

The Poultry Yard.

FEEDING FOR EARLY DUCKS.

A liberal supply of good, strong fertile eggs early in the season, eggs that will produce healthy young birds and turn them out in a condition to live, is what the duck raiser needs. Too often



WINNER OF PRIZE FOR BEST PEKIN DUCK
At the Boston Poultry Show.

the health of the young bird is injured by the improper feeding of the mother bird during the laying season. This food should consist of the proper ingredients and quantity, just what the bird will eat clean, and no more. Grit is absolutely necessary. We not only keep it, together with cracked oyster shells, in boxes constantly by them, but mix it in their food. They must have something during their confinement in bad weather to enable them to assimilate their food.

One ingredient which we consider of the greatest importance is green food, which should compose nearly one-fourth of the whole. We have 2 a of rye 18 in high. This is cut 3/4 in long and mixed with food. When there is prospect of snow we cut large quantities of this in a frozen state and pile it up on the north side of a building. It will not heat in this condition. Should this be used up and the ground be covered with snow, I have several tons of fine clover rowen stored for the purpose, which we consider next in value to the rye, so that we are never out of the material for feeding. I also raise about 1000 bu of turnips, which are steamed until soft and are mixed in the food. This the birds relish highly.

The first essential is to start with good breeding stock. Birds that have been inbred until their constitutions are completely debilitated are in no condition for reproduction. Strains that do not begin laying until March or April are more or less unprofitable, because when their young are ready for the knife the best of the spring market is gone, and the grower must take a reduced price for his product. To meet with the best success, this business should be conducted by artificial methods, as hens will not sit in time to command the high spring prices. When the natural grown product reaches the market, you will find that artificially grown birds have had control of that market for 2 mos or more and that 2 mos is worth more than all the rest of the season put together. For breeding birds, old or young, during the fall feed three parts wheat bran, one part Quaker oat feed, one part corn meal, 5 per cent beef scraps, 5 per cent grit and all the green food they will eat in the shape of corn fodder cut fine-clover or oat fodder. Feed this mixture twice a day, all they will eat. For laying birds equal parts of wheat bran and corn meal, 20 per cent Quaker oat feed, 10 per cent boiled potatoes and turnips, 15 per cent clover rowen green-rye or refuse cabbage chopped fine, 5 per cent grit. Feed twice a day all they will eat, with a lunch of corn and oats at noon. Keep grit and ground oyster shells constantly by them. I never cook food for ducks after they are a week old, but mix it with cold water. — James Rankin, Bristol Co. Mass.

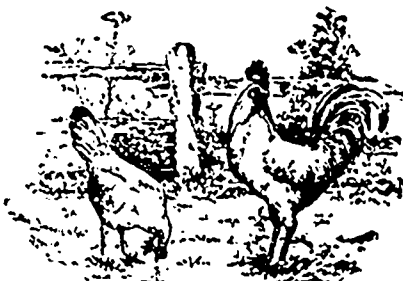
LIGHT HEN HOUSE.

The building is 10x30 ft with cement floor covered with matched lumber, and the inside is lathed and plastered overhead and on the sides. Beneath the lath is tarred paper. On the south side are plenty of windows, and when the sun is shining, as the building is practically airtight, the biddies think it the coldest day is a summer one. The roosts are of uniform height and are movable. The outside of the building is painted and has a ventilator on the roof, which makes it an ornament to the farm. Being somewhat of a carpenter, I did the work myself, which reduced the expense. — F. A. Smart Oswego Co. N. Y.

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Leghorns are exceedingly hardy. The chicks feather rapidly, grow fast and are free from disease. They can readily be hatched out so as to come to laying age early in the fall, when eggs are beginning to advance rapidly in price, and my experience has been that Leghorns are exceedingly good winter layers, even in a cold climate. They must have warm houses and good



WHITE LEGHORNS.

care, but warm houses are not difficult of construction, and without good care no breed of fowls will pay.

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