

KILLING AND PICKING.

Ducks are best killed by cutting into base of brain at roof of the mouth. Before killing the feet of the birds should be caught in a loop with head hanging downwards. Immediately after being killed the picking (dry) should be done. Care should be taken to prevent injury of any kind to the carcass.

GEESE.

The best known breeds of geese, and their weights, are as follows:—

	Lbs.		Lbs.
Toulouse Gander.....	25	Young Gander.....	20
Toulouse Goose.....	23	Young Goose.....	18
Emden Gander.....	25	Young Gander.....	20
Emden Goose.....	25	Young Goose.....	18

Mating.—One gander to three females. Mate with large vigorous birds.

Management.—In spring make large comfortable nests. In most cases two-clutches of eggs are laid, sometimes three. Collect the eggs soon after being laid, as they are easily chilled.

Hatching.—Some breeders who hatch geese on a large scale use incubators. Mrs. Wolcott, Napoleon, Ohio, in *Ducks and Geese*, published by the *Reliable Poultry Journal*, Quincy, Ill., says: 'I incubate their first laying with chicken hens, and frequently let "old mother goose" care for her second hatch. Be sure to have the hens, chosen for sitters, free from lice. Sprinkle the eggs with warm water twice during the last week. Oftener in dry hot weather will do no harm. Remove each gosling from the nest as it hatches, for they are easily mashed. Keep them in a flannel cloth in a basket in a good warm place until all are hatched.'

Sometimes the goslings have to be helped out of the shells.

RATIONS.

For first three days.—Cornmeal mixed with hard-boiled eggs, chopped fine, a pinch of black pepper and a handful of sand. After three days discontinue the eggs, and give bread soaked in skim or sweet milk, oatmeal, or broken rice boiled until soft, outer leaves of cabbage, onion tops, and all the grass they can eat. Keep the young birds from water, but give it to them in liberal quantities to drink. The same authority recommends as a fattening ration a liberal supply of barley meal and cornmeal, soaked in buttermilk. A grass run is indispensable. This according to Mr. C. L. Darlington, Lloyd, N.Y.

KILLING, PLUCKING AND DRESSING.

For local market, the goslings should be ready in twelve to fourteen weeks, and should be of large size at the end of 16 weeks.

They should be killed by bleeding in the roof of the mouth, and all feathers taken off except on wing tips. For shipment and local market the geese are not drawn.

No birds less than nine pounds each should be shipped to the English market. They should be packed ten in a case.

NOTES.

Goose eggs hatch in thirty to thirty-four days.

Some breeders assert that the worth of the feathers from a bird should nearly pay half the cost of its feed for one year.