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ABOUT THE



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boiled potatoes, barley meal, ground oats, skim milk and tallow greaves. The method of preparing the food was to boil, strain and pound up the potatoes, which before boiling would constitute about one-third by weights of the mash. Barley meal and ground oats were then mixed in equal parts and mixed with the potatoes. Skim milk was added to form a rather wet mash. This was fed to the ducklings from the end of the fifth to the beginning of the ninth week. During the last two weeks of fattening, animal food in the form of rough fat or tallow greaves was added to the mash, the allowance being about two ounces per day to each duck. Grit and water for drinking were liberally supplied. Apart from the charcoal, the food received by all the ducklings was the same.

Tables were given as to the result of the trials, which seem to indicate that charcoal in one form or another is important in the profitable fattening of ducks. It appeared to keep the ducklings healthy, and enabled fattening to be continued with profit for a much longer period than when charcoal was not allowed. Experiments with geese were conducted on similar lines, and gave almost identical results. The foods fed to the geese were the same as those fed to the ducks, except that they got steeped oats instead of mash for the evening meal, mash being fed in the morning. The charcoal fed to both ducks and geese was burnt wood, broken fine.

INSIDE FIXTURES

For best results six square feet of floor space for each hen in small flocks of 20 to 25 fowls is about right. Of course, in larger flocks and larger pens the hens would do just as well with a smaller space, as there is a greater area for each fowl to roam over. For instance, in a pen 20 feet square, 4 1-2 feet for each hen would be ample, while in a pen 10 x 12 feet, it would require 6 square feet. Dropping boards are an advantage in a poultry house, as they keep the floor and litter much cleaner. The dropping boards should be about three feet wide for two roosts and also high enough (three feet being none too high) to make it convenient to work under. The old idea that bumble foot is caused by high roosting has little foundation, as we find bumble foot where very low roosts are used. The roosts should be at least 6 inches above the dropping boards and from 10 to 12 inches apart, care being taken to place the roost at the back far enough from the wall to prevent the male birds from breaking their tail feathers. From 8 to 10 inches space on the roost is sufficient for each hen, depending of course on the size of the birds. A 2 x 4 inch scantling, rounded on the edges and arranged so it may be reversed whenever it bends, makes a very good roost.

There should be about 5 trap nests to every 25 hens, or where the old style of nest is used, one large nest or box 2 feet by 3 feet is much better than having the box divided off into little compartments of 10 inches by 12 inches. The hen is a very sociable creature, and you will frequently see three or four of them trying to lay in a 10 x 12 inch box; the result very often is several broken eggs. When the larger nest is used this is avoided, and they also seem to prefer it. The trap nests can be arranged under the dropping boards, or preferably in a rack made to hold them. One water pan can be arranged to water two pens by having it project through the partition, and by fastening a slanting board over the pan the hens cannot step in the water.

Where one is feeding dry mash a hopper is the best thing to use. There are a great many different styles, some of which are good, others are very poor affairs, being built so that the fowls waste the food and so that the hopper chokes up at times. We have designed one here that gives good satisfaction. There is very little waste, and it never chokes. It is different from any other in that it is wider at the bottom than at the top. Where the mash is fed wet a convenient way of fixing the trough is to fasten it to the wall with a hinge and when not in use it can be hooked up. By raising the trough off the ground 8 inches it will give the hens more room while eating, and, be-

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