

In the Poultry Yard

Feeding Young Chicks

Our method of feeding is usually to remove the chicks from the incubator to the brooder, which has been bedded with cut straw or hay and warmed to 95 degrees, at the age of 36 to 45 hours. We place on a board some grit also some bread crumbs or cracked wheat and oatmeal. We keep this well supplied for, perhaps, two days, until all the chicks know where to look for food. We also keep a constant supply of pure water in easy access. After the second day in the brooder we begin feeding about five or six times daily, just what the chickens eat quickly. It is still somewhat of a debatable point, whether it is wise to feed a young chick all it wants to eat before it is two weeks of age. We try to feed a little less than they would eat. Such feeds as bread and milk are given early in the morning, which is fed on boards or troughs. At nine o'clock some cracked wheat or pinhead oatmeal is fed, or, if these are not to be had, small wheat screenings. This is buried slightly in the litter on the floor, so as to induce the chicks to exercise. The above feeds are used alternately. Before there is any grass, we feed usually two feeds a day, after the chicks are a week old of grated or chopped root or onions, sometimes boiled potatoes; enough shorts and bran is added to this to absorb the juices of the root. We try to have the chicks drink some milk, or, if this is not at hand, we keep beef scrap in easy access. The feeding of much cooked or raw meat is dangerous—a little is good. Where there is plenty of milk or meat, the minimal food is not so essential. After three weeks of age, feed three times daily, plenty of vegetables and grass (and exercise); grit, water and broken charcoal, in easy access. Reckon until 75 degrees is reached. Chicks 5 or 6 weeks old require no artificial heat.—W. R. Graham, O.A.C., Guelph.

Feeding Little Ducklings.

Ducklings are very easy to rear, compared to any other feathered thing in the farm yard. At the same time in feeding it is quite possible to make mistakes in feeding and caring for them. It never struck me before that anyone could go far wrong in rearing ducklings, but one day a lady told me that she should so lose a little duck because of the fact that it was so difficult to rear the ducklings. I immediately set to work to find out what she did that was so fatal to her make the food intended for the ducklings much too sloppy. It should be mixed dry and crumbly, just as though it were meant for chickens. The little ducks have a habit of flashing their food about their bills, so as to plaster it over their own backs and each other, also it makes a rim of dry sour food round the eyes. This next makes their heads and eyes very sore, but they get used to it so well on sloppy food. I have seen little ducklings completely raw from head to foot, without a single particle of down left on their stretched little bodies. There was a pan of bread and milk kept always before them. It is certainly a great temptation to put down a nice pan of buttermilk or sweet milk, for they do so enjoy it; but if ever I have been tempted to do so I have always found that I had

to mash and dry the whole flock the next day. If buttermilk is to be obtained, it must have some bran or other meal mixed with it so that it will not stick onto the ducklings when they fling their heads about. They must be kept clean, and if any get dirty in spite of all precautions they must be washed. This is a very troublesome operation. Warm water and a soft rag must be used to each one separately, and as each one is finished it must immediately be placed in a box on some warm flannel and covered over. When all are finished they must be put into the box together, and a cover put over the box. It is of no use to put the cover onto the ducks' backs as they have a way of climbing onto it and making each other uncomfortable. If they are kept warm until next feeding time they will most likely all be nice and dry by next feeding time, and then don't give any more "mush." Another point to be remembered is that the ducklings must, on no account be chilled when they are removed from the incubator or nest. Also that they must have sand and shell grit. The water must never be allowed to stand where they can help themselves, but be given with the food at stated times while very young; but as they grow older, the water should be given after feeding, twice or at most three times a day. It should always be warm.

OCTAVIA ALLEN,

Ganges, Ont.

Preserving Eggs

I know of only two really satisfactory methods of preserving eggs; the one is to preserve them in water-glass for general purposes, the other is to preserve them by coating them with gum and packing them in bran, especially for boiling. I do not know how it is possible to improve upon either of these methods. Were it not for the fact of the eggs clipping when they are boiled, it might be said that the water-glass method is the best, because, of course, you can not preserve eggs by keeping them in a solution of water-glass. The gum would quickly turn sour, whereas the water-glass will keep wholesome for years, if need be. Some genius will arise, no doubt, some day to invent a solution of water-glass which will allow the eggs immersed in it to come up for boiling in as satisfactory a manner as can be required. Until that appears let me counsel those who are interested in egg preserving to adhere closely to the two methods indicated. They are far better than the old-fashioned lime-water preservation, and as for the other ways, it is difficult to see how such methods as smearing with lard or butter, and things of that sort, can possibly be held in repute. —F. W.

Starting With Turkeys

A government bulletin contains the following rules for selecting turkey stock:

1. Always use as breeders turkey hens over one year old. Be sure they are strong, healthy and vigorous and of good, medium size. In no instance select the smaller ones. Do not strive to have them unnaturally large.
2. The male may be a yearling or older. Do not imagine that the large, over-grown males are the best. Strength, health and vigor, with well-proportioned medium size, are the main points of excellence.
3. Avoid close breeding. New blood

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is of vital importance to turkeys. Better send a thousand miles for a new male than risk the chances of inbreeding. Secure one in the fall, so as to be assured of its health and vigor prior to the breeding season.

Regarding the kind of hens to select the following advice is given: No matter what variety of turkeys may be selected for keeping, they should above all things be strong, vigorous, healthy and well matured, but not akin. Better secure the females from one locality and the male from another to insure their non-relationship, rather than risk the risk of inbreeding. In all fowls it is well to remember that size is influenced largely by the female and the color and finish by the male. Securing overlarge males to pair with small, weakly hens is not a wise policy.