.6 dozen eggs were produced respectively, than in two check pens of the same number of White Leghorn pullets, which were not lighted, the experiment running from November 1 to March 20. The lights were turned on at 4:30 a. m., and were kept on until daylight, being turned off by the poultryman

use of artificial light is harmful especially in the case of breeding stock. When the lights are to be used in the evening a special dimming device is necessary so that when the bright lights are turned off enough light may be left to allow the hens to see the roosts.

Another method used by many poultrymen is to use the lights for one hour during the night, either between 8 and 9 o'clock or 9 and 10 o'clock. The birds are fed at this time and thus get an extra feed every day. With this method a dimming system must be used.

It has been found to be more profitable and satisfactory to use lights only from November 1 to March 31.

lights are not used and egg production is increased at the time of year when they are at the greatest monetary value.

SILENCING THE CHIRP

A "cricket on the hearth" is a nice, homelike little critter. But a cricket on the bean is by no means so pleasant. In fact, a Paris green mixture was spread around in Luna County on the N. A. Walker farm to annihilate the little chirper. The menu didn't agree with the crickets, evidently, for the bean crop is practically rid of them.