

MN 2000 MISC 1925

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V. 112 No. 11
1925

3RD EDITION

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THE DISEASES OF YOUNG CHICKS.

IT TAKES ONLY TEN MINUTES TO READ THIS LITTLE BOOK, WHICH IS A SHORT AND SNAPPY DESCRIPTION OF THE MORE COMMON DISEASES OF CHICKS.

Jan. 30, 1925
(9)

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PUBLISHED BY THE UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA AGRICULTURAL EXTENSION DIVISION, F.W. PECK, DIRECTOR. FREE COOPERATIVE EXTENSION WORK, ACT OF MAY 8, AND JUNE 30, 1914.

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--DISEASES OF CHICKS--

IT IS GENERALLY ESTIMATED that 30 to 50 per cent of all chicks hatched, die during the first month. These deaths are due in a large part to faulty feeding, housing and care.

HOWEVER, CERTAIN DISEASES take a large annual toll. Among these we might name WHITE DIARRHEA, COCCIDIOSIS, ROUP, LICE and MITES. One hears considerable talk about the disease called the "gapes" but the writer has never seen it in Minnesota. It is common however, in some of the Eastern states.

DO NOT SPEND TOO MUCH TIME OR MONEY trying to treat the sick chicks. It is best to destroy the sick ones and bend your efforts to save the rest.

INFECTIOUS WHITE DIARRHEA

THIS is a VERY ACUTE and FATAL disease of young chicks. The disease sometimes occurs in adult fowls, but rarely causes death, the ovaries of the infected old hen harbor the germs and she simply serves as a carrier and every egg she lays may contain the germs of this disease.

It is well to keep in mind that ALL DIARRHEAS of chicks ARE NOT OF AN INFECTIOUS NATURE. A great many are caused by faulty feeding, unsanitary surroundings, etc.

SYMPTOMS---These are not of great value in determining the presence or absence of White Diarrhea. The chicks begin dying usually within 48 hours after leaving the egg. After the chicks reach the age of two weeks they are not so susceptible. The course of the disease is very short, the death rate being from 30 to 90 per cent. Many of the chicks show a white discharge from the vent. A large number may not have any diarrhea whatever. The birds are listless and "droopy". The most important thing to remember is that if you are losing a large number of chicks and they are under two weeks old there is a chance of its being Infectious White Diarrhea. One cannot identify the disease by examining a dead chick. Therefore-----

SEND ONE OR TWO OF THE SICK OR DEAD CHICKS to the Veterinary Division, University Farm, St. Paul for examination. This service is free. Take advantage of it. No one can do more than guess unless it is taken to a laboratory.

WHAT TO DO?---First remember that there is no recommended cure for this disease. Neither is treatment desirable for the sick ones. It is best to destroy the affected ones at once. If it is at all possible remove the chicks to other clean quarters. KEEP IN MIND that after the disease begins to spread, the germs are in the droppings of the sick chicks. Thus it is very easy for a half dozen infected chicks to spread the disease to other healthy ones.

SCALD all the drinking and feeding utensils. DO THIS DAILY. Disinfect the premises with a five per cent solution of any GOOD DISINFECTANT. Use potassium permanganate in the drinking water. Make up fresh solutions at least once a day. Add enough of the potassium permanganate to the water to give it a good deep wine color. WHEN THE SOLUTION BEGINS TO TURN BROWN - THROW IT AWAY.

It would be well also to determine whether you have introduced the disease through the purchase of infected day old chicks or whether you have infected adult fowls whose eggs are carrying the germs. If you are in the habit of purchasing your hatching eggs, try to secure them from a flock where this trouble has not occurred.

BEFORE FILLING THE INCUBATOR, carefully disinfect the trays. Then set them out and give them a good sunning.

When the hatch is completed, separate the chicks into as small groups as possible for the first two or three days only. After this time the danger from White Diarrhea grows less. If the chicks survive the first week, they are more resistant to the infection and after three weeks are comparatively safe.

SOMETIMES the use of SOUR MILK seems to have a beneficial effect in helping to control an outbreak.

SANITATION is the all important thing. Clean up and then KEEP CLEAN. There are no specific medicines that will cure this disease.

COCCIDIOSIS

After the chicks have successfully weathered the first three or four weeks of their lives, the next thing they have to contend with is a disease with a long name and a high death rate. It is becoming more common each year.

THE DIGESTIVE TRACT is affected in this disease. The old birds are very rarely affected, but may transmit it to the young birds. The cause is a very small organism or protozoa which lives in the intestines and is spread about the yards through the droppings of the sick birds.

CHICKS FROM TWO WEEKS TO A MONTH are the most susceptible. After this time the losses from this disease are of no account. They may become infected by picking about in the soil which has become contaminated with the droppings of an older infected hen or through some young stock purchased from another farm.

The germ ENTERS WITH THE FOOD AND WATER and is carried down into the intestines where it multiplies. This sets up an inflammation of the intestines, which in turn produces a BLOODY DIARRHEA. This is a characteristic symptom.

The birds DRINK A LOT and usually become DROWSY. Death follows in a few hours after the disease develops, or there is a chance that it will

recover and BECOME A CARRIER. By this we mean that it does not die itself but carries the germs around in its body and may give them off to infect other birds.

WHEN EXAMINING A DEAD CHICK and this disease is suspected, look over the intestines carefully. They will be found to be very much reddened and the caecum or "blind gut" will be enlarged or swollen and filled with material of bloody nature.

THIS IN ITSELF together with the fact that the birds are about a month old is oft times sufficient to make a positive diagnosis. However to be sure of yourself, send one into the laboratory for examination.

HOW TO TELL IT FROM WHITE DIARRHEA-keep in mind that white diarrhea occurs during the first few few days of the chick's life while coccidiosis usually appears after the chick reaches two to four weeks of age. Then too the enlarged caecum and the bloody diarrhea is characteristic of coccidiosis.

THE TREATMENT OF COCCIDIOSIS is not as satisfactory as it might be. As in most chicken diseases the best treatment is sanitation and separation or destruction of the sick birds.---BUT---we have found that the exclusive feeding of sour milk or butter milk have a very favorable affect in retarding the progress of this disease. The only reason we can ascribe to this is that the parasite does not thrive in a medium which is strongly acid. TAKE AWAY ALL OTHER FOOD and feed this alone until the deaths have ceased and the birds appear better, after which they may gradually be put back on their regular diet.

We have found this treatment of value. It is worth trying. The food value is there if it should fail otherwise. But IT WON'T.

DRUGS are not of value in the treatment of Coccidiosis. Carefully destroy all the dead birds. Clean up and disinfect the premises as advised in handling White Diarrhea and use potassium permanganate as before described.

ROUP

The losses from Roup among young birds are sometimes very heavy especially when the springs are cold and long drawn out. Almost everyone is able to recognize roup in the older birds but somehow it often goes unsuspected or unrecognized in the young birds from one to three months of age.

THE FIRST SYMPTOMS are usually a "wheeze" and a watery discharge from the nose. The eyes may become red and watery also. Later on the birds become listless and hang around with their eyes shut. They may give off that particularly offensive "roupy smell".

This condition was common last year and is capable of causing great losses.

If a careful examination is made, a correct diagnosis can usually be made on the farm. Look for a NASAL DISCHARGE which can be squeezed *out with*

the fingers. Open the mouth and examine the roof and back part of the throat for a yellowish accumulation of sticky material.

TREATMENT IS LABORIOUS, TIME CONSUMING, AND NOT SATISFACTORY - Keep in mind always that it is an infectious disease, which most people call a "cold". Separate the sick from the well. Remove the healthy ones to clean quarters if possible. Scald the feeding and drinking dishes.

Those birds with eyes swollen and eyes protruding---wring their necks and dip the heads of the rest in a 2 per cent solution of creolin or other good disinfectant. Boric acid solution is good also. You can't make the boric solution too strong because only so much will go into solution.

The disease spreads rapidly and if any good is to be done treatment must be started as soon as the first bird is noticed sneezing.

LICE

Some folks look upon lice as a necessary evil.

DAVID HARUM even went so far as to say "that a reasonable amount of fleas is good for a dog, it keeps him from brooding over being a dog". Many poultrymen seem to think the same thing about lice on chickens.

LICE cause a great deal greater damage among chickens than is generally supposed.

SMALL CHICKS suffer a great deal from these pests. By constant irritation, biting and feeding on the skin, the chick's life is made miserable.

THERE IS ABSOLUTELY NO REASON why a flock of hens cannot be freed from these parasites and KEPT FREE.

BE SURE to have the flock cleaned up before the chicks are hatched in the spring. In this way the infestation of the chicks will be avoided.

GOVT. EXPERIMENTS SHOW THAT SODIUM FLUORIDE IS THE MOST SATISFACTORY OF ALL CHEMICALS FOR LICE DESTRUCTION

BECAUSE

- (1) It is safe both for operator and chickens BOTH YOUNG AND OLD.
- (2) It kills both the adult lice and the young ones which come out of the egg at the time of treatment.
- (3) Use it on the baby chicks and the setting hen.
- (4) It is fatal to ALL kinds of hen lice.
- (5) It is cheap and easily obtained at any drug store.
- (6) It is great for cockroaches and red ants too.

When buying this be sure to ask for the "Commercial Sodium Fluoride". IT is cheaper than the other grade and better also.

When using the powder use the so called PINCH METHOD. This means to apply several pinches of the powder under the feathers on as many different places on the bird's body such as --under each wing, on the back

and abdomen or breast. head and tail and each leg.

While Sodium Fluoride can be used safely on chicks, it is best to rid the hen of lice before the little ones arrive. Otherwise wait until they are a week old and then use two SMALL PINCHES. One on the neck and back and the other on the breast and vent. Do this work when the chicks are lively so that they may shake off any excess of the powder. This treatment of the birds does not cause a skin irritation. In general it is harmless to man, except when taken internally.

TO AVOID THIS TROUBLE IN THE CHICKS see that the birds are free from lice before the little ones are hatched. This is LESS WORK and more effective.

IT'S EASY to keep a flock clean if you use this chemical.

MITES

The common red mite is sometimes called the POULTRY BEDBUG.

If this is so imagine if you can the state of mind young chicks must be in when attacked by these pests.

The mite is really gray but gets red from sucking the blood of the hen or chick.

TO TELL WHETHER YOU HAVE MITES IN YOUR CHICKEN HOUSE carefully examine the roosts for "salt and pepper marks". These are comparable to fly "specks".

When these pests are present in great numbers they may cause the setting hen to leave the nest. It is said that they are sometimes killed outright by the NIGHT ATTACK of thousands of mites.

MITES ARE HARDY TOO! They will live in an empty chicken house for months without starving.

Mites work at night and secrete themselves in cracks and crevices during the day. Go after them in daytime then. It's easy to kill them if you hit their hiding place.

CARBOLINEUM is the best to use. It costs the most too. Use in a spray pump. If you can't get Carbolineum, buy some crude petroleum. THIS IS THE NEXT BEST.

Both of these materials are easier to handle when mixed 1 part kerosene to 3 parts of the other material. Use a good pump and a coarse spray and force it into the cracks and crevices from all angles. Treat the floors also.

BE SURE TO KEEP THE POULTRY OUT OF THE HOUSE UNTIL THE SPRAY HAS TIME TO DRY INTO THE WOOD.

THEREFORE keep the hen house free from mites if for no other reason than to safe guard the newly hatched chicks.

IF THE HEN SURVIVES the ordeal to which she is subjected while she is hatching the young chicks, then the little ones are attacked by swarms of mites as soon as they get out of the shell.