

Water Fowl

Are more valued by agriculturists each year. The reason they have not been more extensively raised is because many persons suppose they must be within easy reach of a running stream or body of water. This is a false notion; a large trough or vat let into the ground and filled with water, or a small pool of sufficient size for them to wash in daily, is all the water necessary. In such cases, if possible, give fresh water each day. Under such circumstances, water fowls will give better results and less trouble than when they have access to large bodies of water. As an insect destroyer, we know of nothing to excel the duck. Why they are not more extensively bred we are at a loss to know. Comparatively few find their way to the market, but at certain season of the year many wild ducks are sold in our cities.

THE ROUEN DUCK,

Which some writers say is simply the wild mallard, is an excellent variety; being a good layer; of a quiet disposition, and will fatten very rapidly; a fine specimen will dress six or seven pounds, and weigh when alive sometimes as much as 11 lbs.

The Aylesbury ducks are very handsome, being pure white; they are considered the finest of the English breeds; are hardy and active; good layers and good mothers, and grow to a large size, though not as large as the Rouen. We have found them of rather too

wild a disposition; if kept in the vicinity of a running stream or large body of water they will give no end of trouble.

The Cayuga duck is very highly prized, being one of the best varieties; in color they are a rich metallic black; they possess a quiet disposition, and mature early; are prolific layers; are large; and their flesh is said to be of a superior quality.

The Pekin duck is of recent introduction, and is considered a valuable acquisition. They are also large, and like the Aylesbury, their plumage is pure white. Some poultry breeders say they are the best layers of the duck family, and grow to the greatest weight at an early age.

Although there are many other varieties bred in Canada, we believe the four breeds above mentioned are superior to any others.

Among the geese we consider the Emdens or Bremens and Toulouse geese superior to any other breeds with which we have had any experience. The former is white, and is considered by many

the better variety; they attain a great weight sometimes, as high as 65 lbs. per pair. The Toulouse are not so tall as the Emdens, but have a more solid appearance, and sometimes excel them in weight; in color the Toulouse resemble the English Gray Goose.

The Hong-Kong and White and Gray Chinese are bred to some extent in Ontario, but we much prefer either of the above breeds for practical purposes.

Animal Abortion—A Remedy.

Abortion first appeared in my dairy, and also in the dairies of one or two of my neighbors, in 1878. The disease has spread since then, and nearly all the dairies in our immediate vicinity have suffered more or less from it. At first we indulged the hope that, like the horse epizootic, it would run its course and leave, but we have been forced to the conclusion that the evil has come to stay. We should be glad to get at the cause of the trouble, but feel ourselves entirely at sea in regard to this.

became well advanced with calf, when one aborted, losing twins, and was closely followed by two others. From that time until October, 1879, when using the remedy, I lost no calves; if I stopped using it for a few weeks there were abortions. In November, 1879, having just lost three calves, I determined to give the asafetida a fair and thorough trial, and began using twice a week instead of once, as before. The result was that not a cow aborted for more than a year. About a month ago a heifer aborted, having had no asafetida for more than a month. My experience had convinced me that I had found an excellent remedy. I cannot positively say that the cows which it was given to would have aborted if they had not been given it, but it is a fact that whenever it was given a fair trial there were no abortions, but there were in every instance when I neglected to use it for any length of time.

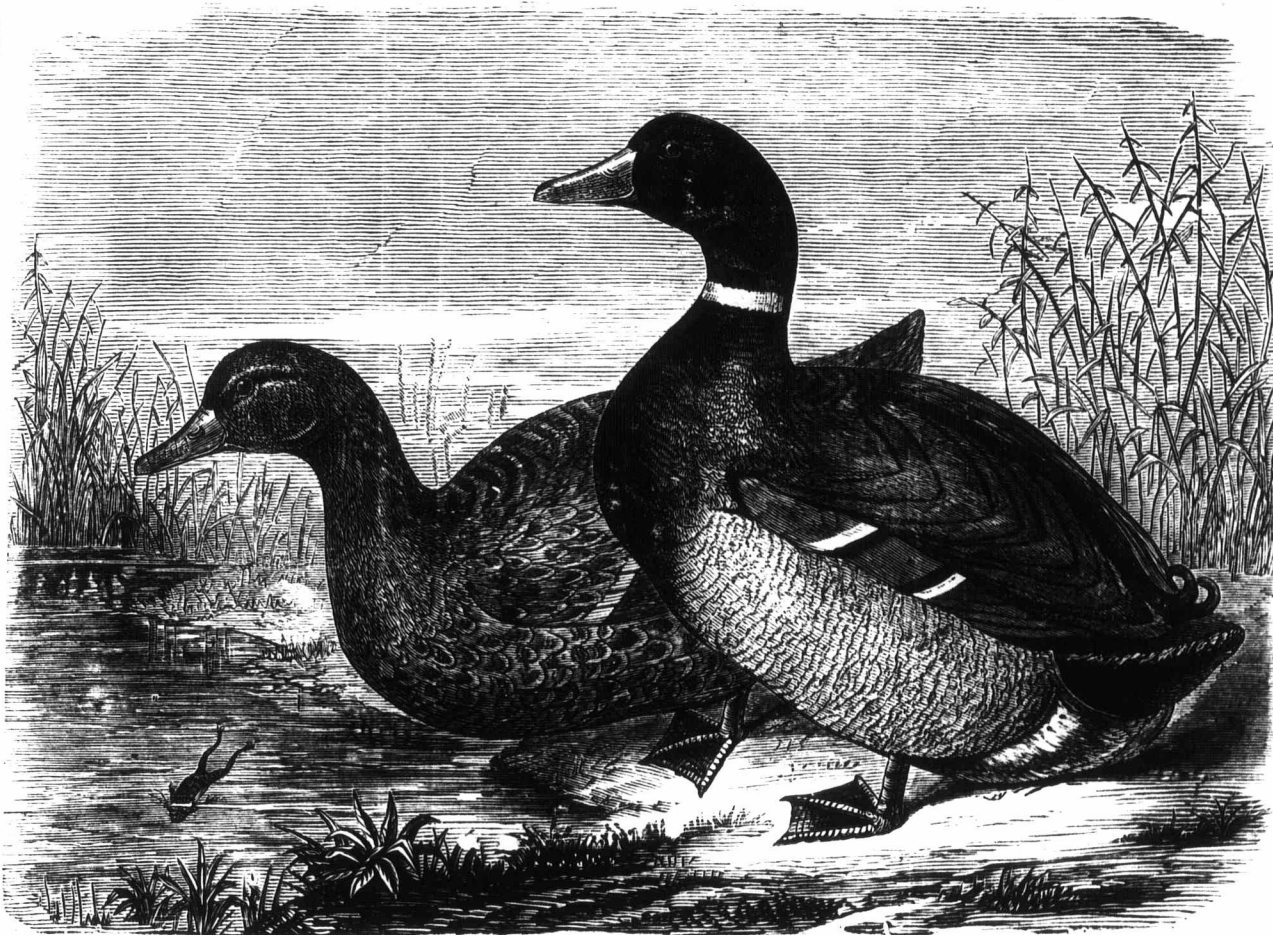
A circumstance has just occurred which I will mention. When the heifer last spoken of aborted a month ago, in looking over some others I found one, with calf for the first time, five months advanced, whose udder was so large and full that I expected a calf from her at any hour. The case

seemed nearly hopeless, but I gave her asafetida at once and once a day after wards, and to-day the fullness of udder is entirely gone, and the heifer is apparently safe. A neighbor reports a very similar experience with a heifer in his dairy. Asafetida costs about sixty cents a pound. After cutting it into small pieces, leaving none thicker than a pea, I give to each cow that is from four to eight months with calf about as much in bulk as would be taken of powder for a shot-gun load. The best way to administer is to put the dose into the cow's feed. I now give twice a week. I hope others will give this

remedy a trial, using it regularly and perseveringly, and report.—[R., Sussex County, N. J.]

Packing Eggs.

There is a mode of packing eggs by which they may be safely carried any distance, and over rough roads, without any damage. And there is another mode by which half of them may be very easily broken. The secret lies in solid packing, with an elastic material between the layers. We have watched many barrels of eggs opened without a single broken one in them; and many badly packed, which we would not have handled had they been given to us for nothing. The proper mode of packing, either in barrels, boxes, or baskets is to place first a layer of long hay or straw three inches thick in the bottom. On this scatter an inch in depth of cut hay or straw, or chaff of oats, or whatever packing is used; then place the eggs on their sides, not touching each other, and when the layer is complete, spread over them and between them the cut stuff or chaff two inches deep. Press this down gently with a piece of board, and put another layer of eggs, taking care that they do not touch each other.



ROUEN DRAKE AND DUCK.