

Breeding and Feeding Poultry

Breeding and feeding count in poultry raising as well as in regular live stock farming. In poultry breeding the farmer should aim to secure the largest fowls possible. The fancier may make money out of the small game cock or bantam hen, but the farmer cannot; large fowls bring more on the dressed poultry market, and as they lay equally as well as the smaller birds are more profitable. To increase the size and keep up the quality of the fowls only birds that are over one year old should be used for breeding purposes. At that age they are mature, and the vitality that would otherwise go to finish development will be transmitted to the progeny. In breeding should not often be tolerated for more than two years. When it is desirable to intensify or perpetuate any fine qualities possessed by a male, or to improve these qualities in a female, mate a cock back to his pullets, or in other words to her pullets of his own get, that is if the hens he has been mated to the pullets were not akin to him. It would not be desirable to carry this further than one season. Select stock for breeding purposes that are healthy and vigorous and that have made rapid growth while young.

In feeding poultry the laying hens should be separated from the non-producers. For egg production it is not necessary to have the poultry fat. In fact a different method of feeding from that used for fattening purposes should be adopted for egg production. To produce eggs a large amount of nitrogen and phosphates is required. Bones pounded or ground are excellent at all times, as they contain nitrogen and phosphates, and one of the best sources for producing the elements of the white of the egg is lean meat. Of the ground foods bran is the best, because it contains more phosphates than meal. Cut clover is also a source of nitrogen and aids digestion as well as serving to supply warmth. It is not well to feed too much, just enough so that none of it will be left over. To produce eggs the hen must be in perfect health, and if the poultry-house is warm less food will be required.

A different method should be followed in fattening chickens. The object here is to produce meat and a different kind of food is required. For fattening purposes poultry should have at least one meal of soft food each day. The general practice with feeders is to give this in the morning. This can be made by mixing meal of any kind with water or skim-milk. At the Government Poultry Fattening Station at Carleton Place last fall 133 chickens were fattened for the British market. These were fed three times a day for the first four weeks on peas, oat-barley and wheat, mixed and ground fine and mixed with skim-milk. The experiment was carried on for six weeks,

and for the last two weeks the poultry were fed with a cramming machine twice a day. As the ordinary chop was too coarse for this purpose kiln dried oats, ground very fine and mixed with tallow and skim milk, were fed for the last two weeks. The poultry thus fattened were shipped to Great Britain and netted seventy cents per pair after paying all cost but labour, which is good proof that this method of feeding is an economical one.

Feeding Beef Cattle

There is no more important work on the farm than feeding and fitting cattle for market. In order to reap the greatest amount of benefit from the work an accurate and definite knowledge of the different feeding stuffs is necessary. Too many farmers attempt to feed cattle when they do not thoroughly understand what is required in the way of care and feed to produce the very best results, and, in consequence, we have brought to market a lot of inferior and unfinished beefs. Attention should be paid to the kind of animals that are put up for feeding purposes. A scrumpy, ill-bred, and ill-kept steer will not make good beef, no matter how well it is fed.

A great many good beef cattle are fed in Ohio, and the following pointers given by Geo. E. Douglass, formerly of that state, in reply to a series of questions in the *Ohio Farmer*, will be of value to cattle feeders here:

D. W., of Buchanan, Ohio, says he has a lot of 1,100-lb. steers that he wishes to feed, and asks the following questions: (1) "Why did you feed bran?" (2) Would not corn, cornfodder, and straw do? (3) Is three months' feeding enough? (4) What time in the year would you recommend selling? (5) Were your cattle confined in shed? Mine will have a large shed and a five acre lot."

We feed bran because of its protein, and because we are a firm believer in the balanced ration for the profitable feeding all kinds of live stock, and at the time we bought our cattle and the feed bran was the cheapest available protein food. It is fed for three reasons, first, to prevent the cloying of the animal's appetite; second, to make a more bulky grain ration; third, assisting the assimilation of the whole amount of food, and, like all other protein food, gives the animal a better appearance of coat and skin. With cheap corn and 1,100-lb. cattle, we would feed but little bran after thirty to fifty days' full feeding.

(2) Yes. There are thousands of cattle fed and shipped to the Chicago market that have exactly such a ration, but they are fed where straw and corn fodder are worth nothing and the corn from seven to fifteen cents per bushel, and it requires from eight to thirteen months' full feeding to finish them—a practice that would be suicidal to an Ohio farmer. Cattle can be fattened so as to bring fair prices on such a ration in 120 to 150 days. To finish them for market toppers is another problem.

(3) The length of time cattle should be fed is as indefinite as anything imaginable, in fact, one disadvantage the small feeder has to contend with is the difference in the ripening of his bunch of cattle, for, no matter how even they are when put on feed, they will not remain so, because some will get larger, some will get fatter, while others do not do so well in either respect, and when any get behind they cannot catch up. Theoretically it should not be so, but the man that carries the feed basket knows it is. There are two times in the feeding period when it is better to sell than at any other time; the first is just about the



A GROUP OF FARM POULTRY, ROSE COMB AND SINGLE COMB WHITE LEGHORNS.