Hens Keep Down Accounts

By MRS. CLYDE HOOD, Em\textsuperscript{a}pora, Miss.

I AM a farmer's wife. Like most farm women I am willing to do what I can to help pay the expenses of the home, and I am now convinced that a good flock of chickens will help solve the financial problem.

For the last two years I have bought most of the groceries and other little necessities about the home with chicken and egg money.

I had never kept an account of anything. So in January I decided to find the real truth in the game and began to keep a record of expenses and income.

During winter and early spring I sell my eggs for hatching purposes mostly. Early in January I began to sell eggs to the hatcheries for 50 and 60 cents per dozen. Some weeks I would have over forty dozen to send off. By the first of May I had sold $205 worth of eggs and had over five hundred set for myself. As the hatching season was about over I sold 54 hens for $79.80. After this sale I had 47 hens left and have sold $43 worth of eggs up till now at market price.

I had my chickens hatched at the hatchery last spring. It made the work so much lighter for me and the broilers were all ready for the market at the same time. I gave $15 to have five trays set. On March 10 my chicks were brought home, over 400 in all. They were fine, fluffy fellows and began to grow like weeds. I fed them the ready-mixed baby chick feed and gave them plenty of sour milk to drink. I had a few to die and the hawks caught some but I could not expect to raise them all.

About the last of May I sold 160 cockerels at 35 cents per pound and received $117 for them. I kept about 40 for table use and valued them at $25.

This fall I have sold 12 pullets and a few cockerels for $25. I now have 80 of the pullets that are beginning to lay and I think with proper care they will not only pay their board but ours also during the winter. Besides these I have about 60 fryers ready for sale now.

It takes work every day in the year to succeed in the poultry business, but what success can we expect of any business without work?

This is what I have found out by keeping a record this year (this does not include eggs used by the family):

- Amount of eggs sold, $248.00; 54 hens sold, $79.00; 160 broilers, $117.00; 40 broilers for home use, $25.00; 12 pullets and 10 cockerels, $25.00; 90 pullets valued at $135.00; 7 cockerels, valued at $35.00; 60 fryers valued at $30.00. Amount sold and what I now have, $694.
- Cost of feed, $259.15; oil for brooder, $7.00; hatching, $15.00. Total, $281.15.
- Amount sold and what I now have, $694.00; cost of feed and expenses, $281.15. Profit, $412.85.

Southern Ruralist

Jan. 1, 1930