

POULTRY YARD

The Buttercup Breed

Editor Farm and Dairy.—Replying to yours of the 13th re the "Buttercup" breed, this, as was indicated, was a clipping from "The Industrious Hen," published in Tennessee. I sent the clipping on merely as an interesting article and did not for an instant imagine people would take it without a grain of salt. I have since written to "The Industrious Hen," and also to the original writer of the article without having been able to get any information, so I presume the whole thing is a fizzle.

There seem to be a great many people interested in any thing new, whereas, if they would take the time they have and develop it from year to year they would have something better than anything they can buy. As a rule it does not pay to send away for either eggs or breeding stock if the same can be had nearer home; and I think one of the best recommendations for any fowl is the fact that it does well with one's neighbors, or in one's own locality.—F. C. Elford, Manager Poultry Department, MacDonald College, Que.

Care and Management of Turkeys

G. A. Taylor, Huntingdon Co., Que.

Turkeys consist of six varieties, popular, perhaps, in the order named:—Brons, White Holland, Narragansett, Black, Slate and Buff. The management of no breed of poultry is so difficult to learn as that of turkeys, and yet when properly understood they are as easily raised as chickens. The difficulties in many cases are due to too much care rather than too little.

It is useless to try to raise turkeys in confinement as they require a large amount of run. For successful turkey-raising the locality should be high and dry, either sandy or gravelly soil (the latter preferred). The next step to take is to select good breeding stock, not only healthy but well bred. The male should be large in frame, deep in body, coarse in bone, with a bright eye and bold appearance. In appearance the female should resemble the male only finer in bone and smaller in body, with a bright and watchful eye. One male bird can successfully be mated with as many as eight or ten females. The female should lay eighteen or twenty eggs, commencing about the beginning of April. These should be

hatched by the mother turkey about the last week in May. The breeding stock should be housed during the winter months where the female is intended to make her nest in the spring. These nests should be made in boxes about two feet square and one foot high.

WINTER FEEDING.

The feed required for the breeding stock during the winter may consist of equal parts of wheat and oats, with an occasional feed of corn. About the beginning of March they should be fed a mash once a day, consisting of finely ground corn, 1 part; oats, 2 parts; and bran, 2 parts. During the period of incubation the female is a very close sitter and may often have to be removed from the nest to be fed, which should be about the twenty-seventh or twenty-eighth day. The young turkeys should not be removed from the nest for 24 hours after hatching. They should then be taken to coops provided in an orchard or grass plot. These coops should be about three feet square, two feet high behind, and two feet six inches high in front and without any floor. The front may consist of net wire or wooden slats. These coops should be mowed every day to fresh grass. After three or four days the coop may be raised enough to allow the poult to come out and run around, but the old bird should be confined for two or three weeks. By this time the young ones will be strong, and able to follow her. The first feed for the poult should be hard-boiled egg, finely chopped, with a sprinkle of fine gravel. Bread crumbs are also good and may be mixed with eggs for the first week. By this time the egg may be gradually stopped and shorts added by degrees until the feed consists of shorts alone. This should be mixed with milk just so it will crumble up.

CARE OF POULTS.

For drinking either milk or water may be given. Care should be taken not to feed too much at a time nor to offer any food that is not fresh. About four or five times a day is sufficient to feed the poult after they are a week old. The ration of shorts should be continued until about Oct. 1, when a little corn and oats, finely ground, may be added. At this time a feed of whole corn may be given for the noon feed. Turkeys should never be closed up while fattening. If they are given the proper attention they will fatten much faster out of doors, where there is no chance of disease. When the weather becomes cold they should be housed at night, but not in a warm place. All they require is a barn or open shed. The birds for market should be disposed of about the first

of November. At this time there is a strong demand for them as turkey is the favorite dish with everyone for Thanksgiving dinner.

Note.—Mr. Taylor is a most successful breeder of turkeys and water-fowl. He carried off many of the best prizes at the various fairs last fall. We are glad to have his advice as to this important branch of poultry keeping.

—Poultry Editor.

Buttercups vs. Leghorns

C. M. Smith, Brant Co. Ont.

In Farm and Dairy of the 11th inst. appears a fairy story of a new breed of birds (not so new, nor yet a recognized breed) apparently a cross between Mottled Anconas and Buff or Brown Leghorns, and therefore good layers. But as to the claim made for them as a breed laying 300 eggs a year—well, I'm not from Missouri, but "you will have to show me."

Any poultryman knows that it takes years of careful selection and breeding from trapped females with big individual records to establish a strain that will lay over 200 eggs a year. Where then can any "new" breed get a title to 300 eggs a year? However the writer had been content with "tooting his own horn" if it might have been passed in silence, but when he goes out of his way to make an untruthful attack on a breed known and valued for 60 years as the Leghorns have been, he invites correction.

FLOCKS TAKE AFTER ATTENDANTS. He says "unlike the crazy, wild, untamable Leghorns"—shade of Ananias, hear that! If the attendant is "crazy, wild, untamable" the flock will be too,—couldn't help it, no matter what breed they are. My birds eat out of my hand, let me take eggs from under them when on nests and actually some of them wait to be lifted down from the roost on winter mornings so I can clean off the dropping boards, which is done every morning. I can pick them up at any time.

He outdoes Ananias though in his claim of small estates. Why 25 "Buttercups" or any other breed would starve to death on what would keep "a dozen Leghorns," let alone being in good condition. "Unsurpassed for broilers," has rightly belonged to Leghorn catalogues for years, likely that is where he saw it. It is too bad "Buttercups" were not invented in time for the recent egg-laying contest in Australia. They might have prevented the "crazy" Leghorns from carrying off the honors.

Our friend will find it as hard to work up any excitement over his "Buttercups" as did the originator of the Blue Leghorns who had them

on exhibition at the English shows for a couple or three years. With all his talk about meat the fact remains that a pound of Leghorn cost no more to raise than a pound of any other breed—and less than most.

QUALITIES OF THE LEGHORN

The "Buttercup" booster to the contrary notwithstanding, it can be proved that the Leghorns lay earliest and longest (profitably), make the choicest broilers of any domestic fowl—and make it quicker, going to a pound and a quarter in seven weeks, lay at four months, often seven, are great faggers, but always come home to lay instead of hiding their nests all over the farm. Their great vigor enables them to stand confinement extra well. Being so active they throw off diseases common to most fowls. They are practically immune from cholera.

A peculiar delusion fostered by other breeders, is that their eggs are small, not so, they are quite as large as many from heavier breeds and as for numbers—oh, well, what's the use. It may be noticed though in passing, that all the large egg farms are stocked up with just Leghorns, this all, and the owners are not in business for their health either, it's hard (or easy) dollars they want—and get too.

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