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M.J. HODGKINS.

Specialist Pullet Rearers and Poultry Feeds

NEW BARN FARM, GREEN LANE, LONGWORTH, ABINGDON, OXON OX13 5ED.

Telephone: 01865 821537 Mobile 07759 551946

OPEN - Monday to Saturday 8.00 - 12.00 Closed Bank Holidays

DOMESTIC POULTRY KEEPING

The domestic poultry of today are usually "hybrids", which are bred for their ability to convert food into eggs more economically than their pure-bred ancestors.

We usually have on offer the top breeds of brown egg layer that are equally suitable for free-range or the numerous semi-intensive methods. Providing a few simple requirements are adhered to, the beginner should have no trouble in obtaining 75% to 80% production for many months.

ENVIRONMENT

It is undoubtedly better to give poultry as much room as possible. If the house or run space, or both is too confined, this can quickly lead to boredom, bullying, feather pecking, egg eating, etc. We would suggest a minimum of 4' by 4' (1.21m x 1.21m) for the house for 6 birds, providing there is also an outside run of say 50 sq.ft. (4.65m sq.). This run will invariably become muddy and, if a permanency, should be covered with gravel or regularly strawed. If the house is of sufficient size the birds can remain in during very wet weather.

The floor of the house should be well littered with wood shavings, straw or some friable material to make for easy cleaning. Hay should not be used except to line nest boxes. A perch should be provided 18" to 2' (46cm - 60cm) above the floor, allowing about 9" (23cm) width per bird. Nest boxes, approximately 10"-12" (25cm-30cm) square and raised above floor level, should be provided in the ratio of one to every 3 or 4 birds. These should be situated in the darkest part of the house where there is no direct sunlight.

FOOD

The most essential point here is not to waste food, which means using the correct sort of feeder, preferably a hanging tube type, not an open trough. For maximum production birds should be fed ad lib on layers mash or pellets. 100-130gms. (3.5-4.5oz.) per bird per day. If any corn is fed, not more than 14gms. (1/2oz.) per bird per day. All feeding should be done inside the house.

As an egg is made up of about 65% water, it is most essential that the birds have fresh water in front of them at all times.

Birds also need access regularly to mixed grit, sharp flint for digestion and oyster shell for extra calcium.

WE STOCK ALL FOOD AND GRIT NEEDED.

A FEW POINTS TO REMEMBER

1. Never underestimate the fox. Without any doubt this is most likely to be your biggest problem.
2. If you have a sudden drop in egg production in spring or summer, house infestation with red mite is the most probable reason. This can be easily remedied with a spray or powder.
(We sell Red Mite powder)
3. Unexplained deaths of birds in good condition is more likely to be vent pecking than any other cause. This can be difficult to spot without a very close examination and is usually caused by some stress factor i.e. mud, shortage of food or water or light intensity wrong inside the house.
4. Poultry must **not** have access to **lettuce**, rhubarb, daffodils, laburnum, yew or green potatoes.
5. **Any problems, please 'phone us.**

WE ALSO PROVIDE FOR THE LARGER COMMERCIAL FREE RANGE PRODUCER.