

Ducks kept for market eggs require no drakes with them. It is true that ducks will consume nearly twice as much food as hens, yet they can be kept very cheaply, if the runs are sufficiently large. A duck requires a large amount of coarse food principally grass and from fifty to one hundred ducks can be kept upon an acre of land if it be in good grass the greater portion of the year with only a small grain and meat ration. The houses for ducks can be less expensive than hen houses the only requisite being that they be warm and dry. For twenty-five ducks a house sixteen to twenty feet long and eight feet wide is sufficiently large and it can be built low and banked with straw and earth for protection during the winter. I find that four feet high by two feet and a half at the eaves with a shed roof, makes a convenient height. By having the house narrow it is easily cleaned; all the inaccessible parts can be cleaned with a hoe or scraper. The house should be as warm as possible. A very convenient house of the dimensions given can be built of tongue-and-grooved hemlock lumber planed on one side and lined with building paper, the frame being made of two by four inches set sidewise so as to form a two inch dead air space between the paper and the outer wall. In the front is a three foot door and two windows two feet six inches by four feet, double glazed, one on each side the door. There are also three small doors or exits with slides which can be closed at night; the floor can be raised above the surrounding ground and may be built on three by six inch sills, so it can be moved easily if desired. If the house faces the south or south-east and is well banked at the rear and ends with straw, corn-stalks or something of that kind and plenty of straw used for bedding, it will be sufficiently warm.

In raising ducks there are five essentials—muscle, water, food, shade and grit—and the greatest of these is muscle. In feeding and raising young ducks begin with the breeding stock, strong vigorous breeders mean healthy wide awake ducklings needing a minimum of attention and easily raised. This being the case you should give the breeders a large grass range with plenty of shade and feed night and morning. Do not feed at noon as ducks on good grass range do not need it. If without grass range, feed all the green food they will eat each day, fodder corn, rye, grass, clover or anything they will eat. Have

water in pails or troughs convenient to feeding places at all times of the day and night, also oyster shell and grit and do not forget to supply shade: they must have it.

In winter, vary the fare by a liberal allowance of boiled turnips mashed in with grain say one third turnips every other morning and with cabbage chopped fine or other green food that can be obtained, fed at noon.

DUCK POINTERS.

Earth floor is best.

Avoid overcrowding ducks as you would hens.

Ducks are good hatchers but poor mothers.

Short hay, leaves, or chopped straw make good bedding.

Charcoal in the food of the young will prevent sickness.

It is a mistake to allow young ducklings an unlimited range.

Medium aged drakes are considered the best for market production.

Ducks kept on land must have fresh water at least three times a day.

Better lay in a lot of turnips, to be fed cooked when other green food is scarce.

The duck is not only a prolific layer but the eggs are richer in fat than are hen eggs.

Half-grown ducks, when overcrowded in a pen, are apt to get into the habit of feather pulling.

Carbolate of lime scattered about the duck houses and water troughs will disinfect the premises.

Mr. Rankin estimates that a young duck can be grown to ten weeks of age at a cost of food of four cents per pound.

At seven years of age the breeding duck is about equal in vigor and productiveness to a hen at four years old.

Clover hay steeped is an excellent substitute for green food.

Cracked oyster shells are placed before the ducklings from the time they are put in the brooder house.

BRITISH LETTER.

AGRICULTURE AT THE PARIS EXPOSITION IN 1900—
THE ROYAL SHOW AT BIRMINGHAM.

London, Eng., July 11th, 1898.

I have just received an early copy of the regulations, etc., under which British and Colonial goods will be exhibited at the Paris Exhibition of