

should be supplied and the goose will attend to the rest. As a percentage of the first eggs are generally infertile, it is advisable to set them under a common hen, or even in an incubator.

Another reason why the writer favours common hens as mothers is, if the goslings are to be marketed as "green geese." It will be found much more profitable to use the hens for brooding purposes, as they eat considerably less than the parent geese. The latter cannot be penned as hens can—another disadvantage.

The eggs take from twenty-eight to thirty days to hatch, and when using hens it is advisable to select one in good condition if possible, owing to the longer period of incubation. From three to five eggs are enough, according to the size of eggs and hen. The eggs should be moistened daily, and washed if soiled. The writer used to remove the hen daily and dip each egg in warm water for a few seconds from the fifth day onwards till pipping-time. To help the hens, and also to save using so many, the eggs can be run in an incubator for a week, after which they may be tested, and the fertile ones given to the hens. As soon as they hatch they should be removed from the hen and placed in a warm box, otherwise they may be smothered or choked by the hen getting her feet across their necks. They take longer to hatch under hens, so no alarm should be evinced if they take from one and a half to two days to emerge from the shell after pipping.

Goose eggs are more difficult to hatch artificially than duck or hen eggs. A temperature of 102 degrees on top of the eggs (touching) is about right, and they should be moistened by means of a damp cloth or dipped in warm water quite frequently. Moisture-pans should be used also in bottom of incubator all through the hatch. The temperature may be allowed to run up to 104 towards the finish, as this is generally indicative of a good hatch. Care should be taken to remove moisture-pans, so that the goslings may not get wet if they happen to fall into the nursery before properly drying off.

When geese are settling on the eggs, it is advisable to place some grain and water handy to the nest, and a run on pasture is recommended when they come off to feed. Examine the eggs occasionally when the geese are feeding. Any eggs that are fouled should be washed in warm water and fresh straw and nestling material placed in the nest if needed.

Once the goslings are two or three days old, very little care is needed. They should be protected from heavy rain-storms for the first two or three weeks, and should always have access to plenty of shade. If they are to be marketed early, they should not be allowed to swim. If with hen or brooder, they should be given tender shoots of grass or clover cut fine the first two days, and milk (some skim or better) to drink as well as water. After this they should be allowed more liberty on pasture, and should also be protected from the hot sun. If they are to be marketed as "green geese," they should at the end of the first week be gradually fed a wet mash. About twice a day the first three or four weeks will be sufficient. The mash may consist of two parts, by weight, of bran, one shorts, and one barley or corn-meal. Occasionally boiled oats, wheat, or barley can be given. The writer had excellent results with wheat boiled in skim-milk. Care should be taken to see that they get an abundance of succulent green food as well, or else they will go "off their feet" and lose flesh. As much range as possible should be given. Grit and shell should be mixed in the mash every two or three days.

After the first few weeks the mash may be changed to two-thirds barley or corn-meal and one-third bran. Never separate the goslings whilst growing, or they will fret and pine, losing flesh at a great rate. When killing, which should be at from twelve to fourteen weeks, it is advisable to kill them all on the one day, to save the shrinkage mentioned above. A weight of from 10 to 12 lb. can be secured if proper care and attention is given. Special care should be taken against scares by cats, dogs, brooding hens, etc., as the goslings are very timid when raised by hens or brooder.

When reared by geese, little attention is needed, as they appear to be stronger and will generally be able to make fair growth where plenty of green pasture is available. They will take much longer to reach such weights as are obtained by supplementary feeding of grain.