

provision men have great stacks of smoked Wiltshire-cut bacon, some stacks of whole sides, others of sides with shoulders cut off, and others with shoulders alone cut from the sides after they have been smoked; if you inquire the prices they will offer you the shoulders for just about half the price they sell the remainder of the sides for. That is the reason they will not pay the highest price for sides with heavy shoulders.

Co-operative Experiments in Agriculture.

From a communication received from Mr. C. A. Zavitz, Director, Guelph, Ont., we take the following list of experiments to be carried on by the Ontario Agricultural and Experimental Union for 1899:

1. Testing nitrate of soda, superphosphate, muriate of potash, mixture, and no manure with corn.
2. Testing nitrate of soda, superphosphate, muriate of potash, mixture, and no manure with mangels.
3. Growing grass, peas and two varieties of vetches for green fodder.
4. Growing three mixtures of grain for green fodder.
5. Testing six varieties of corn for grain, fodder, or silage.
6. Testing four varieties of millet.
7. Testing four varieties of grasses.
8. Testing four varieties of clovers.
9. Testing three varieties of buckwheat.
10. Testing three varieties of spring wheat and one of spring rye.
11. Testing four varieties of barley.
12. Testing four varieties of oats.
13. Testing four varieties of field peas.
14. Testing three varieties of field beans.
15. Testing three varieties of Japanese beans.
16. Testing four varieties of carrots.
17. Testing three varieties of mangels and one of sugar beets.
18. Testing two varieties of Swedish and two of fall turnips.
19. Sowing peas at different dates to determine the amount of injury done by the pea weevil.
20. Planting potatoes the same day and five days after being cut.
21. Planting corn in rows and in squares.

Interested persons in Ontario who wish to join in the work may select any one of the experiments for 1899 and inform the Director at once of the choice made. All material will be furnished entirely free of charge to each applicant, but he will be expected to conduct the test according to the instructions sent with the seeds, and to report the results of his test as soon as possible after harvest.

Profit in Geese

By Samuel Cushman, Providence, R.I.

No branch of poultry culture pays better if intelligently followed, not even successful turkey growing. Geese require no expenditure for shelter, even in winter. May be pastured like cows, and a good goose, well managed, pays better than a good cow. They are not, however, suited to the town back lot, but to the well watered meadow or pasture, or to the farm.

HOW TO INSURE IT.

To make geese most profitable, as many goslings should be secured as possible, by keeping the goose laying and hatching the eggs under hens. The goslings should be grown as quickly as possible, and, like Pekin ducks, marketed when green or quite young. They should be sold in May, June and July, when they bring more and cost less than if kept until fall. To get the largest amount of goslings, prolific layers must be kept, as well as very active ganders, to insure a high per cent. of fertile eggs. Quick growing stock is also necessary. To get the highest price in market the goslings should be white plumage and have yellow bill and legs, as they look best and sell best dressed. To get good size the large breeds should be used.

BREEDS OF GEESE.

Toulouse or gray geese are most common of the pure breeds, and lay the largest number of eggs, but they are slow growers, and not having white plumage, being loose-skinned and dark, do not sell so well dressed. The ganders are also slow and sluggish (like Cochin fowl), and the per cent. of fertile eggs is often very low.

Emdben or Bremen geese grow quicker, and being

white and having orange bills and legs, look the best when dressed, and the goslings sell at highest price of any pure breed. The Emdben, however, is a poor layer; a goose laying no more than half the number produced by the Toulouse. They (unlike the almost non-sitting Toulouse) are persistent sitters and good mothers, and it is harder to keep them laying, and the number of goslings secured is therefore comparatively small.

Good Africans are as large as the best Emdbens or Toulouse geese, grow faster and larger than either up to the time goslings should be marketed. They also lay the largest eggs, and almost equal the Toulouse in number produced. They are good sitters and therefore will not lay as steadily. It takes a few days to break them up after each sitting is laid. The African ganders (like Leghorn males) are the most active and attentive ganders of any of the large breeds. They may be given four times as many geese as the Toulouse ganders, and twice or three times as many as the Emdben males and rarely fail to insure highly fertile eggs. The only drawback of this most valuable and important breed is its dark bill and skin, and the fact that it is harder than the others to pick. When dressed the white gosling leads it in price. A greater number of large goslings will usually be secured from pure Africans than from Emdbens or Toulouse mated straight.

CROSSING THE BREEDS FOR BEST RESULTS.

By mating an Emdben gander with African geese he will be more attentive than with either Emdben or Toulouse geese, thus insuring a high per cent. of fertile eggs, while a majority of the goslings raised will come white in plumage and with yellow bills and legs. An African gander mated with Emdben geese, while not so sure to give as high per cent. of fertile eggs as an African, will usually insure excellent results, a large number of goslings, most of which will be light or white. For Christmas geese this is the most desirable cross, and gives the largest light coloured goslings. The Toulouse gander in this sort of crossing has no place and can be dispensed with.

Failing to secure African ganders of the right sort, brown China or African brown China cross ganders may be used with about as good results. They are still more active than Africans, but are smaller, not so hardy to stand cold winters, and their goslings partake of their nervous, excitable nature, and do not take on flesh, or fatten as readily. However, where size of goslings is of little importance, or where a medium-sized bird is desired, and especially where no preference is shown whether goslings dress white or dark, or whether the bills or legs are yellow or dark, the brown Chinas, bred pure, will be the most profitable of all breeds. In this case their sharp, discordant, rasping voice will be the only drawback, but a constant thorn in the flesh of those in their vicinity.

SECURING THE STOCK.

Whether geese are crossed or bred pure, the right sort of pure bred geese must be secured. They can be bought cheaper in midsummer, before the best goslings are killed for the market. In any case, whether young or old are secured, it is best to have them on your place before December to have them do well the following season. Eggs may be bought in March and April and set under hens. There is as much difference in the laying ability of geese as there is in the milk-giving capacity of cows. By taking very little trouble the goose-breeder can know how many eggs each goose lays during each season, as she has a nest of her own. He can weed out the poor layers and breed only from the best, and in combination with generous feeding can build up in a few seasons a very prolific strain of layers. This has already been done with all the breeds mentioned. We have a Toulouse goose that last season laid 47 eggs, which, set under hens, hatched 41 goslings. Of these 37 were raised. Africans frequently lay thirty or more eggs. Good Emdbens go as high as twenty or more. It all depends upon the strain. How they have been bred and managed.