

changing period is usually a losing period with fattening cattle under almost any condition. The aim of the stockman should be to initiate the feeding period with the best conditions possible, and with all arrangements for carrying the feeding through to the end without breaks or interruptions of any kind. Every pound of gain with fattening cattle is produced at a heavy cost for feed consumed under the best of conditions, and the expense may be easily run up very materially by neglecting or overlooking some of the simple rules which lie at the basis of successful practice.

Raising Geese

While rearing turkeys and chickens is a most profitable line of poultry farming, raising geese is also a source of profit if managed properly. The following treatise on the subject, written by a Michigan farmer's wife for the *Farmer*, gives some useful hints on the subject of goose raising:

"We have bred and raised geese for the last ten years, but most extensively during the past two years. We have the pure Toulouse, both American and English bred, twenty fine breeding birds. We find by experience they are more profitable and easier raised than any poultry we have ever tried. Have raised Bronze Turkeys and Pekin ducks, besides several varieties of pure-bred fowls. Geese are easily confined by a low fence, but they require plenty of fresh water to drink with a free run of fresh green grass. They do not require as much grain as many varieties of poultry. Two or three mornings each week we feed a warm mash of corn-meal; bran, oats, barley, and cooked vegetables are good. In the evening whole grain, usually corn, oats and barley mixed.

They commenced laying in March. They lay three different times if not allowed to sit. During the season they produce from twenty to forty eggs each. We put the first ones, about five, under hens; later allow the geese about fifteen. They make excellent mothers. The male bird watches and cares for the little ones very tenderly. I often think it would be a good lesson to some parents to watch him. When hatched, by the geese we never pay much attention to them, as they take them out in the orchard and keep away from the house. We feed the ones hatched by hens bread and sweet milk, with a little lettuce or onion tops chopped fine, also fine mica crystal grit, or have clean sand where they can get to it. They grow very rapidly. We keep the hen in a coop inside a small pen of fresh grass, changing often, until they are two or three weeks old, then allow the hen to run in the yards of fresh grass, but where they can be easily secured if a hard shower should come. At this time I steam a bread made of corn meal, bran, middlings or graham flour, sour milk or water, with soda and a little salt; stir stiff so as to crumble when cold. They are very hardy and more quiet than ducks. They bring a good price in market about two weeks before Christmas, besides a fine supply of feathers. When matured they weigh from fourteen to twenty pounds. We have had them weigh twenty-two pounds.

We do not pluck the feathers from our breeding birds before July if at all.

Fattening Pigs by Electricity

Dr. W. J. Herdman of the Medical Faculty, Ann Arbor, Mich., is reported to have discovered a new use for electricity. It is fattening pigs. He has used two cages of guinea pigs for the experiment. The pigs in each cage were the same age. Around one cage electric wires were strung which were charged daily. The pigs in this cage gained 10 per cent. more in weight in a given time than the pigs in the cage where there was no electricity.

Whether this new discovery will be of benefit to the agriculturist in fattening his hogs remains to be seen. Should it prove so another experiment will have to be tried to find out whether pigs fattened in this way will suit the bacon trade. Perhaps a new brand might be started to be known as electric bacon.

CORRESPONDENCE

Removing Roadside Fences the Ideal Condition

To the Editor of *FARMING*:

In reply to your enquiries regarding fences I would say:

1. Mostly rail fences.
2. Wire fences are used to a considerable extent and seem to suit the owners of the land better than bicyclists who ride along them on wheeling trips.
3. As a rule there is freedom from drifts on roads where wire fences exist.
4. Removing the fences and herding cattle is the ideal condition. Whether it is practicable depends upon the people. Some places, notably from Hamilton to Grimsby, it works all right. Half of the people are not ready for the change.

C. W. YOUNG.

Cornwall, Ont., June 10th, 1899.

Rail Fences in General Use

To the Editor of *FARMING*:

Yours received re Farm Fences, and in reply I would say:

1. Rail fences are still in general use. They are now being built straight to save rails which are becoming scarce.
2. Wire fences are being introduced along lanes and roadsides, but have not yet come into general use. A great many of the first wire fences put up did not fill the bill. The Page fence, with some others that are being now introduced, seem to give satisfaction.
3. Where wire fences have been built on roadsides the roads never become impassable, although they fill up, the track getting very high and disagreeable to drive over.
4. I do not think it would be practical to do away with roadside fences. In this country there are too many cattle driven along the roads, and it would be impossible to keep them out of the crops.

G. B. HOOD.

Guelph, Ont., June 13th, 1899.

The Wire Fence Not Yet Perfect

To the Editor of *FARMING*:

In reply to your questions I would answer as follows:

- (1) Cedar log and rail fences.
- (2) Wire has been used to a limited extent.
- (3) Wire fencing on the roadside is helpful in preventing snow blockades.
- (4) I do not think the time has yet arrived for doing away with roadside fencing, and compelling every farmer to fence in or herd his stock. That time, I fancy, is a long way off.

Allow me to add to (2) that in my opinion there is not a real good wire fence yet produced. Those with wire for upright stays have the very serious objection that when animals rub against them they bend and stay crooked.

JOHN CAMPBELL.

Fairview Farm, Woodville, June 13th, 1899.

Larger Fields and Less Fencing

To the Editor of *FARMING*:

In reply to yours of 9th I would say:

- (1) This part of the country had abundance of cedar, and most of the farms were fenced in ten acre fields. Later the advanced farmers saw the folly of small fields and en-