

# A Bird in the Hand

(Special Information Service, U. S. Department of Agriculture)  
EGGS AND MEAT FROM CITY BACKYARDS



A Food Plant Suitable to Almost Every American Backyard—Ten Hens.

## START HENNERY AND MAKE MONEY

Method by Which It Is Shown, the Egg Problem May Be Largely Solved.

### UTILIZE WASTE OF KITCHEN

Ten Fowls in a Small Yard Will Be a Paying Proposition—Need Not Become a Nuisance to the Neighbors.

Every family which has even a small back yard can go far toward supplying itself with eggs and producing some poultry which will lessen its draft on the nation's meat supply. Even in a small back yard, with the aid of a few hens, much of the kitchen garbage can be manufactured into food instead of being wasted at a time when there must be no waste of anything that can be made edible. Keeping chickens even on a small scale can be made a pleasant, worthwhile recreation, particularly interesting to a child old enough to assume responsibility.

This article is the first of a series of simple, practical instructions on keeping poultry on a small scale. The series is designed primarily to help beginners start their flocks, but should convey valuable information to those who have had experience or who keep poultry on a suburban or larger scale. The facts are those gathered by the government's poultry specialists on the department agricultural poultry farm at Beltsville, Md., and from the thousands of private poultry yards which they have visited and studied. The specialists will be glad to send bulletins or furnish advice to those interested in producing more eggs and chicken meat during the emergency.

#### Should I Keep Hens in My Back Yard?

Keeping small flocks of hens in a village or city back yard has proved successful. It is an important branch of the poultry industry. Though the value of the product from each flock is small in itself, the aggregate is large. The product of such a flock both in the form of eggs and fowls for the table, may be made in a relatively low cost because of the possibility of utilizing table scraps and kitchen waste which would otherwise be thrown away. A small flock of hens, even as few as six or eight, should produce eggs enough, where used economically, for a family of four or five persons throughout the entire year, except during the molting period and fall and early winter. By preserving surplus eggs produced during spring and early summer this period of scarcity can be provided for. Keeping pullets instead of hens also will insure production of eggs at this time. Not only will the eggs from the home flock materially reduce the cost of buying, but their superior freshness and quality are in themselves well worth the effort expended. The need for an extension of poultry raising is particularly great in those sections where the consumption of poultry products exceeds the production, with the result that prices are high.

#### An Odorless, Crowless Flock.

Objection frequently is raised to the keeping of poultry in towns and cities because of the odor which may result and also because of the noise made by fowls crowing, particularly early in the morning. In some cities regulations have been formulated to prevent or control poultry keeping. Where there are such regulations it will be necessary for the beginner to find out their provisions and to conform to them. The poultry flock need not become a nuisance to the neighbors. If the dropping boards are cleaned daily and if the houses and yards are kept in a reasonably clean condition there will be no annoying odors.

The male bird need not be a nuisance. Unless it is intended to hatch

chickens from the flock, it is unnecessary to keep a male bird. The fact that there is no male in the flock will have absolutely no effect upon the number of eggs laid by the hens. Those who wish to produce eggs for hatching should get rid of the roosters when the hatching season ends. This is desirable not only to eliminate the noise of the rooster, but also to save the feed that would be eaten by the male, and for the further reason that the eggs produced after the male is disposed of will be infertile. Since these eggs are incapable of chick development, they can be kept much better than fertile eggs and consequently are superior for keeping, putting up in water glass, or marketing.

The flock, of course, must be kept confined; otherwise the hens will stray into neighbors' yards and gardens, where they may cause damage, and almost certainly ill-feeling. The next article will deal with the kind of chickens to keep, the size of the flock, and how to procure stock.

#### Regulating Hens' Exercise.

The practice it is found that if a hen gets about half of the daily ration with little effort, she will yell and at the same time take exercise enough to keep her in good physical condition.

As a rule, the mash—whether moist or dry—constitutes from one-third to one-half of the ration. This being fed in troughs or hoppers, the hens get without exercise. In cutting the grain fed in litter fowls at first get it with little effort. As the supply diminishes they must scratch more and more to find what remains.

Under this condition it is necessary to feed grain more liberally in deep litter than in shallow litter; otherwise the supply would run so low at times that the hens would have hard work to get it as fast as they should. The feeder is guided as to the quantity of grain to give by observing how the hens eat the mash, and by occasionally examining the floor to see whether grain is accumulating in the litter.

Do you want to "do something" for the food supply—meat and eggs—even if only in a small way? Keep some hens. Not a new idea, of course, but until now it never was quite so necessary or mandatory to grasp every food-making opportunity. Try it in the back yard, beginning wisely in a small scale—say, ten hens. How about a New Year's resolve on this?

Let the table scraps help make eggs and meat. In every household, no matter how economical the housewife, there is a certain amount of table scraps and kitchen waste which has feeding value but which, if not fed, finds its way into the garbage pail. The saving medium: Some hens.

Poultry is the only class of domestic animal which is suitable for confining the kitchen waste, right where it is produced in the city, into wholesome and nutritious food in the form of eggs and poultry meat.

Here are some exact figures about what can be expected of a back yard flock. Each hen in her pullet year should produce ten dozen eggs. The average size of the back yard flock should be at least ten hens. Thus each flock would produce in a year 100 dozen of eggs which, at the conservative value of 25 cents a dozen, would be worth \$25. But the 100 dozen is more important than the \$25.

By keeping a back yard poultry flock the family would not only help in reducing living costs but would have eggs of a quality and freshness which are often difficult to obtain.

Remember that eggs produced by the back yard flock cost very little, as the fowls are fed largely upon waste materials.

Even as few hens as six or eight should produce eggs enough, where used economically, for a family of four or five persons throughout the entire year, except during the molting period of the fall and early winter.

## DAY OF REJOICING

The Character of Our Sowing Determines the Quality of Our Reaping.

"They that sow in tears shall reap in joy."—Ps. 126:5.

Harvest joy does not come from the tears which accompany our sowing, but from the faithfulness with which we sow even in the midst of sorrow. Sorrow does not grow from tears but from seed.

It is important that we hold fast to the truth just stated, for we are prone to withhold our hearts in the days of sorrow. "Such days are frequent," friends are everywhere. It seems that the sun will never shine again. Hope of harvest has almost died away. "What's the use?" we say, and we are tempted to make no further effort. Blinded by discouragement, weakened by disappointment, we sit down and bemoan the fate that has befallen us. Thus we postpone or make impossible the joyous day which might be ours the day of reaping in an abundant harvest which grew from faithful sowing.

#### The Day of Sorrow.

Not so the Jews in Babylon. Great was their sorrow and distress. Upon the willows by the rivers they hung their harps, those musical instruments by means of which they expressed their joy, for they could not sing their national hymns in a strange land; yet in their deep sorrow they began to sow seeds of desire, seeds of resolute purpose, seeds of righteousness, that they might be fit for communion with Jehovah in their own beloved land. In Babylon they remembered Zion and how their own willfulness and sin had been the means of sending them as exiles; but instead of giving up in despair they began to prepare for a new life as a restored people in a restored fatherland. So they made possible the jubilant songs of deliverance.

#### The Reason for Joy.

It was not the tears in Babylon which brought them their rejoicing. It was because they had turned from their folly and discovered the truth which had been stated to them so often, that "his salvation is nigh them that fear him." What blessings come out of these days of tears if only we make wise use of the sorrows that come to us! Heedstrong and dis-regarding God in the pride of their own strength, calamity had come upon them; but we can almost see these sorrow-stricken people encouraging one another to turn again unto the Lord, teaching their children the truth which they had neglected to follow, and, as a consequence of such sowing, they were rejoiced to see that "truth springeth out of the earth, and righteousness hath looked down from heaven."

There is a sowing in joy—or that which is called joy—that yields a harvest of tears, a sowing to the wind that yields the whirlwind. But the sowing of right thoughts, right purposes, right desires, even though there is no joy at the time, always yields the peaceable fruits of righteousness and fills the mouth with laughter and the tongue with singing.—Rev. James E. Clark, D. D.

#### An Incident in France.

Two thousand men had paraded at one of our great base camps previous to going "up the line." The inspection was complete, and in a few minutes the order, "Quick March!" to the railway station would be given. Just at that moment, while all stood at "attention," fully equipped, a voice began to sing.

Jesus, the very thought of Thee With gladness fills my breast.

And like a wave of melody the song passed from rank to rank, until every man seemed to be singing. The hymn was sung right through to the last verse the officers, meantime, looking on in silence. How many of these men have already looked into the face of him of whom they sang? There was a Christian association but in that camp at which this hymn was a great favorite with the men—surely much better than the senseless "Tipperary."—D. J. Findlay in The Christian.

#### True Thanksgiving.

It is eminently desirable that we should emphasize the moral obligation which rests upon every child of God to cultivate the spirit of thanksgiving and to manifest that spirit in its full beauty and power in all the relations of life. The thankful spirit reveals itself in a broad and true sympathy with others who are less fortunate than ourselves. It delights to remember the widow and the orphan and strives to carry the message of joy and gladness into the homes of the sick and the sorrowing of Thanksgiving Day. It looks unto God as the author of every good and perfect gift, and insists on sharing the blessings which he has bestowed with those who are needy and in want.—American Messenger.

#### Our Life a Prayer.

If we can learn how to control our thoughts by trying to reflect God's thoughts, then our whole life will be come a prayer, and by degrees the same mind will be in us that was also in Christ Jesus.—E. V. H.

#### Meus Sanna in Corpore Sano.

Health is one of the results of right thinking—the knowing of the truth about God and man. Purification of thought is necessary to the right understanding of God and man.—Lillian De Waters.

## FIRST PHOTOGRAPH OF CAPTURED AMERICANS IN GERMAN CAMP



This photograph shows the first American soldiers taken prisoner in France being questioned by their captors in a German camp. It was published in the German propaganda organ, "Wehr im Bild," and reached America through British official sources.

## EMPEROR WILLIAM VISITING HIS ALLY, THE SULTAN OF TURKEY



The kaiser paid a visit to his ally, the sultan of Turkey, recently, and this most unusual photograph shows their meeting.

## WOMEN RUN VETERINARY HOSPITAL



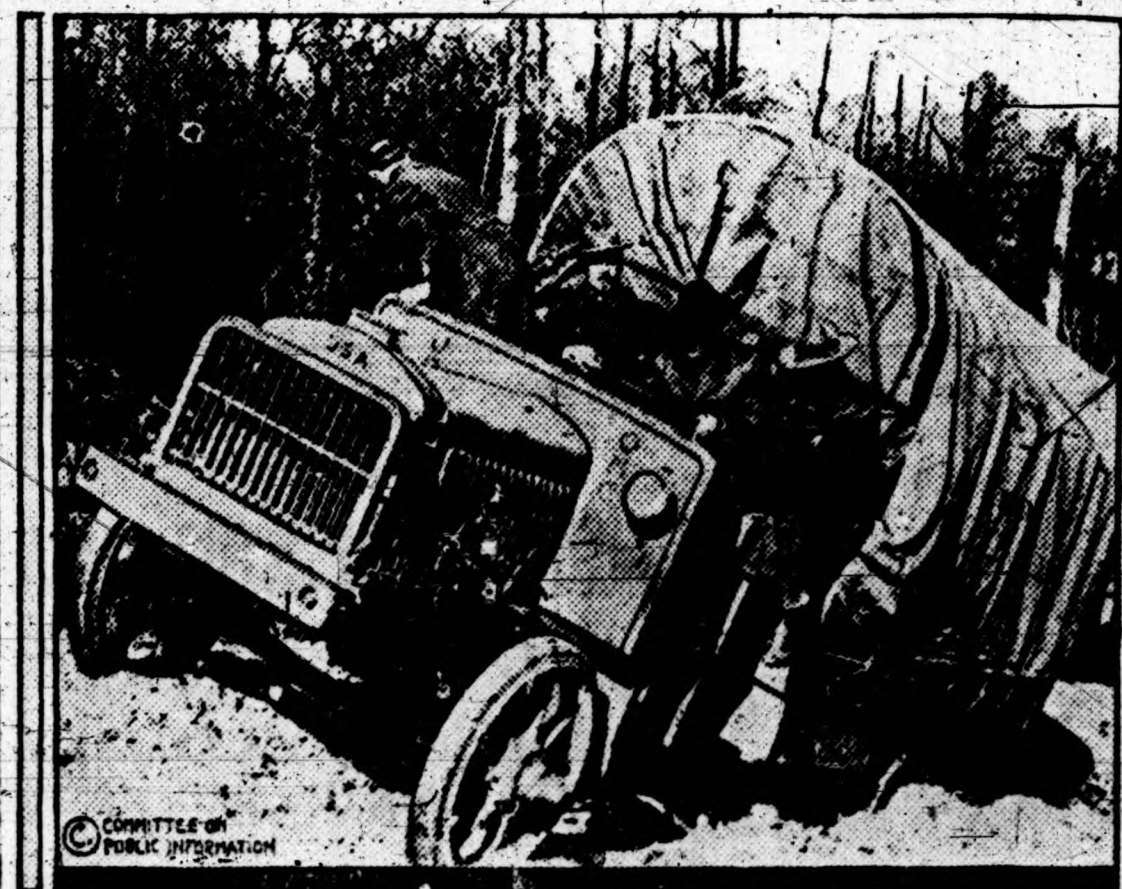
In many districts—English women are taking the places of the men who are at war, and now a big veterinary hospital in London is run entirely by women. The photograph shows the horse doctors removing the shoes from a patient.

## HEADS SERBIAN MISSION



Dr. Milanko Vesitch, Serbian minister to France, who heads the diplomatic and military mission to the United States. Doctor Vesitch represented his country at the Interallied conference in Paris.

## ARMY TRUCKS ON THEIR WAY TO SEABOARD



A military freight service has been established by the quartermaster general to carry ammunition by army truck and relieve the railways of some of the congestion. The first truck train of 30 machines started from Detroit to the Atlantic seaboard, the trucks also to be shipped to France. Two of the machines carry supplies for all. The photograph shows the leading truck on a difficult bit of road.

#### Study the Words.

Noah Webster started with 70,000 words. That was in 1828, when the first edition of his dictionary was published, says the New York Times. In the next edition, that of 1864, the list had grown to 114,000. Noah had died in the meantime, but his heirs and assigns continued his work. In 1880 a total of 175,000 words were listed. Since then the number has more than doubled. It is now about 400,000. Of course, nobody could be expected to learn all these words, nor is it necessary. Whenever in your reading you come across a word the meaning of which is not entirely clear to you drop your book or newspaper, as the case may be, and consult the dictionary. Don't delay. If you do probably you will never look the word up. It is surprising how many words one may add to one's vocabulary by this simple method.