Issue 238 December 2020

# Poultrynz

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# Welcome to the Poultrynz Newsletter.

With the holidays nearly ready to be geared up, it is time to look at those days that will be spent with your Fowls. Summer is always Red Mite time but also an opportunity to clean out your pens on at least one day off. Poultrynz will be open all through the Christmas period but it is not a good idea to leave it until the last moment. We are well stocked up for the Summer months especially to eradicate Red Mites. With growing chicks and your Fowls in full swing it is important to look after them this time of year when the vermin are at their worst.

Until next issue.

Regards, Ian Selby.

## It's live!

**All the advertisements that have an underline under the email address or url are hyperlinks.**

**Clicking the link will open your email with the Poultrynz destination in the recipient box.**

## Starter Pack for Healthy Chickens and Poultry

- 500mls of Poultry Shield for eradicating Red Mites.
- 300gms Poultrynz D.E. for Red Mites and Lice.
- 125mls Poultry Leg Spray for keeping your bird's legs free of mites.

**Only $36**


*Courier not included*

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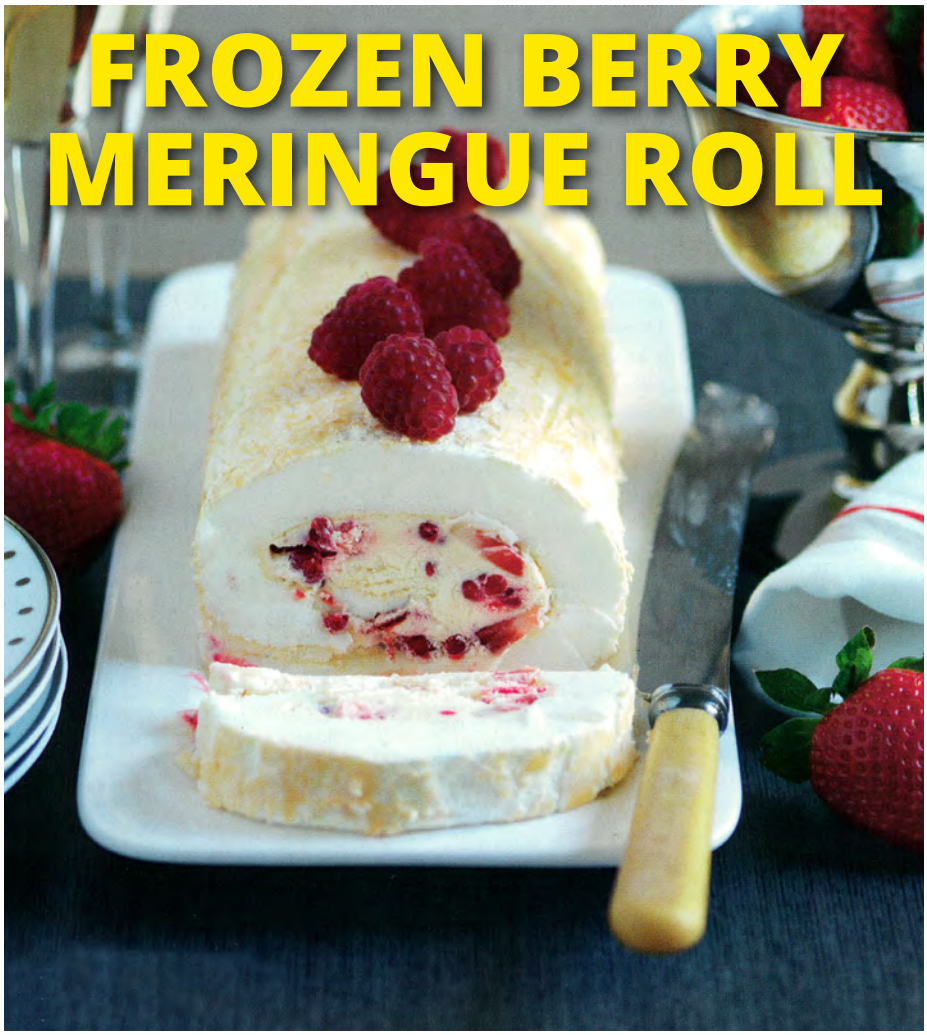
# POULTRYNZ Products

| Product | Quantity | Unit Price | Courier Postage | Rural Delivery |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Poultry Shield | 1 Litre | $30.00 | $8.00 | $18.00 |
| | 5 Litre | $100.00 | $15.00 | $25.00 |
| Poultrynz DE (Diatomaceous Earth) | 300gm puffer | $16.00 | $8.00 | $18.00 |
| Poultrynz DE | 1kg | $20.00 | $8.00 | $18.00 |
| Poultrynz DE | 2kg | $35.00 | $8.00 | $18.00 |
| Poultrynz DE | 4kg | $70.00 | $15.00 | $25.00 |
| Poultrynz DE | 8kg | $120.00 | $15.00 | $25.00 |
| Poultry Leg Spray | 500ml | $20.00 | $8.00 | $18.00 |
| Poultry Leg Spray | 125ml | $9.00 | $5.00 | $12.00 |
| BioDri | 1kg | $12.00 | $8.00 | $18.00 |
| | 5kg | $35.00 | $15.00 | $25.00 |
| Epsom Salts | 4kg | $15.00 | $8.00 | $18.00 |
| **Combo's** | | | | |
| 1 litre Poultry Shield + 300gm D.E. | | $40.00 | $8.00 | $18.00 |
| 1L Poultry Shield + 300gm D.E. + 500ml Leg Spray | | $56.00 | $8.00 | $18.00 |
| 5 litres Poultry Shield + 4kg DE | | $150.00 | $15.00 | $25.00 |
| **Starter Pack** 500ml Poultry Shield, Poultrynz DE 300gm, 125ml Leg spray | | $36.00 | $8.00 | $18.00 |

**To purchase POULTRYNZ products email poultrynz@xtra.co.nz**

# FROZEN BERRY MERINGUE ROLL



*This impressive, prepare-ahead dessert is easier to make than it looks.*

## INGREDIENTS

Serves 8 –10

6 egg whites

I½ cups caster sugar

1 teaspoon each: white vinegar, vanilla extract, cornflour

1 cup each: chopped berries, cream

Icing sugar for dusting

Extra berries for garnish

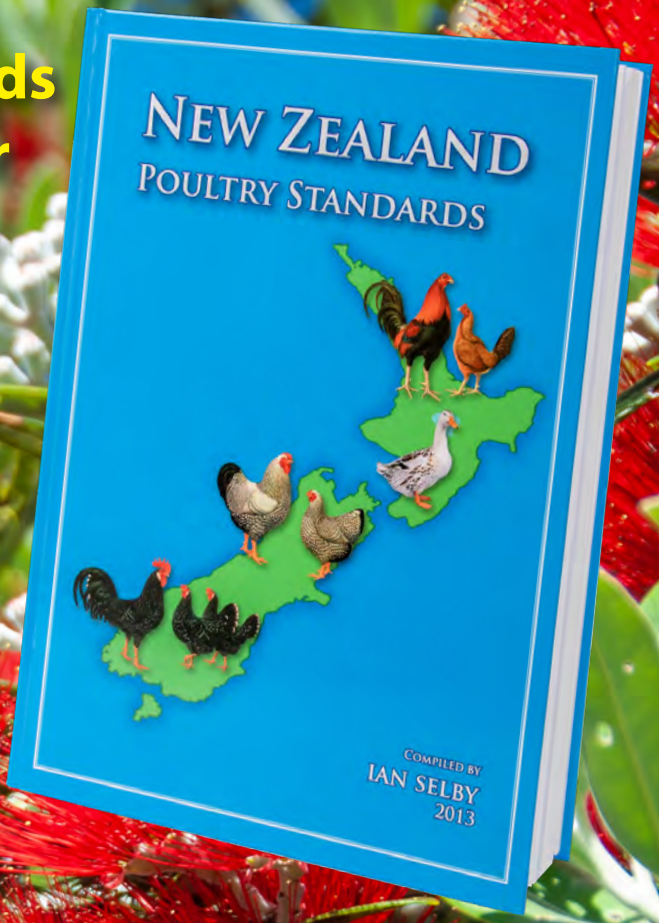
## METHOD

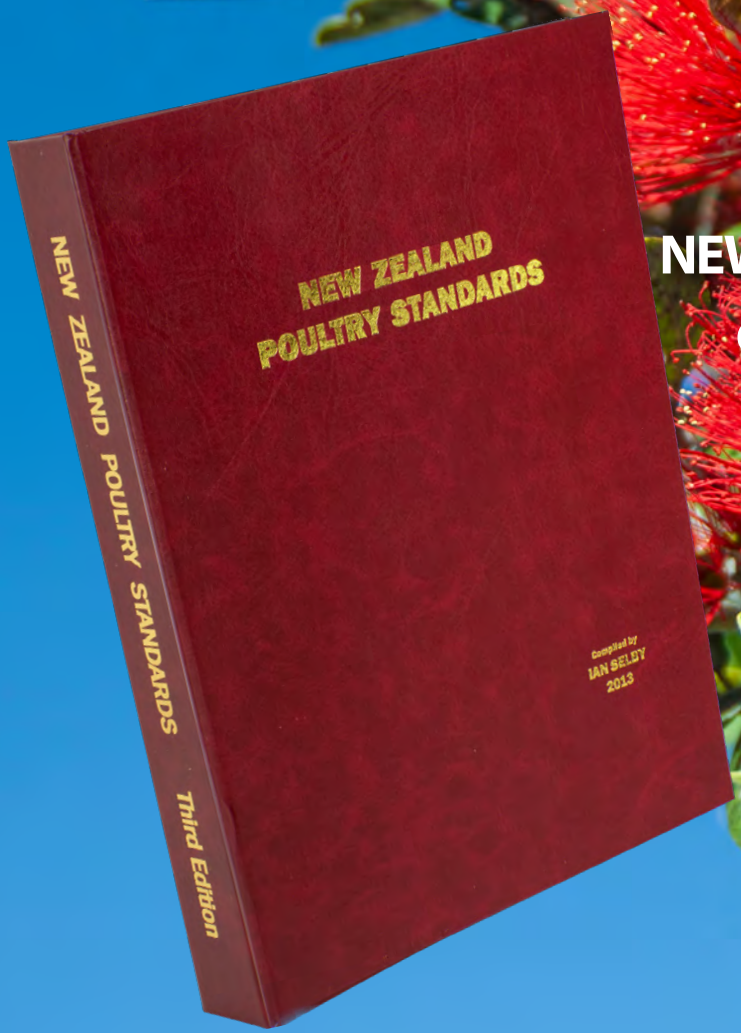
- Preheat oven to 165°C. Using an electric beater, beat egg whites until foamy. With beaters still running, gradually add 1¼ cups sugar and keep beating until the mixture is glossy and firm enough to hold its shape. Beat in vinegar and vanilla. Combine remaining ¼ cup sugar with cornflour, turn beater to lowest speed and mix in. Spread mixture on a lined baking tray to make a rectangle about 25cm x 35cm.
- Bake 8 minutes then reduce temperature to 150°C and bake a further 10 minutes or until meringue is puffed, pale golden and firm to the touch.
- Place a sheet of baking paper on the bench and dust with icing sugar. Cool meringue 10 minutes then carefully flip it over on to the paper. Peel off cooking paper and allow to cool completely.
- Whip cream and spread it over the meringue. Sprinkle with berries then gently roll up, using the paper to help. Wrap meringue roll in tinfoil and freeze on a tray (at least 4 hours or for up to 2 weeks). To serve, semi-thaw roll in the fridge for 15 minutes then use a hot knife for slicing. Garnish with extra berries.

**If you have friends or colleagues who might benefit from the Poultrynz newsletter please feel free to pass it on. Your friends can also be added to the distribution list. Just send the word "subscribe" to poultrynz@xtra.co.nz**

# Christmas Special

**New Zealand Poultry Standards in either Hardback or Binder Now reduced for Christmas with FREE postage.**




**NEW ZEALAND POULTRY STANDARDS**

**only $60 + FREE Postage**

**SAVE $18.50**

**Offer available until Christmas Day 2020**

**Available from poultrynz@xtra.co.nz**

# BREEDING THE WYANDOTTE

*by Jack Hutton, in "Poultry" (Eng.)*

When starting with Wyandottes, in fact with any breed of Fowls — quality is of paramount importance. You cannot expect to get first-class specimens in one season without a good start. Quality must be purchased either in the form of a setting of eggs or good breed stock. You cannot make quality from poor stock without resorting to outside blood from a source that is above reproach.

If your own birds are moderate, and good stock is purchased to mate with them, the result will not always be good specimens in the first season. However, by mating back with the first-class blood an improvement in stock should be apparent in two or three seasons to such an extent as to be considered first-class.

Those who can afford, say, three guineas for a setting of Wyandotte eggs from one of the best breeders should, with reasonable luck, have one or two exhibition specimens in the first season. Not all breeders, however, will sell their eggs, for the simple reason that it is possible that a champion may be hatched from one of them. It is natural that a breeder who has laboured patiently for years to breed a champion will not be anxious to dispose of eggs from his best pen. Most breeders will sell the sisters and brothers of their best birds, and for the beginner the soundest way to start is to purchase such birds. Then, providing the weather is suitable and broodies are available, chicks can be hatched at various times.

As regards varieties, first let us consider the White. It must be pure white, and any new feathers in a young bird or one that is moulting should show pink in the quill at the half-grown stage. Those with any sign of yellow in the feathers at this stage I, personally, would not consider as good specimens. Another point about the plumage of a Wyandotte is that it requires shading from the sun, especially when it is hot in the summer.

White Wyandotte Trio

## WYANDOTTE TYPE

The Wyandotte should be a bird of curves with no signs of a flat side anywhere. The shape, however, must come from the body formation, and not just from the outline of the feathers. One often comes across birds of only moderate shape that look really fine specimens owing to the length of their feathers. The ideal, however, is one with grand body depth and only a moderate length of feather, but plenty of it.

The following are some of the points to watch in the breeding pen: The male's head must be as near perfect as possible, with no signs of pea comb or hollow comb. In the first season the male should show no signs of square shins. Split wings or extra long tail should rule out a male

for the breeding pen.

Sometimes it is rather difficult to mate up a pen with birds all having the required short backs. Some say that a very short-backed male is not always as fertile as it should be; so, if there is any doubt, trim the feathers round the vent of the male and females. If the male is of good type but not as short in the back as required, it is not necessary to discard it.The females, however, must be as short in the back as possible.

I have always found that the male stamps in any extra good or bad qualities he may have, but the females have most to do with the body shape of the chickens. Therefore, to breed the best specimens, the females in the pen must have almost non-existent backs, rising from the bottom of the neck hackle to the graceful curve of the tail, which should be plentiful in feather but short.

Look at Wyandottes from all angles and if you see a bird that is all curves with no harsh lines anywhere, and which has greater body depth than length, then it is of the correct Wyandotte type.

## PARTRIDGE VARIETY

In my opinion, the exhibition Partridge Wyandotte female is the most beautiful of all Wyandottes, but very few really first-class specimens are produced. Those excelling in exquisite pencilling are usually lacking in shape, and most of those whose type is good fall in ground colour and markings.

Inbreeding is the only sure way producing good Partridge Wyandottes. A chance mating may produce a good one, but it is only a gamble. Make no mistake, this is a difficult variety to produce, but the average Partridge

Partridge Wyandotte pair

Wyandotte fancier is quite satisfied if he gets one really tip-top specimen in a season. Some years ago my brother and I bred this variety with success, and obtained several best in show awards. We were often pegged back in a breed class, however, because the judges went for pencilling and ground colour and forgot that they were judging Wyandottes.

## PLUMAGE MARKINGS

The correct shade for Partridge Wyandottes is hard to describe. Some say a light yellowish-brown, like a dry oak leaf in autumn. Each feather of a good female should be pencilled with a fine but distinct black marking round it, a further black pencilling following the same line inside the outer one. In a really good specimen a treble marking is in evidence on many feathers.

A good pen is very valuable, because the females comprising it have to be first-class. Many fail because they show rather weak markings on breast feathers, while others which excel on breast may be a little indistinct

Partridge Pencilling on the back

elsewhere.

## PULLET-BREEDING MALE

The pullet-breeding male is usually orange-coloured in his hackles, as compared with the lemon shade of the exhibition male. Very often, too, he is short of black striping in the hackle. If the male is laced with brown on his black breast, then this is all to the good. In their first season, such birds may even show some female-marked feathers on back and sides, but these have to be looked for to be seen.

## COLOUR OF CHICKENS

The chicks when hatched are like Brown Leghorn chicks in colour, and the first growth of feathers is more or less barred, not pencilled. One can usually tell those with the best body shapes at an early age. At three months old some appear to waddle along like ducks. Those are the ones that will be real Wyandottes on reaching maturity.

At four months one can look for signs of adult feathers just coming through, and if the first few are clear and correctly pencilled then there is a chance of owning a good specimen by the time it reaches seven or eight months. Some may finish up by being a little weak on breast or with patches of mossy feathers (indistinct and too much black). But they are interesting, for they keep you guessing until they are fully grown.

Many reasonably good specimens moult out much better in the second season. A first-season reserve bird, therefore, may be a best in show winner in its second season.

## BREEDING SILVER-LACED

The Silver-Laced Wyandotte cockerel takes a tremendous lot of breeding, and many disappointments will be experienced before a novice can expect to get one up to standard. The first step would be to get a pen of pure cock-breeding strain, as the least strain of pullet-breeding blood will ruin the top colour of the cockerel, and it will take years of the most careful mating to eradicate.

The male and female in the breeding pen should be of the same strain, though not too closely related. We hear a lot of argument about inbreeding causing loss of stamina, but if it is carefully done no harm is caused in this respect.

Silver Laced Wyandotte pair

High-class silver cockerels cannot be bred year after year without a certain amount of inbreeding.

The novice should get his breeding stock from a reliable breeder, and when he requires a slight change of blood to go to the same breeder for it. It is not much use to pick a good-looking cockerel at one place and then go to other places for hens to mate with him, as it is seldom that any satisfactory results follow. If a novice wishes to get right to the top and providing he has plenty of room at his disposal, he had better start with at least three breeding pens. He can then cross and inter-cross for years without a further change of blood.

The male to breed cockerels should have good size and type, as perfect in lacing and colour as possible. Take great care to see that the lacing is black and clean cut on the breast and bars, and that the top colour is bright and silvery, with good hackle striping. The breast should be regularly laced from throat to thighs and extend well down to the hocks, and the undercolour sound and free from "peppering."

## APPEARS IN OFFSPRING

Never breed from a spangle-breasted cock or it will reappear in the offspring for generations. Another fault to be avoided is double lacing (or frost, as some people call it): an outer fringe of white on the black lacing. This is more often seen in the brighter top-coloured fowls whose lacing is inclined to show a grey tinge. Also keep clear of sooty hackles and saddles and yellow or ticked wings, as these faults will nearly always be carried on for several generations.

The bars should run right across the wings, the lacing being clean cut well round the feathers and free from spangling. The tail should be free from white.

To mate with a cock of this description, hens with distinct clean-cut lacing on the breast, especially towards the bottom and across the fluff, are desirable; as free as possible from double lacing, though a little of this does not matter at the point of the breast if the cock is perfectly

sound there. The undercolour should be quite sound and free from peppery fluff and thighs, or that fault is sure to reappear in the offspring.

To breed good cockerels really sound hens should be selected with bright silvery hackles, heavily striped with pure black. To mate with a really bright-hackled cock do not mind if the hen's hackles are nearly black at the bottom, provided they are bright and silvery near the head. There is no need to fear a bit of moss on the cushion if the lacing is sound, as all good cock-breeding hens have mossy cushions and are of no use in the show pens. Of course, good heads are required in both sexes, but do not discard a hen that was good in all other points just because her comb was not quite perfect.

If the cock fails in any point mate him to hens that are extra good in those points, and vice versa. Thus, if one has to breed from rather a darker or more heavily laced cock, mate him with hens of a lighter shade, finer breast lacing and clean cut.

Another important point is good flight lacing in the hens. If you breed from plain-flighted hens the majority of the cockerels will have this defect.

White Wyandottes

This variety constitutes a fascinating hobby, as you get many surprises, and sometimes find your best stock comes from what you consider your second-best pen. You may get really tip-top specimens from any of the three pens, as they throw back to a common ancestor.

However, be most careful not to get one drop of pullet-breeding blood in your strain, as show pullets are bred on diametrically opposite lines to show cockerels, and the blood once introduced takes generations of careful mating to breed out.

# GRIT FOR POULTRY AND CHICKENS

A fowl, instead of being furnished with teeth, like animals and human beings, where with to masticate cafe food as a preliminary process of digestion, is furnished with quite a different contrivance, which, however practically answers the same purpose as a man's teeth.

A man puts certain food into his mouth, and that food by mastication and by the addition of the saliva secreted, is reduced to a pulp, which is ready for treatment by the chemical process of the digestive juices in the stomach. The case of the fowl, however, is different: a hen swallows her food whole, it consists principally of grain, and that grain finds itself in the crop, which is really little more than an enlargement of the oesophagus or gullet. There the grain undergoes a process of softening, and then it is passed on to the gizzard, where it is "masticated."

The gizzard is really a sort of natural grinding-mill. Its walls are thick and tough, and inside it are sharp stones which cut into and assimilate the food. That is why poultry, by the aid of their natural instinct — that marvellous reasoning faculty of the animal world — swallow stones and other sharp objects.

These substances go, like all other things swallowed, first into the crop, but it is not until they pass on to the gizzard that they make any difference. Once there they fulfil a double purpose. Not only do they grind up the softened grain and other food into a homologous mass, ready to be chemically treated by the digestive juices, but they grind against each other and provide soluble mineral matter for the requirements of the bird's body.

Here it may be pointed out that a fowl should have a supply of grit of different sizes. It is a mistake to supply only one size; in order to make a perfect "mill" — a thoroughly effective grinding power — smaller particles of grit are necessary to fill the interstices between the larger pieces.

In supplying poultry with grit there need be no argument about the necessity for supplying it when poultry are kept in confinement, nor, indeed, when they are at liberty, if there are so many that they are likely soon to clear up all the suitable surface grit on a farm.

Oyster grit

**POINTS TO BE KEPT IN MIND.**

First of all, grit must be sharp. You never see poultry swallow rounded pebbles. They generally take up a piece of grit and turn it round in the beak two or three times as if testing and examining it — as often rejecting it as swallowing it. Sharp pieces are preferred — and here let us say that when a sharp piece of grit has been at work in the gizzard and has been rubbed smooth by friction with other pieces it is no longer of any use, and is passed out of the system automatically.

Sharpness, then, is the first essential. Next to that grit must be hard. Unless it is hard it will crumble at once instead of "pulping" the food.

So sharp, hard grit is what a fowl needs, Oyster Grit is the most common grit available.

# OBSERVATIONS ON FINAL PLUMAGE

*by "Observer," in "Poultry World"*

When you are handling young stock and looking for promising birds, hidden merits need to be observed and noted. It means judging what the final plumage will be: and that calls for more knowledge and interest than just spotting side-sprigs on combs or defective feathering on legs.

Specialists in certain breeds, of course, get to know what defects in colour and markings they have to anticipate. They know therefore where to look for the faults.

You will see, for instance, a black Minorca enthusiast spread out the wing feathers of each young bird — he is looking for white defects. In all breeds which should have black wings, white or grey in the feathers is a common defect.

The beginner can make mistakes here, for if the white faults are only in the pointed soft chicken feathers of the wings judgment must be postponed until the adult, broad stiff feathers come through. Sometimes the white defect departs, while in other birds it appears at the last stage.

Few attach importance to rearing bantam chickens if white appears in their black wing feathers. If the chicks are overheated in the brooding stage white soon comes through. If you have bought a valuable sitting of black Minorca bantam eggs this season — even if the parent stock had sound-coloured wings — rearing and feeding will decide whether the youngsters come through sound.

Indications of quill-binding in tail and wing feathers are seen in the fine hair lines across them. The feathers are dry and brittle, and parts break off. Often attention to the oil gland would have prevented this condition. The oil-gland is like a pimple at the root of the tail, and if you pull out the small hairs from the top and gently squeeze it oil will flow. Otherwise, if the oil is congealed, bathe the part with warmish water to soften the oil, then press out the coagulated matter until oil does flow. Do this, however, when chickens are young as a precaution.

Checking a poultry wing.

## DEFICIENT AT MATURITY

When handling young Rhode Island Reds for wing markings attention should again be concentrated on the adult feathers. If these are self-coloured red without any black parts, then the latter will be deficient at maturity. Do not get alarmed when you pick up long pointed soft feathers from the wings in the litter, for they have to drop out when the adult feathers come through.

Keen about Rhode Island Reds, you will know how the secondaries and primaries run for black markings and will be looking for some adult feathers showing up black on one half of the feathers and red on the other. Secondaries have black lower and red upper webs, which are reversed in the primaries to upper red and lower black webs. Learn to recognise the last ten feathers of the outstretched, wing as the primaries.

Tail feathers should be beetle-green black, down to the skin. You should

ignore the soft pointed, narrow chicken feathers, but pay attention to the adult, broad stiff feathers. If the latter are black they will remain so; if they are mainly red, then you may reckon accurately that, at maturity, such a bird will have a red tail deficient in black.

Learn to tell the differences between these chicken and adult feathers. If you are saving a cockerel for stock, you will need to know how tail feathers will finish for soundness of dense black colouring. That goes also for the sickles.

Rhode Island Red wing.

# VITAMIN DEFICIENCY DISEASES IN POULTRY

*Australasian Poultry World, 1944.*

**AVITAMINOSIS A**
**(Greenfeed Deficiency Disease)**

Vitamins are chemical substances which are essential for the normal development and maintenance of the animal body, and although only minute amounts are necessary, their continued absence from the diet may result in disease. The diseases which develop when the diet is deficient in Vitamins are known as avitaminoses, and in poultry the commonest is avitaminosis A (also called green food deficiency disease, and nutritional roup) due to a food intake containing insufficient vitamin A for the maintenance of health.

Vitamin A is necessary for growth, egg production and reproduction; it also fortifies the upper respiratory passages against infection. When a diet containing no Vitamin A is fed to poultry, the birds become unthrifty; they show a discharge from the nostrils, and may develop swellings in the eyes and facial sinuses caused by the accumulation of a thick gelatinous or cheesy exudate. Similar cheesy deposits may occur in the mouth, and in advanced cases, whitish pustules form in the mucous membrane lining the oesophagus or gullet. A bird suffering from Avitaminosis A shows signs which are difficult to distinguish from those accompanying infectious larygotracheitis, fowl pox, and infectious catarrh. Although the diet may not be totally deficient in vitamin A,

Green feed

the amount present may be too small for normal requirements, resulting in a slow growth rate, lowered egg production and poor fertility and "hatchability".

Leafy green vegetables such as spinach and silver beet, young green grass and cereal crops and carrots and yellow maize contain vitamin A; the inclusion of adequate amounts of succulent green feed in the ration will supply the necessary requirements of this vitamin. When green crops or other vegetable sources of vitamin A are not available, substitutes are necessary. Cod liver oil, and oils prepared from the livers of certain sharks and other fishes have a high vitamin A content, and during the Autumn and at other times when green feed is scarce or of poor quality, the ration should include one of the vitamin A supplements. Care should be taken to purchase only the fish oils which have a guaranteed vitamin A content.

**RICKETS.**

Vitamin D deficiency is accompanied by imperfect bone development, and

Poultry enjoying the sunlight.

in chicken leads to Rickets. Vitamin D is found in the body when birds are exposed to ultra violet rays of direct sunlight, and under normal conditions a Vitamin D deficiency should not occur in Australasia. Trouble is frequently experienced, however, in young chickens reared in a brooder where they are excluded from sunshine: thus unless precautions are taken, Rickets is likely to develop in battery brooders. Chickens with rickets usually show some abnormality of posture and gait, and varying degrees of leg weakness may be shown.

The beaks become soft, growth is retarded and death may take place in a short time after the signs are first noticed.

The most valuable preventative measure is exposure to direct sunlight, but when this is not practicable, cod liver oil with an adequate content of Vitamin D should be provided. It should be noted that the Vitamin A supplements, such as shark liver oil are not suitable for the prevention of Rickets, as their Vitamin D content is negligible.