

**999 QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS; A GUIDE
TO SUCCESS WITH POULTRY, WRITTEN
AND ARRANGED IN THE
FORM MOST HELPFUL TO THE FANCIER
AND THE MARKET POULTRYMAN, THE
AMATEUR AND THE EXPERT**

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999 questions and answers; A guide to success with poultry, written and arranged in the form most helpful to the fancier and the market poultryman, the amateur and the expert by Frank Heck

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FRANK HECK

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MAN, THE AMATEUR AND THE EXPERT



BY FRANK HECK

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Preface.

In offering the contents of this volume to those who are interested in poultry culture, it has been the object of the author to make clear the fundamental principles of successful poultry raising and to impart such general information as will in a measure meet the demands of the poultryman who is sufficiently interested in the work to seek a detailed knowledge of the numerous conditions with which he is confronted. The experienced breeder will, of course, find much that is not new to him, but it is hoped that to all who are not close students of the vocation, there will be presented a few ideas worthy of consideration, and that the book will possess merit as being convenient for ready reference and for refreshing the memory to advantage occasionally. Its greatest value, perhaps, will be to the amateur or beginner who feels the need of information of a purely rudimentary character, as well as a knowledge of the more intricate problems, the correct solution of which has so great a bearing upon success. An effort has been made to cover both branches of the business usually designated as fancy and utility, and to aid both the fancier who breeds fowls for pleasure and exhibition and the market-poultryman who is interested only in the number of eggs and pounds of flesh that his fowls produce. Theories and undemonstrable deductions have been eliminated, or designated as such, and the positive conclusions arrived at are supported by the experience of acknowledged authorities and conspicuously successful breeders, as well as the experience of the author as a breeder, exhibitor, judge and editor, in which positions the numerous phases of the business have been presented and dealt with. The great variety of topics and the nature of their arrangement precludes the possibility of a detailed classified index, and, in the absence of it, the reader will find it convenient to designate by marginal notes those questions which may be of greatest interest and to which it is desirable to refer often. The form adopted for presenting the information—namely, that of questions and answers—has been chosen for the reason that it responds to a universal and unmistakable demand for knowledge in few words and to the point, devoid of all unnecessary and uninteresting preliminary introductions and supplementary comments of a general character. The fondest hope of the author is that the book may prove of real value to those into whose hands it may fall.

THE AUTHOR.

Sept. 1, 1903.

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Special Questions for the Fancier.

QUESTION—What is the single mating plan of producing Barred Rocks?

ANSWER—By single mating is meant the selection of a Standard colored male mated to Standard colored females with a view to producing both males and females of Standard color from the one mating. A mating of this kind usually produces males that are too light in color and females that are too dark.

QUESTION—What is the double mating plan of producing Barred Rocks?

ANSWER—It is the system of using birds of different shades of color to produce Standard colored birds. In order to produce Standard colored exhibition males, a male bird of Standard color is mated to females a few shades darker than Standard. The males from this mating will be good in color and the females very much too dark. To produce Standard colored exhibition females a male a few shades lighter than the Standard is mated to females that are Standard. The females from this mating will be of the proper color, but the males will be much too light.

QUESTION—Is double mating practiced with other breeds than the Barred Rocks?

ANSWER—Yes, nearly all parti-colored breeds have some friends who believe in double mating.

QUESTION—What is meant by "culls"?

ANSWER—The term "cull" is given to fowls that are from the best breeding, but are lacking in strong development of one or more features which must be present to make them good exhibition specimens.

QUESTION—How is the score of a pen of birds in the show room determined?

ANSWER—An exhibition pen consists of four females and one male. The scores of the four best females are added and this total divided by four. To the amount thus obtained is added the score of the male, and this total is score of the pen.

QUESTION—What causes brassy color in white fowls?

ANSWER—It is inherited from ancestors the same as any other color or characteristic, but it is often intensified and first brought out by exposure to the hot summer sun.

QUESTION—When can a breeder claim to have strain?

ANSWER—A strain is a family of any variety of fowls bred in line by descent, by one fancier or a successor, during a number of years, that has acquired individual characteristics which distinguish it more or less from other strains or specimens of the same variety.

QUESTION—Does continued confinement in the show room for three or four weeks injure birds as breeders?

ANSWER—Yes, in most cases. The best of feed and care and favorable conditions generally are necessary to offset the effects of the confinement.

QUESTION—What causes crooked breast bones?

ANSWER—Roosting too early or roosting on perches that are too narrow.

QUESTION—Does the feeding of yellow corn have a tendency to increase or maintain the brassy and cream color in white fowls?

ANSWER—There is a more or less common belief that it does, but no one has ever yet satisfactorily proven it.

QUESTION—What causes wry tail, and is it hereditary?

ANSWER—It may be a constitutional defect, in which case it would to some extent be transmitted to the offspring. It may also result from an injury or forced carriage of the tail, in which case it is not hereditary, and may be overcome in the specimen affected.

QUESTION—Is it possible for adult fowls to naturally develop off color in one or more feathers?

ANSWER—Yes. In exceptional cases serious debilitating illness may cause it or an injury to plumage, such as a broken feather while it is growing. Such feathers should be pulled, and they will generally grow in again true to color.

QUESTION—Will bantams and the large breeds interbreed if allowed to run together?

ANSWER—A certain amount of crossing will take place and some of the eggs from these matings will prove fertile.

QUESTION—Do buff fowls become lighter with each succeeding molt?

ANSWER—Yes. There is a shade or two difference in the color and a little white may appear, especially in females.

QUESTION—Is the rose comb on the Wyandotte as easy to breed as the single comb on the Plymouth Rock?

ANSWER—There is about the same percentage of good combs found in each breed, but in say 50 birds of equal quality of each breed selected at random the single combs as a lot would approach nearer perfection than the rose combs.

QUESTION—Will a mating of high grade Wyandottes ever produce chicks with single combs?

ANSWER—Occasionally a single comb chick will appear, but it should be discarded.

QUESTION—When was the Standard last revised?

ANSWER—1903.

QUESTION—Which is the most objectionable in buff fowls, black or white?

ANSWER—Some breeders claim that they are equally objectionable, but the majority would rather see black than white.

QUESTION—Is it reasonable to expect cockerels and pullets to reach Standard weight at nine months of age?

ANSWER—Only a portion of any flock will do it and generally not more than 25 per cent.

QUESTION—Does one parent have more influence on the size of the progeny than the other?

ANSWER—It is believed by many experienced breeders that the female influences size and the male, color.

QUESTION—What is meant by "frosting" in the plumage of a fowl?

ANSWER—A marginal edging or tracing of color on feathers of laced, spangled and penciled varieties.

QUESTION—What are the hackle feathers?

ANSWER—The long, narrow feathers growing on the neck of a fowl and out of the saddle of male birds,