

Re: old timer techniques

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- *From:* "pammyt" <fenwoman@xxxxxxxxxxxxx>
 - *Date:* Fri, 14 Jul 2006 16:08:44 +0100
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"Jill" <news@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx> wrote in message
[news:44b78aba\\$0\\$978\\$ed2619ec@xx](mailto:news:44b78aba$0$978$ed2619ec@xx)

"pammyt" <fenwoman@xxxxxxxxxxxxx> wrote in message
news:pMKdnd-NPdeC5yrZRVny2g@xxxxxxxxxxxxx

"Jill" <new@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx> wrote in message
[news:44b6ceb3\\$0\\$962\\$ed2619ec@xx](mailto:news:44b6ceb3$0$962$ed2619ec@xx)

"pammyt" <fenwoman@xxxxxxxxxxxxx> wrote in message
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"Ray Turner"
<RayTurner@xxxxxxxxxxxxx> wrote in
message
news:12bcnf4md6vmbd3@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx

Anyone know of an accurate
source of info on how the
old-timers raised
chickens? I'm looking for
info on feed, parasites/cures,
diseases/cures,
protection, old coop designs
and general practices?

In the old days chickens were likely not
wormed and deloused.

Yes they were

So all the old local poultry keepers I talk to are telling my lies?

Re: old timer techniques

Just because the people you spoke to have told you something does not make it necessarily generally true

If you look in the old magazines, poultry annuals, and books there are plenty of medications which would have been effective

I have some of these magazines from the 1920's also pig and cattle books. The impression I get is that yes, there were some remedies about. How effective they were is disputable and some were downright dangerous, but the average backyard keeper and small holder would not have been able to afford them.

Knowing the knowledge about herbs going back 3–5,000 years the chances are garlic has been a wormer for as long

There are plenty of medications going back hundreds of years

If they were

the stuff was either ineffective or dangerous.

Not at all

please elaborate

Buy some old books and annuals – read them

You made an unsubstantiated statement yourself

I have some books here that suggest otherwise

There are plenty of others

Herbal medicines, for instance, have been used for many thousands of years with great skills and efficacy

indeed, yet wormwood, which was used for worming is dangerous, monkshood will kill, foxgloves which are fine for heart problems in experienced hands, can kill. Herbal does not mean safe.

Most old time poultry keepers

I know (over 70 years of age) don't believe in worming poultry and refuse to use antibiotics too because it weakens them.

Not at all

Re: old timer techniques

see my first comment

and my response

So are you saying that the old chap didn't say it or that he did say it but is telling lies?

A good strong bird will throw

off disease and live with worms, a weak one dies.

There were just as many different kinds of stockmen and women as there

are now

There were as many different reasons for keeping / breeding and

selecting

More potions and concoctions with as good/bad/indifferent results as now

They probably did not cost as much

What would you do if you could no longer buy feed at the (insert store name here)?

I get my layers pellets delivered by the tonne but if I didn't I would use boiled potatoes, grains and add pulses to increase the protein levels.

Potatoes give the birds nothing.

potatoes give them fibre and carbohydrates just as they do humans. I use boiled spuds with other bits added as a warm mash in winter time. It keeps weight on them too in the cold. We will have to disagree .

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Modern grains in the UK available to domestic poultry keepers are pretty low protein
If the poultry ration was unavailable then the chances are any small quantities of high protein pulses, alfalfa, fishmeal etc would be nil

What would you do if medicated feed was no longer available for chicks?

I would use unmedicated chick crumbs and cider vinegar in the water and cross my fingers.

Good husbandry is better than crossed fingers

I didn't think I had to mention good husbandry because that is a given surely?

Luckily, we have no need to resort to old fashioned ineffective methods since better, more efficient methods are available cheaply which allow us to keep our birds in better conditions than was the case all those years ago.

The examples of husbandry you have learnt about from the past are obviously very poor in comparison to what was really happening.

Well what can I say. I know lots of old farm workers and pultry keepers since this is a very rural area. One chap in particular shows a particular breed very sucessfully and has done for 70 years. He has started to give up his birds now and let me buy a trio off him. The first thing I do with any new birds here is quarantine and worm them. One hen died and he was adamant that it was worming them which killed her. He is one of many old men who say that they never worm or treat birds because it weakens them or propogates weak birds. He said only a fit strong bird can fight off disease and will be allowed to breed.

Re: old timer techniques

He is right in his ideas of breeding strong healthy stocks
That does not mean that there were no wormers nor that others did not use
them

It would be more helpful if instead of simply typing "not at all" you
actually elaborated and got some sort of dialogue going. I don't mind
being told I am wrong if the person can do so with some kind of
argument/debate/proof of why they believe so.

I agree but as I said this is a fascinating subject for the winter when we
have time -- but not in the middle of the summer when I can snatch the odd
moment here

There are plenty of books that come up on Ebay over the year that would
broaden your experience

Yes but lack of money means I need to spend my money elsewhere and besides,
what is usenet for if not reasoned debate where *everyone* learns something?

That plus I do enjoy arguing.

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