

Turkey Raising.

Preparation.—In the first place, I believe the most important feature of the business is that one should like to work with poultry. There is money in the business if one can get it out. Many persons report failure after failure—the young dying, some when a few days old, others in two weeks, and still others in about four months' time. I conclude from my neighbors' failures that those who report these failures do not like turkeys, and are, therefore, not adapted to taking care of them. They may get eggs from the finest strains (which is very important), and get a fair percentage of them hatched, and then when they begin to die from lice or damp, etc., they simply cram them with every kind of food, trying to get on the right one, instead of searching for the cause of their death.

Selection of Stock.—The second factor is to get eggs from hardy stock. I always keep five hens and a tom. This will insure about seventy-five eggs, which is as many as an ordinary farmer can attend to. My hens are selected from the finest young hens in my flock. A small, stunted turkey is an expense, and should never be wintered. I keep two yearlings and three young hens over each year, and always have a tom two years old, as I believe the eggs are stronger, larger, and the young easier to raise. You may ask, "How do you always have a two-year-old?" I answer, "I buy him, at whatever cost." It always pays, and you will see the wisdom of this before fall. I never keep a tom which is in any way closely related to my hens. This is very important, as all turkey-raisers know. There is no animal or bird which will run out by inbreeding so quickly as turkeys do, and here is where many a poor farmer's wife makes her failure. She keeps a pair of turkeys from the same flock, and the young are sure to be too weak to live, no matter how they are treated. So, never try it.

Feeding for Laying.—Having selected my stock, I feed them plentifully on good wholesome food, consisting of oats and buckwheat mixed, and later on in the spring an occasional pot of boiled vegetables. I am never afraid of getting them too fat, as turkeys are not apt to eat too much in winter, nor are they as easily affected by being overfat as hens are.

Care of Eggs.—I gather the eggs carefully and lay them away in a cool, dry place, turning them every night when I bring in the day's eggs.

Setting.—In setting, I follow nature as closely as possible, and set either on the ground or in a box half filled with earth. If you set on chaff, they are apt to get too dry unless you moisten them occasionally. But the better plan is to set on earth, as it keeps them from drying out and also keeps an even heat in the nest. Always set the oldest eggs first, so that you will never have any eggs very old. Put fifteen to sixteen under each turkey. Good turkeys lay from fifteen to sixteen eggs. After a turkey is over two years old she will not lay more than eight or nine before she wants to sit, and an old turkey's eggs are liable to be sterile. Some make their turkeys lay a second time, setting the first eggs under hens, and in this way claim double profits. This plan works out nicely on paper, but not so well in practice, as the second laying is always too late, and are in "pinfeathers" when selling time comes and are generally a drug on the market. Then, the first setting, which is raised with hens and should be good, are stunted for want of a proper run in the fields when young, and when the hen leaves them they wander away and are often lost.

In setting, I always like my turkeys tame enough to be handled easily. I sprinkle both turkey and nest with insect powder, and again on the 21st or 25th day, to make sure that she is free from lice. Do not let the male near her while sitting, and see that she gets off regularly for food, because if neglected, turkeys often sit till they starve.

Feeding and Care.—When the young are hatched, leave in the nest for twenty-four hours and then feed some hard-boiled egg mixed with bread soaked in sweet milk and squeezed dry. Do not feed too much, but give feed often. For the first week feed at least five times a day. After the first day grease their heads, using but little grease, and put in coops where the young can run out in the sunshine, and feed bread moistened with sweet milk, chopped up with dandelions or onions, and at night-feed raw corn meal mixed thick with milk. Always give fresh water to drink in a shallow plate. When a week old I feed morning and evening with small wheat, and in the middle of the day bread and milk or corn meal and milk. Do not give potatoes or warm bread, as it chokes them. Never feed more than they will eat up clean, as they are ravenous little things, and often eat till it kills them. Shut up at night and do not let them run till the grass is dry in the morning.

When two weeks old I let the old ones run all day if nice, but never let them out if wet, as damp grass is fatal. Do not let too many run together, or when feeding: the stronger ones get too much food and the weaker not enough, and both are fatal. For two years past I have fed wheat exclusively after two weeks old and never lost a turkey. If kept dry, you will never have any trouble with

black heads, which is easily cured by feeding lots of black pepper and only warm feed.

Fattening.—Turkeys must be stuffed from the shell to the day of killing. In fattening, I boil buckwheat, oats and potatoes, and feed all they will eat three times a day, and finish off the last week on corn to give a better color.

Breeds.—The best variety is the Bronze or Narragansett crossed on the white, black or slate. The Bronze and Narragansett are large; do not lay so many eggs, and are not so hardy as the smaller, which lays nearly double the eggs. So, by repeatedly crossing you can get perfection. W. T. F. Grenville Co., Ont.

Eggs and Chickens.

Who can describe the happiness,
The joy and pleasure when
The women hear the welcome sound—
The cackling of the hen.

"I do believe the hens are laying at last," says the farmer's wife. The daughter drops her work and runs out to the henhouse to see whether biddie has given a false alarm or not; but she has told the truth, for there is the beautiful fresh egg in the nest. The daughter looks in the other nests, and is much pleased to find that there is a hen on nearly every nest.

"O mother," she says, "here is one egg, and five more hens are laying. We shall soon have some egg money now, mother."

The hens should be all laying now. Only a few of ours were laying until we gave them an extra supply of ground bone and plaster. I pounded up some plaster and gave it to them as a substitute for lime. They ate it greedily. It seemed as though they had been just waiting for this to give the finishing touches, as it were, to the eggs, for they commenced to lay well all at once. Plaster is good for hens. Some years ago we kept hens in town. There was a building in the yard formerly used as a dwelling house, with nice rooms upstairs, where the sun used to shine in all day long. We gave the hens possession of one of these rooms for the winter. The plaster was broken in places and beginning to fall off, so the hens helped themselves to it. How happy they were! How they talked and rejoiced over their good fortune! They laid well all winter. The recipe was: plenty of light and sunshine, a variety of food, fresh water, good attendance, and plenty of plaster.

People have been complaining of a scarcity of eggs this winter. They were selling for 20 cents a dozen in the market here the first of February. But the market has been overstocked with chickens ever since the fall. Had the quantity been less and the quality better, they would not have been such a drug on the market. People want good large, fat chickens, not scrubs. I have seen women stand in the market all day with chickens and almost give them away in the evening rather than take them home. "Oh, I wish I could sell my chickens," says the poor, tired woman to her neighbor, who, like herself, has been patiently, or impatiently, waiting and watching for customers to come and buy. Of course, they are bringing in better chickens now than they did in the fall, but one cannot feed them so long and sell them for fifty or sixty cents a pair without losing money. Geese, turkeys and ducks are scarce, but fowl and chickens never seem to be scarce. Their name is legion. It doesn't pay to raise late chickens. We had twelve last summer, and nearly every one of them turned out to be roosters. Late chickens are too small to sell in the fall, and if kept on through the winter, one can't get enough for them to pay for the food they consume, to say nothing of the trouble of getting them ready and taking them to market. There is too much competition. If one won't sell them cheap, another will. That is the way. But someone will say: "We have them, and we must try to sell them." But, my dear woman, don't have them. Try a new plan for next summer. If you have no full-bred Plymouth Rock fowls, go and buy eggs for setting from someone who has. Don't keep any mixed breeds. Set your hens early. If possible, try to have your chickens hatched by the first week in April. Set the hens in a warm place, and dust them with sulphur or insect powder twice while they are sitting. You will have to take good care of the little chicks for the first three or four weeks after they are hatched. Then, by September (if you are good to them) you will have your beautiful, large Plymouth Rocks ready for sale. All you will have to do then will be to catch them, take a pleasant drive to the fattening station, sell your chickens and receive your money. This is the way to make poultry-raising pay. All that is required to start is a little forethought, industry, and good management. Now, women folk, take a friend's advice. Put on your thinking-caps. There is money in this business if properly managed. You want to make money, don't you? Start early in the spring and raise chickens for the fattening station. You have been taking chickens to market and working for nothing long enough. You will have less labor and more money by this method. Spring is coming. It will soon be time to get to work.

When March winds whistle 'round your door,
Just think the storms are nearly o'er,
Don't say the weather is not fit
When you find biddie wants to sit.

A. R.

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS.

[In order to make this department as useful as possible, parties enclosing stamped envelopes will receive answers by mail, in cases where early replies appear to us advisable; all enquiries, when of general interest, will be published in next succeeding issue, if received at this office in sufficient time. Enquirers must in all cases attach their name and address in full, though not necessarily for publication.]

Veterinary.

EPITHELIAL TUMORS OR WARTS ON HEIFER.

D. C. McD., Chateaugay Co., Que.:—"I would like to get your opinion about a heifer coming two years that is literally covered with warts, some of them bleeding sometimes and causing a bad smell. In all my experience with stock I have never seen anything like it. They are hanging in clusters about the flanks and on other parts of the body, some of which would weigh, if clipped off, several pounds. Some of the single warts and clusters are of a light color, while others are purple. She seems to be thriving fairly well, and has a good appetite. She is well fed (including ensilage once a day) and is in a first-class stable. Water is good. As your space is valuable, I would ask you only to answer the following questions:

1. What causes warts on cattle?
2. What treatment would you advise?
3. Will they go away or get worse yet?
4. If they don't go away, will the flesh be fit for human food or will it be safe to use her milk when she comes in at three years?"

[1. Warts consist in an abnormal and unhealthy growth of the outer layer of the skin, and are technically called epithelial tumors. The cause of their appearance is obscure. There appears to be a congenital predisposition in some animals.

2. Treatment consists (in cases like yours, where they are large) in removing them with the knife and applying a caustic, say butter of antimony, once daily with a feather to the raw surface for a few applications. When the warts are small, they can be removed with the caustic alone.

3. In some cases they disappear spontaneously, while in others they do not, and may continue to grow.

4. The growths affect only the skin, and hence the flesh and milk are healthy.

J. H. REED, V. S.]

CONSTIPATION IN YOUNG PIGS.

H. McK. B., Middlesex Co., Ont.:—"I have a litter of pigs about four weeks old. One of them acted very stupid, and humped up as though it was cold. It would stand away by itself and grunt and squeal; sometimes under the straw it would do the same. It was this way for about two or three days, and then it died. There was no looseness of the bowels. The other pigs are contracting the same disease. What would be the best thing to do in this case? The pen is warm, plank floor, lots of straw; they get skim milk and oat chop for feed."

[Your pigs have constipation, a trouble that is common in young pigs, especially when the sow has not had sufficient exercise, laxative diet before farrowing, and sometimes the young pigs suffer from a like condition, due to the food taken. Skim milk and oat chop are likely to cause this trouble, especially when little exercise is taken. I would advise a change of food for both sow and pigs; feed laxative food, as boiled roots, and table scraps, bran with a little shorts, and you might add say 1 oat chop. The mixture would be better cooked, or, at the least, scalded and let get cool or nearly cool before feeding. Give each pig sufficient raw linseed oil to cause slight purgation: about four to eight drams should act; if not, repeat in twenty-four hours. Also give the sow enough to act upon her bowels; the dose will be from six to twelve ounces, according to size. Feed daily a little of the following mixture: Equal parts of Epsom salts, sulphur and powdered charcoal. If possible, let them have exercise.

J. H. REED, V. S.]

PARTIAL PARALYSIS IN COW.

C. O., Grey Co., Ont.:—"I have a cow that has been ailing for over a year. She seems to have poor kidneys. It is very hard for her to rise, and she seems to be very stiff when walking. I fed her saltpetre, linseed oil, gentian and cream of tartar, but she won't gain. What do you recommend?"

[Your cow has chronic paraplegia (partial paralysis), and as it has become chronic, it is doubtful if a cure can be effected. I would advise you to give her a brisk purgative, say 2 dr. doses of powdered nux vomica three times daily. She may take the powders mixed with dampened bran or chop; if not, they will have to be shaken up with a little cold water and given as a drench.

J. H. REED, V. S.]

CONTRACTED TENDONS.

F. J. D., Assa.:—"I have a nine-months-old colt, by a Shire horse, that has knuckled over on the right hind fetlock joint and appears to be going the same way on the other leg. There is no swelling and is not sore. I can rest the toe on my knee and put all the pressure I am able on the joint, but cannot straighten it. The cords appear to tighten and won't let it go any farther. The colt has been tied in the stable all winter, and has grown very fast; has to go about quarter-mile for water every day. Kindly advise treatment, or would it be better to leave it alone?"

[You might apply a blister of cantharides, one dram, and hard, one ounce, to the parts once every two weeks for a few times, giving the parts, in addition, a thorough hand rubbing. Call in a veterinary and let him see the colt.]