

## POULTRY YARD

### The First Four Weeks in the Life of a Turkey

The trying time in the life of turkeys is the first week, when they require constant water (free) then great care until they are eight weeks old, or until the quill feathers are well started. The producing of these feathers seems to weaken the fowl, and exhausts the system, and therefore they need special treatment to counteract this difficulty.

For the first week the mother and young must have warm place, free from draughts of air, free from dampness, and where they will be undisturbed by other fowls.

#### EARLY CARE AND FEED.

The first three weeks the food should consist of sweet milk (free from the curd is best), very hard-boiled eggs and fine wheat, bread crumbs for the little ones, wheat, corn and fresh water for the mother. Feed the mother first and she will take much of the egg and bread, which is more expensive. During this time, if the weather be warm and sunny, let the mother out during the middle of the day, keeping her near the coop, taking care to shut her in before sunset, as the dew is harmful to the young turkeys. During the first week the little ones are apt to get on to their backs, from which position they can not rise, and will die if allowed to thus lie for any length of time.

The fourth week the food may consist of oatmeal, sour milk curd in small quantities, cracked wheat and scraps from the table, taking care that the scraps contain nothing salty. Salt, salt meat, brim or salt fish will kill them. After the eighth week give mother and brood their freedom. Feed only in the morning, and this is not useful if they have access to grain fields.

#### ISOLATE SICK TURKEYS.

If a turkey becomes sick, it should be isolated at once from the others, to prevent spread of the disease. Land over which diseased fowls wander will be contaminated and infect other flocks. Turkeys require plenty of pure

water and must not be allowed to drink from stagnant pools, as this may produce bowel troubles. It is useless to doctor a very sick turkey—better to kill and bury deep at once.

One may profitably practise giving two broods of young turkeys to one mother when hatched at the same time, as one turkey can cover from 25 to 30 little ones during the critical period in their lives, after which two do not need much hovering. The other mother, after being closely confined out of sight and hearing of the little ones for one week, will quickly mate and lay again. This is very practicable and desirable when the first broods are hatched in May, or earlier, as the second hatchings are often the best, only a little later ready for market.—H. M.

### Management of Breeding Ducks

The ducks are now shelling out an egg every day, at least a good duck does it. To make up this great amount of energy, a liberal and abundantly rich ration must be given to the breeder. One-third of each, cornmeal, bran and ground oats and middlings mixed, forming the third part, are an excellent duck feed. Add to this 10 or 15 per cent. of beef scraps and a little oilmeal, and the ration is ready. Mix it all thoroughly dry, then add enough water to bind it into a damp but not sticky mass, and the old wally fellows will enjoy it. The feed should fall in the hand and fall apart, when dropped a few inches, but must not be wet enough to allow water to drip from the same when squeezed. Feed this twice per day, as early in the morning as possible, provided the ducks are penned up, and one hour before sunset. This will prove a good incentive to the ducks roaming at large during the day, to return at night and be on hand in time for closing up.

As the ducks all lay their eggs during the night or especially during the early morning hours, it is policy to keep them confined to their night quarters until about half past seven o'clock in the morning, as they have as a rule laid all their eggs by that time.

A trough containing a liberal amount of crushed oyster shells is absolutely essential to ducks at this season of the year, as the daily production of eggs requires a large amount of lime.

The eggs should be washed but not rubbed dry if dirty and kept in a cool place until used for hatching. Duck eggs spoil easily in warm weather and will not keep the limit as hen eggs do. Never set a duck egg that is over eight days old, and the rule should be not to set any over six days old. In selecting the eggs avoid all that are porous on one end or that are ill shaped, too small or too large. Test them on the fifth day and again on the 12th and remove all infertile or discolored eggs. The infertiles may be used for mixing in the feed of the old ducks and again they may be boiled and chopped fine for younger ducklings.—R. L.

### Poultry Pointers

Exercise is essential to keep breeding stock in pink of condition.

Don't put too many chicks in a brooder; crowding should be avoided at all times.

It is advisable to use, when possible, eggs for hatching of one color and near of a size as you can select.

The trap net picks out the layers, the best breeders, the drones and unprofitable hens of the flock.

Do not buy an incubator because it is cheap. A cheap machine may be very expensive in the long run.

Don't think because the incubator or brooder has a regulator that it will regulate the machine with the lamp flame turned up to the highest notch.

You must partly do the work with the lamp yourself.

No fowls that have had disease of any kind should be bred from, even if they now seem to be perfectly healthy.

Eggs shipped any distance, or that have been subjected to sudden jags, should rest at least twenty-four hours before starting to incubate.

No matter where you live, poultry can be made profitable. If for no other purpose it pays to grow fresh eggs and meat for your own table.

If you have no shade in your pens, plant trees this spring. Shade is necessary for poultry and fruit yields better, as a rule, where poultry have the benefit of the trees in their runs.

Do not feed sloppy food to little chicks; this alone is the cause of as much bowel trouble as any one thing. Water becoming warm and stale will give you trouble.

It is not a good plan to set a hen in pen with others, but remove her at night to another place, where it may be darkened a little, as they like seclusion.

How often have we called attention to lice on the poultry. You cannot

raise lice and poultry and get good returns from your poultry. Fight lice! Don't stop because you may not be able to find any lice. Fight lice! Keep it up, and then you are sure you are on the safe side.

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