

### CHOOSING HENS THAT MAKE BEST MOTHERS

Chicks Hard to Raise in Cold, Wet, or Hot Weather—Brooding Propensities Differ in Different Breeds—Care During Period of Incubation.

Given proper care and attention, Madam Hen is still the most convenient incubator for the busy farmer who raises a limited number of chickens. Mechanical incubators require regular and frequent care or the eggs in them will become too cold or too hot. The hen requires care and attention, but it is not necessary that she have it quite so regularly.

System and care in the management of sitting hens will result in satisfactory broods of chickens at a comparatively small expense. However, even with the best of care, some hens prove to be fickle mothers and cause trouble and loss in hatching by breaking their eggs, leaving their nests, or trampling on the chickens when first hatched. Most hens of the general-purpose breeds, such as the Plymouth Rocks, Wyandottes, Rhode Island Reds, and Orpingtons, make very good mothers. The heavier class, or meat breeds, including the Brahams and Cochins, make good sitters, but are inclined to be clumsy on the nest. The Leghorns and other Mediterranean breeds are non-sitters and rarely make good mothers.

**How to Set a Hen.**  
As the time approaches for the hen to become broody or sit, if care is taken to look into the nest it will be seen that there are a few, soft, downy feathers being left there by the hen; also, the hen stays longer on the nest when laying at this time, and on being approached will quite likely remain on the nest, making a clucking noise, ruffling her feathers, and pecking at the intruder. When it is noted that a hen sits on the nest from two to three nights in succession, and that most of the feathers are gone from her breast, which feels hot to the hand, she is ready to be transferred to the nest which has been prepared for her beforehand.

Dust the hen thoroughly with insect powder, and apply the powder hold the hen by the feet, the head down, working the powder well into the feathers, giving special attention to regions around the vent and under the wings. The powder should also be sprinkled in the nest. The nest should be in some quiet, out-of-the-way place, where the sitting hen will not be disturbed, and it may consist of hay, chaff, or straw. Pack firmly and shape out of it a circular nest which will be deeper in the center than at the sides. Move the hen from the regular laying nest at night and handle her carefully in doing so. Put a china egg or two in the nest where she is to sit, and place a board over the opening so that she can not get off. Toward the evening of the second day quietly go in where she is sitting, leave some feed and water, remove the board from the front or top of the nest, and let the hen come off when she is ready. Should she return to the nest after feeding, remove the china egg or eggs and put under those that are to be incubated.

If the nests are slightly darkened the hens are less likely to become restless. At hatching time they should be confined and not be disturbed until the hatch is completed, unless they become restless when it may be best to remove the chicks that are hatched first. In cool weather it is best not to put more than 10 eggs under a hen, while later in the spring one can put 12 to 15, according to the size of the hen.

**Care of The Sitting Hen.**  
If several hens are sitting in the same room, see that they are kept on the nests, allowing them to come off only once a day to receive feed and water, the feed to consist of corn, wheat, or both. If there are any that do not desire to come off, they should be taken off. Hens usually return to their nests before there is any danger of the eggs chilling, but if they do not go back in half an hour in ordinary weather, they should be put on the nest. The eggs and nests should be examined and cleaned. Remove all broken eggs and wash those that are soiled. In the latter case the soiled nesting material should be removed and clean straw added. Nests containing broken eggs that the hen is allowed to sit on soon become infested with mites and lice, which cause the hens to become uneasy and leave the nest, often causing the loss of valuable sittings of eggs.

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Sedan	775.00	38.79	31.97	Sedan	850.00	38.79	35.06
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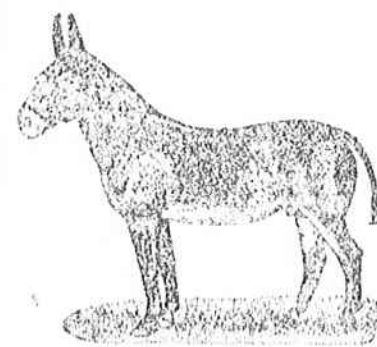
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