

Usually I have received for my green goslings from 18 to 25 cents per pound in the market. I think they have averaged more than 20 cents, and the goslings should average nine pounds each—our first box last year averaged a trifle over 11 pounds—or would weigh 855 pounds at 20 cents per pound would be \$171 for each colony. Now \$46 will keep the colony for one year and fatten the goslings and would leave you a net profit of \$125. I think geese properly fed and mated should be made to produce 50 eggs each, and then there is about as much profit on one goose as an average cow. But I do not want to over state.

I am going to tell you of one experiment I made with a pair of African geese. I let them run separately and fed liberally to see the best I could do. The goose laid 51 eggs, I only succeeded in getting 37 goslings. A horse got loose and killed one, another died leaving me 35 for market. I sold them to Mr. Dunbar of Boston Quincy Market for which he paid me \$81.47 so one goose gave me more profit than a cow and two hogs. Yet I did not feel satisfied with my hatch which was under the average, one of my neighbors beat me.

One more item of profit is the feathers. You will get from 8 to 10 goslings one pound of feathers, which if properly cured would bring about 75 cents. To cure them I put them in bags and leave them in the sun for a few days till all the pin feathers dry, I then put them in a dry loft turning them occasionally with a fork.

I have tried to give you in as concise a manner as possible the best methods to pursue in breeding geese for profit. We have tried crossing varieties for the market but never with these crosses have we obtained the best results. The best cross we have ever made was with the African and Toulouse but that was not quite equal to the straight thing. So for market I breed only pure bred geese. I always have kept a number of varieties of geese for sale or breeding purposes. Have tried some crosses this year for late fattening, etc.

ANCONAS.

(Continued from last month.)

THE chickens develop with surprising rapidity, pullets laying at from four to five months old, and cockerels needing separation at the age of six or seven weeks. Growing so fast, the chicks require plenty of food, but, once matured, care must be taken to avoid over-feeding, as it stops egg production and creates disease. Quite one-third less is required by an Ancona than by a Minorca, a point to be remembered as lessening the cost of their keep

considerably as compared with other stock. Anconas are not table birds (though superfluous cockerels, if shut up for a short time before killing, make most delicate eating), but they are brought out as hardy winter layers and prolific egg producers. They are non sitters, but after eight or nine months of steady laying they take a rest for a week or two, and then go on again till the moult begins. The result of this is that the pullets are in full lay before the older birds stop, so that there is no blank season.

In general appearance Anconas are of the Leghorn type, as might be expected from their origin, following them in build and carriage, also in their brilliant combs and yellow legs. In color they are mottled black and white, and the more even this mottling is the better, particularly in the hens. The combs are bright red, upright in the cocks and deeply serrated, while in the hens they fall over one side of the face. Nothing is prettier than a pen of young cockerels, with their red combs and bright yellow legs, looking like so many poppies amid the trees which shelter their run. These same yellow legs are often more or less marked with black in both sexes, and Mr. Ludlow has given a special warning against endeavoring to breed this out, considering that in so doing the strain would be materially weakened and the productive powers injured; but for the show pen there is no doubt that clear yellow legs and beaks are most attractive. Still, it must be borne in mind that the birds that win prizes are not the most useful in the egg yard, and that as hardy winter layers vitality and strength of constitution are most valuable properties, which should not be sacrificed to appearance.

In making up breeding pens it is found that nine hens or pullets is the best number to run with the male bird.

An idea of the Standard suggested for Anconas may be gathered from the following:

COCKS—Fine bold carriage, head well up and breast well forward. Head fair size, slightly inclined to width. Face clear pure red. Wattles long and fine in texture. Lobes fair length, creamy to white. Comb large, upright with deep even serrations. Eyes orange red, with hazel centres. Beak yellow. Legs yellow, or slightly mottled with black, long well spread toes. Hackles long, edged with white, body feathers black tipped with white. Wing flights white. Tail carried high, with long sickle feathers of black and white falling in graceful curves.

HENS—Comb large, red, falling over face. Beak yellow. Lobes cream to white. Body compact, legs same as cocks. Carriage lively. Eyes orange red, hazel centre. Plumage evenly marked over entire bird, showing, even in wing flights, as little as possible of either black or white patches, but every feather black tipped with white.