

**How to Produce Ducks Profitably**

J. W. Clark, Brant Co., Ont.

The marketing of chickens as broilers, at the end of 10 or 12 weeks, has seldom proved profitable. To so market ducks, however, is the only way in which they will prove very profitable.

The fertility of duck eggs early in the season is much better than in hen eggs, and the mortality from the early stock is far less. Ducklings are comparatively easy to raise, since they require very little heat after the first few days.

For marketing purposes, the Pekin variety is probably the best.

The Pekin duck has a broad breast, a long keel, and when dressed presents a plump and pleasing appearance.

We hatch our first ducks about March 1st. Some poultry men in the United States hatch as early as January, but in Canada there is little demand for broilers so early in the year, and it is not the natural season for ducks to lay. The first few days, the ducklings are kept in a heated brooder, but after that no heat is necessary. They should always have plenty of fresh air, however, if they are to do well.

**PROVIDE SOFT FOOD**

Ducks require soft feed. A mash composed of low grade flour, corn meal and ground oats with the hulls sifted out makes a good mash. At first the corn meal in the food should be limited, and the amount increased as the ducks get older. A large amount of animal food is required by the ducklings. To mix the mash with milk takes the place of beef meal to some extent, but not altogether. Beef meal should be added to the mash. Sprouted grain, alfalfa leaves or finely pulped mangels and cabbage mixed in the mash will supply the green food of which also ducks require a large amount. This same mash is fed from the time the ducklings are hatched until they are dressed for market. The portion of beef scraps and corn meal is increased, however, as they get older.

The crop of the duck is small compared with that of the chicken and they must be fed four times a day. Feed must not remain in the troughs from one time to another. Give just what they will eat up clean, and if any is left over from one feeding reduce the quantity to be fed next time.

**LIMITED AND UNWATERED RANGE**

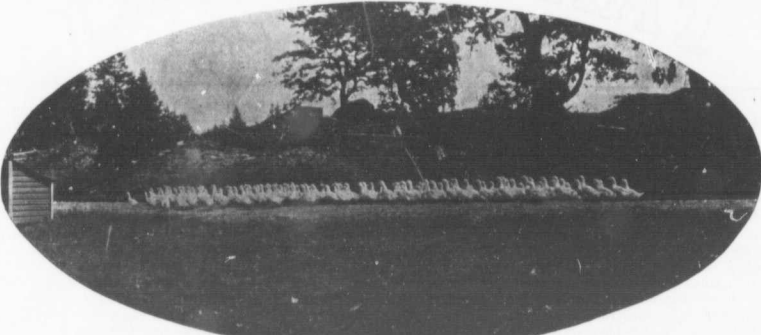
Do not put water where they can get into it. It does not do the ducks any good to be musing in water all the time. If the feathers are to be saved they may be allowed to have a swim before killing to clean them off. As feathers are worth 50 or 60 cents a pound this is an important item. Do not give much range. Ducks will stand quite close confinement if they have abundance of green food and fresh air.

A point to bear in mind in raising ducks is that they are timid. Do not go around the ducks at night with a light. They will crowd

together and many will be injured or smothered.

**MARKET AT 10 WEEKS**

It is not profitable to feed ducklings over 12 weeks. To market when too old is the most common mistake made by duck raisers. The proper time to market is just as soon as they



**Duck Raising can be made one of the Most Profitable Branches of Poultry Farming**

Every advantage needs to be taken of the natural propensity of the duck to consume food in large quantities. They are most profitable when forced along and sold early in the season when 10 weeks of age. Feed given to them after they have reached this age, except they are to be kept for breeding purposes, is worse than thrown away.

get their first feathers. If they are left even a few days after this, the pin feathers will start, making it very difficult to dress them attractively. In most cases, 10 weeks is the ideal age for marketing ducks.

It will pay the poultryman to ship ducks dressed rather than alive. There is a large mortality in shipping ducks alive due to their timidity. When not killed, they are bruised and injured to a great extent. When properly fed and cared for and marketed at the right

**What Cooperation will do for Farmers**

Prof. F. C. Elford, Macdonald College, Que.

Cooperation in producing and marketing poultry products is of great material benefit to those who engage therein. A first essential of cooperation is honesty. The lack of this has been responsible for many a failure. Honesty alone would work a revolution in the poultry business. As it is, the dishonest producer and the dishonest seller can kill more customers in one day than 100 honest dealers can make.

When one buys eggs, there is much that is taken for granted. The average consumer believes that the eggs are fresh

and knows the difference, or rather that they are bad, only when they are broken—it may be on the breakfast table.

**EFFECT OF ONE BAD EGG**

One bad egg may result in a decreased consumption of many eggs. As poultry producers we cannot afford to have one customer less, nor one egg less eaten. The more eggs that are consumed, the better it is for us who produce them.

The one way to increase the consumption of eggs and poultry products is to supply everything to the ultimate consumer in the most appetizing and attractive condition. Through cooperation we can do this. Cooperation will bring about a greater production. The products will be of a higher standard and this will crowd the products of an inferior quality off the market, and in the case of poultry products, when the day arrives consumers may get what they pay for. Prices need not be higher to the consumer. They will, however, be better for the producer; in other words, the margin between the price to the producer and the price to the consumer will be greatly lessened.

**BEST PRICES FOR UNIFORM PRODUCTS**

The best prices can be secured only for products of a uniform grade. Cooperation among poultry producers will tend to bring about the desirable uniformity in production. Instead of having all kinds of breeds on the one farm, as is now so common, every farm in the community will have but one breed and these for the most part will be all of the same breed. The dressed poultry and the eggs that will come from a community of that kind will be of uniform appearance. Buyers will know that they can go to such a place and get large quantities of uniformly good stuff.

There are many ways that cooperation in connection with the poultry industry will be of a material money benefit to farmers who produce poultry and poultry products. The money gain, however, is only one side of the question. The gain in other ways is of even greater importance. Cooperation broadens the men who cooperate. It brings them into touch with bigger things and with better men.



**A Type of So-called Egg Breeds**

The White Leghorn and other breeds of its class have many champions. Farmer poultrymen when making their choices should remember that egg production is more a matter of strain than of breed.

age, ducks are extremely profitable and one of the easiest fowls to care for that the farmer can raise.

To be successful in raising chickens, it is necessary to have healthy and vigorous breeding stock. The lack of vigor in the newly hatched chicks is often traceable to weak parents.—Mrs. John Rosebrugh, Brant Co., Ont.

One of the first rules in the poultry yard should be to have only strong, vigorous birds. Without such it is utterly impossible to succeed with poultry.—C. W. Hurst, Carleton Co., N.B.