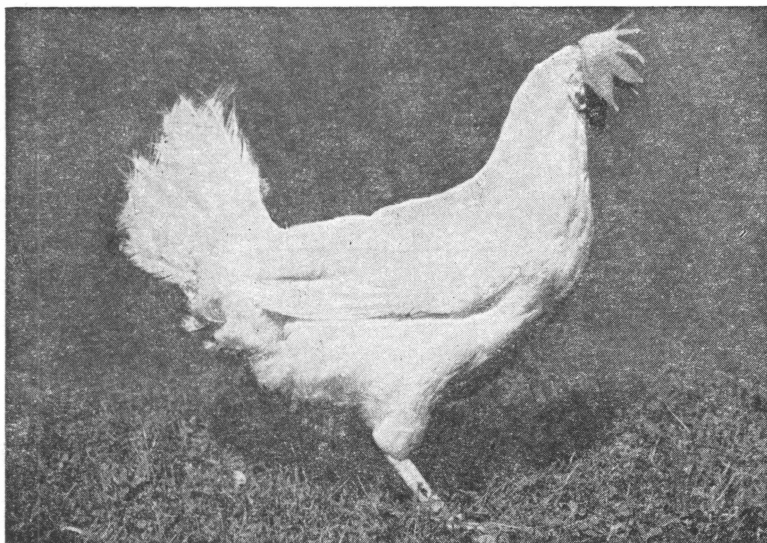
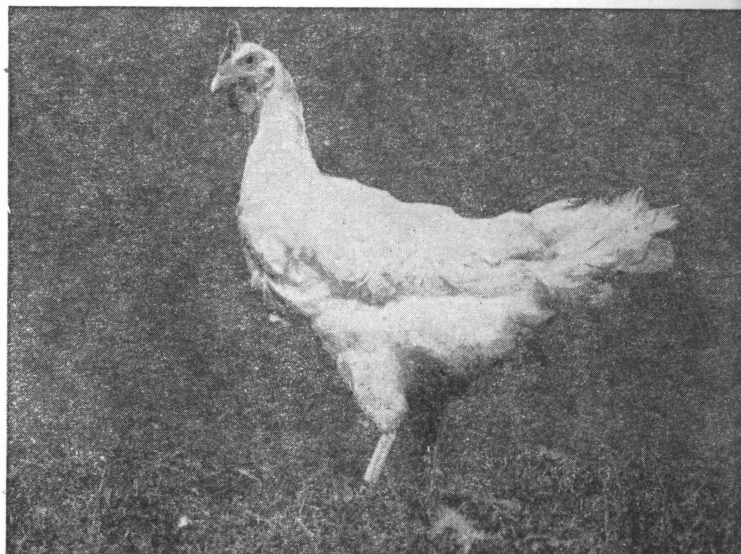


KEEP this kind



Deep body. Wide, long back. Full abdomen. Vigorous—Active — Busy.

CULL this kind



Body shallow in depth. Back narrow and short. Lazy—usually spends lots of time on the roost.

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Full, red, waxy comb. Bright eye. Well developed wattles. Short, well curved beak.



Full — Soft — Pliable Abdomen.

Culling Hens

By
Geo. P. McCarthy
Poultry Husbandman
Texas A. and M. College
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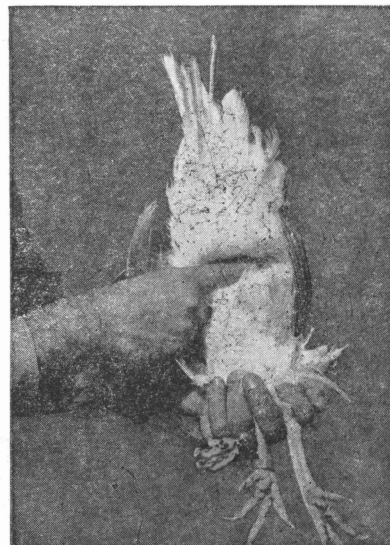
EVERY person engaged in poultry production, regardless of the size of the enterprise, should have a working knowledge of culling. The owner of the flock should cull the flock and not depend upon someone else. It should be borne in mind that profitable egg production depends upon the efficient use of feed by the hen in the manufacture of eggs. It is the object of culling to remove from the flock those hens that do not make efficient use of their feed.

Profits from the average farm poultry flock could be increased if owners would study the birds and learn to tell good layers from poor ones. First the poultryman should become familiar with the things to look for in the good layers, and then the hens should be studied until the layers can be distinguished from the slackers.

Culling should start with the day-old chicks and be continued throughout the life of the birds.



Comb shrivelled and scaly. Eye listless, sunken. Long slender head.



Very little body capacity. Shallow in depth. Narrow in back, occasionally hard and fat.

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CULLING CHART

Judging for Present Production

Character	Laying Hen	Non-Laying Hen
Vent	Large, dilated, oblong, moist	Small, contracted, round, dry
Pubic bones	Flexible and wide apart	Rigid, close together
Comb	Large, red, full, glossy	Small, pale, scaly
Wattles and lobes	Prominent, soft, smooth	Inconspicuous, rough and dry

Judging Past Production

Character	Long Laying Period	Short Laying Period
Vent	Bluish white	Flesh colored
Eyelids	Thin, edges white	Thick, yellow tinted
Eye	Prominent, keen, sparkling	Listless, sunken
Earlobes	Enamel white	Yellow tinted
Beak	Pearly white	Yellow tinted
Face	Clean cut, sunken	Full, well fleshed
Shanks	White, flat, thin, creased	Yellow, round, smooth
Plumage	Worn, soiled, lifeless, close-feathered	Signs of molting, loose-feathered

Judging Rate of Production

Character	High Rate	Low Rate
Keel	Slopes downward	Slopes upward
Pubic bones	Tips thin, point straight out	Tips thin, curve in
Capacity	Four to five fingers	Two fingers
Abdomen	Soft, pliable, dilated	Fatty, hard, contracted
Rump	Broad, width, carried back	Narrow, cramped
Lateral processes	Prominent, pointed outward	Hard to find, pointed inward
Skin	Soft, thin, loose, silky	Thick, dry, underlaid with fat