

than it is worth. Keep it growing, feed on cheaper foods, get off your hands as quickly as possible and you will find there is money even in ducks. All grain fed must be finely ground up, the finer, the better. Grit or a little coarse sand should always be added to the mash. Do not feed any whole grain at all. Make as few changes in the mash as possible.

For finishing off or fattening ducks, the corn chop should be increased again and also the beef scrap. On commercial duck plants two parts of corn chop are fed to one of bran and one of low grade flour with fifteen per cent. of beef scrap added for a fattening ration. This is fed the last five weeks. The amount of green food is also cut down at least one half. In this way good plump carcasses will be developed.

Shade is essential for ducks. If allowed to range unprotected from the sun they will get the "staggers," lose control of their legs and roll over on their backs. Keep their coops and pens clean and dry. When ducks are kept in large flocks there is always danger of a stampede. In this way often hundreds of ducks may be lost in one night. To prevent this lanterns are kept lit all night in the yards.

#### Feeding Goslings

Young goslings require very much the same care, attention and food as ducks, altho usually less meat food should be fed. Goslings should also be given more range and under farm conditions it is usually best to give unlimited range with plenty of green grass. They should be ready for market as green goslings at 12 to 14 weeks of age, and in no case should they be kept until mature as the amount of food consumed per pound of gain made becomes greater and greater towards maturity. Geese are subject to very few diseases. "Dropped tongues" and twisted feathers are the two most common things met in rearing geese on a large scale. Both are due to feeding too heavily on soft mashes. These cause very rapid growth and the muscles in the throat seem not strong enough to support the tongue in its natural position. These become weak and the tongue drops back into the throat, causing what appears like a double lower bill. In the case of twisted wing feathers, the feathers grow too fast for the muscles of the wings and the tips of the wings gradually twist owing to the heavy weight of the large number of sprouting and partially grown primary wing feathers. Feeding less soft mash and more hard grain, allowing plenty of range and green food will usually prevent this. In this way all growth made will be more solid and less flabby and weak muscles are prevented.

The breeds of geese best adapted for the farm are the Toulouse, the Embden and the African. Of these three the Toulouse is the most popular. All of them, however, are strong and massive appearing and have their meat producing qualities well developed. They are hardy, vigorous and well adapted for farm conditions. The majority of geese on the farms are mongrels, tracing back to a cross between the Toulouse and the Embden. Good, well matured geese in these two breeds should weigh about 25 pounds and a goose about 30 pounds. The Africans are not as heavy by quite a few pounds.

#### Chinese Best Layers

The Chinese is undoubtedly the best laying breed of geese we have, but they have not nearly the meat producing qualities that the other three breeds have. This breed and the African no doubt at some early period came from the same stock, but selection has pretty widely separated them in size, type and temperament. The African, however, is a good deal more massive and heavier and therefore better adapted for the farm.

In ducks we have three or four popular breeds, the Pekin, Rouen, Aylesbury and the Indian Runner. The Pekin, of Eastern origin, is white in color, is strong, hardy, vigorous and quick maturing. They make the best gains of any breed of ducks. The Rouen, of French origin, is of the same type but of different color. The male has a black head, white ring round the neck, red chest breast, steel grey body and dark back and wings. The female is brown pencilled throat. They are a hardy breed, but their color goes against them as a duck for a large plant. Aylesbury ducks are not so common in this country, but in their native country, England, they are quite popular. They are more massive appearing than

either the Pekin or the Rouen, but hardly as prolific, hardy and quick maturing as these. The Indian Runner is the Leghorn of the duck breeds. They are a slender upright duck, quite nervous of temperament and are claimed to be exceptionally heavy layers. They are not adapted for meat production, but their chief value lies in their heavy laying qualities.

#### WINTER ANNUALS

Many of our noxious weeds belong to the class known as "winter annuals." If any of this class of weeds start to grow

late in the fall they remain alive under the snow all winter, make rapid growth in the spring and produce seed during early summer. The following are among our most common winter annual weeds: Blue bur or stickseed, stink weed, pepper-grass, shepherd's purse, hare's ear mustard, false flax, ball mustard, tumbling mustard and worm seed mustard. If in spring any of these varieties of weeds are found growing on the summerfallow or other parts of the farm, the land should either be plowed or cultivated before the grain is sown. This warning is given because so many farmers mistake these weeds for true annuals, and, thinking

that the winter has killed them, do not cultivate the land before spring seeding, with the result that these weeds, having a start of the grain, choke it out and greatly reduce the yield.—S. A. Bedford.

Horses are subject to tooth trouble much as humans are, and require the care of a qualified veterinary surgeon. Balking is sometimes caused by a bad and aching tooth.

A little oil-meal now and then is a great aid to a brood mare, likewise it's a good thing for colts.

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A splendid guide to stove buying compiled from 70 years' successful experience in making quality stoves. Gives complete particulars of the "Chancellor Oil Combination" stove and also of the complete line of Gurney-Oxford Stoves, Ranges, Heaters, Gas Stoves, Boilers, etc., etc., and quotes new, low prices all through. There is a copy ready for you. Free. Send for it to-day.



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