

Poultry.

Plan of Portable Perches.

A A, perches; B B, kerosene cups; D D, cross pieces; C C, standards. I think this is the best plan for perches I have ever seen, for the following reasons: It prevents chickens from crowding at ends of perches. The ends do not connect with sides or ends of building. The kerosene cups prevent vermin from working to and from any part of the building or on the chickens at night. The coop is more easily kept free from vermin, and does away with white washing and cleaning in a great measure. They are not expensive, and in many cases the standards can be mortised in the floor beams, and then would require only four pieces of timber. I made my perches of 2 x 4 pieces, and find them to work first-class. I made my perches 14 inches high, and 22 inches from centre to centre. The perches are not mortised all the way through, and are not fastened, and can be lifted off and the whole thing moved out in a few moments.

The Poultry Yard.

The past year has been a splendid year for ducks, and the attention which of late years has been bestowed upon poultry is now manifest in the astonishing size of the ducks offered for sale, and it is more than probable that poultry shows have done much towards this increased production of good meat, especially by making farmers aware of the existence of the comparatively lately known Pekins. My observation leads me to the conclusion that in many yards drakes of this kind have been introduced, and by the infusion of new blood and the care of a male bird of weight the result has proved most satisfactory to breeder and purchasers, the ducklings being strong as well as heavy. At the same time I am by no means certain that those who wish to keep ducks of a pure breed will be wise to forsake the long tried and honest Aylesbury for our yellow billed giants. Taken all round our good old friends are hard to beat; at the present time I am getting more eggs from ducks than from hens, and if account had been carefully kept of the number of eggs laid since November, 1880, the record would surprise any one unacquainted with the Aylesbury breed. So far as my experience justifies me in speaking, regarded as a layer, and especially as a winter layer, the Aylesbury is before the Pekin, whilst the flesh of the Aylesbury is quite equal, if not a shade superior, to that of the other.

The secret of fattening animals and birds is to give just as much suitable food as they require, and just when they require it. Eat, drink, and repose, should be the motto of a duck breeder. Bearing this order of words in mind, no one can suppose that a swiftly running stream can be desirable for ducklings intended for the market; on the contrary, it is evident that the exertion of working to or from home against the stream cannot conduce to the greatest quantity of the succulent amount of food. Ducklings are all the better for a good grass run, and a small pool of water, to which they may have access at all hours; but if intended for the market they cannot be supposed to obtain their own living, and therefore it is quite an error, though too common a practice, to tempt them with the possibility of more exercise than is absolutely necessary.—[Ex.]

A Profitable Vocation.

It is now a matter of fact that no branch of the live stock business suits the masses of the people better than fowl raising. It is a paying vocation, and is adapted to the young as well as the old, and to all sections of the country. Prime poultry is desirable in every poultryer's beginning. The wisest methods are the best and the cheapest in the end. Pure bred stock costs more at the start; but once established in the breeder's yard, its beauty, prolificness, stamina and courage, and the consequent value of all the specimens produced from the original breeding birds, more than make up for the extra outlay spent at the outset, while procuring the very best stock that money can buy.

Green Food for Winter Use.

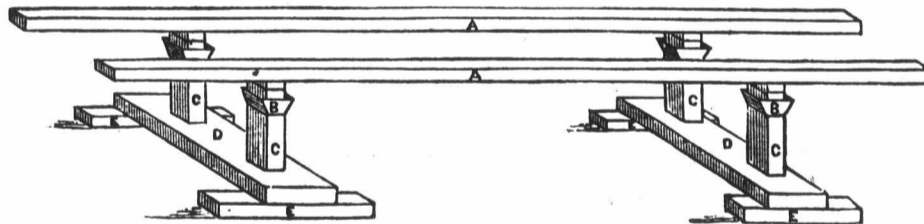
Every breeder should see that his fowls are provided with green food for winter use. On a moment's reflection one can see that it is necessary to insure health and prolificacy. Fowls, as well as other animals require a certain amount of coarse and refuse matter to keep them free from constipation, indigestion and other kindred complaints.

Cabbage is undoubtedly the very best and cheapest green food that can be had. It is not necessary or economical to purchase prime heads for their use, as the soft heads which are not marketable are just as good, and they cost one-half less. The same with turnips and potatoes, they can be had cheap by purchasing from farmers the small or refuse part of the crop. These articles can be stored in a dry cellar, and will be found very useful during the four or five months of winter when the fowls require good, artificial feeding in variety to make them lay at all during the frigid term, or to incite them to commence their work early in the spring.

The lawn mowings and clover heads can be saved and stored away in coffee sacks in a dry, cool place until needed for use, and by steaming or cooking the vegetable with meal or potatoes there is no waste, and during cold weather is a grand need that must not be lost sight of, if the breeder would like to do his stock justice, and see them thrive and lay well in early spring when their eggs are most valuable for securing early broods.

How to Make Chickens Lay.

I find there is no profit to be derived unless it is attended with all the care and attention that should be given to any other successful business. Generally the poultry is a perquisite of the wife or daughters of the farmer, and they take the corn from the general stock and no account is taken of it, so that they would be unable to know whether they made a real profit or not. With corn ranging from sixty-five to eighty-five cents per bushel, and



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the price of poultry, there cannot be any profit unless it comes from hatching chickens in January and February for market in May.

I confine my stock to about forty hens, and they require about one and a-half bushels of corn per week, and besides we feed scraps from the table, meat occasionally, and waste cheese when it can be got cheaply. I think the latter is better than curds, which, on account of not keeping cows, I cannot get. For almost two years my chickens have failed only one day to lay eggs. I am now getting about three dozen per week. Last January and February one dozen every day, and my records show me that if properly understood and attended to a hen will earn in eggs a net profit of one dollar per year.

How to Distinguish a Young Hen.

A young hen may be known by the freshness and smallness of the toes, and the absence of rough and coarse scales on the legs, but more especially by the softness of the breast bone at the lower part. If, when the bone is gently pressed, the edges readily give way to the pressure it may be known that the bone is not fully formed, and that the edges still consist of cartilage, which is the substance of which immature bone is first formed. In choosing poultry the softness or hardness of the breast bone at the edges is the readiest and surest test.

How to Kill Poultry.

The French kill poultry by opening the beak of the fowl and with a sharp pointed, narrow blade knife, make an incision at the back of the roof of the mouth, which divides the vertebrae, and causes instant death, after which the fowls are hung up by the legs; they will breed freely with no disfigurement; pick while warm, and by this method the skin presents a more natural appearance than when scalded.

Light Brahmas.

The Poultry Monthly speaks in favor of this breed to the following effect: They are remarkably hardy, and good winter layers, and when properly bred are broad-breasted, compact, solid fowls for the market, and can be kept in good condition on coarse food. For early hatching they cannot be equalled; their soft fluffy feathers keep the eggs from being chilled. They have strong maternal instincts, are quiet and unobtrusive, and well adapted to every situation in life.

For broilers the Light Brahma chickens from eight to twelve weeks old are very desirable, but as roasters they are not in their prime until they are eight or nine months old. Taking all their qualities into consideration they are a remarkably good breed of fowls.

Aside from their inherent qualities they are just the breed that suits the amateur, and it is a certain thing that they can be readily raised under ordinary circumstances. Although being a parti-colored fowl, however, whose plumage is simply white and black, the nice point in breeding of course is to unite these opposite hues of color, so that each will properly belong to its place, and not "run into" too light or too dark in penciling or shading, but just in the right proportions required by the standard.

Winter Feeding.

In winter, when Jack Frost demands so much heat to counterbalance his icy touch, we must keep our fowls comfortably warm, and feed them on such food as will supply the requisite amount of heat. It is true, corn is a most excellent winter food, in connection with other grain, to enable stock to successfully withstand the cold, but it is poor grain to produce eggs. Buckwheat is good food for winter use. It is heating and stimulating, and induces early laying. A warm mess of wheat middlings, potatoes and scraps of meat makes an excellent breakfast. These combine heat, nutriment and egg properties. Buckwheat or oats for dinner, and wheat or corn for supper, is good fare, but though good in their way, fowls require green food besides.

Hens and pullets that have been fed on this, or on a similar kind of fare, during the few months of winter will, in the early spring, be laying freely. To keep this up, it is necessary that the food should be varied and of good quality. The production of an egg a day, or one every other day, is a strain on the strength and capacity of a hen. At this season fowls cannot forage for their food, and are almost entirely dependent upon what is given them. But we can overdo this thing; they should have all they will eat up clean, but never overfed. Fowls kept up to their full vigor during winter will produce eggs correspondingly strong and healthy, and the chicks will thrive and grow better than when hatched from eggs laid by hens in a neglected or poor condition.

One Breed Enough.

A leading authority states that, as a rule, one variety of fowls is enough for almost any person to manage successfully and profitably, and this is especially true with beginners, who have to gain their experience in all the varied details of poultry management. If a breeder has been successful with one variety, has not merely made good sales, but has produced birds of such a high order of merit that the stock makes a good advertisement, and a permanent one for the breeder, it can be taken for granted that it will pay to take up one or more breeds, provided the same care is bestowed upon each variety as was formerly accorded the single breed, and provided there are ample conveniences, room and quarters for them. It seldom pays to attempt raising poor bred poultry, unless there is ample room, both in yards and houses, for they must have this to insure their healthfulness and consequent profit.

For cholera in turkeys give a pill of assafoetida the size of a pea and about a tablespoonful of equal parts of sulphur, cayenne pepper and rosin.