

come. A sensible improvement in the color of butter has been especially noticed. Green fodder preserved by ensilage has been successfully employed in feeding sheep and cattle at the time of breeding, and as it has been shown to increase the flow of milk, it will undoubtedly be found useful for this purpose, although the proportion of its admixture with other kinds of food must always require care and judgment. It forms a complete and wholesome food for store stock, and in fattening, and its value is widely demonstrated in the case of dairy produce; it enables farmers to use profitably straw-chaff, rough hay, and other hay materials."

Duck Raising on the Farm

Though every farmer keeps chickens, and the large majority of them turkeys and geese, perhaps on not one-half of the farms in this country are ducks found. The duck in many ways is just as valuable a fowl on the average farm as any of the others we have mentioned. Some of the advantages to be derived from raising ducks are very well set forth by a Nebraska farmer's wife in a recent issue of *Turf, Farm and Home*, as follows:

"Many farmers' wives have found a fair profit in a small flock of hens, without the use of incubators, brooders or other accessories. There is a fairer profit at a less expense in a small flock of ducks, no expensive building being necessary, for we are assuming that the ducks may have the range of the farm, or at least, the breeding stock may. Our chicks have had the freedom of our vegetable garden, and while we have sometimes regretted the nips taken, yet on the whole as a destroyer of insects they have more than compensated for the damage they did. We generally plant enough that they may destroy some, but it is surprising how little it will be.

"Our first duck house was an old shed, we had good luck that year. The succeeding houses have been just anything that is fit for nothing else, but the ducks thrive well. There are no lice to contend with as with chickens, only on the young ones if hatched under hens. Grease their heads when they are taken from the nest and again in two days, and all danger of lice is past for all time.

"We find it easiest and safest to raise the ducklings until some weeks old in small pens. Twelve-inch boards are set on edge and staked in place, that we may move them at will. A pen 12x12 feet will accommodate fifty ducklings four weeks, if sand, water and green food are supplied. They will not hop over the foot-high pen either. After this if you wish they can take care of themselves. We would advise feeding at night and shutting in boxes away from vermin. Have openings in the ends of the boxes and for greater safety, tack over them screen wire. Rats are very fond of young ducks. We put shed roofs on these boxes to shed water so they may be set out in the orchard or anywhere we desire. The openings are that the ducklings may have plenty of air. They smother more quickly than chickens. We arrange for our young chicks in the same way, for nothing is safe from rats, with us, unless in tight boxes or houses.

"If you choose to yard the ducklings you can do so cheaply, as an 18-inch fence will hold them when they are grown, provided they are never allowed their liberty, when it might. In some instances they require a 24-inch fence. While in confinement your waste vegetables will go a long way towards feeding them. Meat scraps and cornmeal are necessary for rapid growth. We grow Giant Southern Mustard for green food for poultry in confinement. As fine ducklings as we ever raised were not fed after they were three weeks of age, and were given their liberty at that time. The flock saved our garden from destruction from grasshoppers. Our neighbors all lost theirs. The only damage done our garden by the ducks that year was to destroy a small bed of onions. Our onions have not been meddled with since.

"To avoid having horse troughs fouled we keep a low

broad trough made of galvanized iron in the small enclosure, where our breeding stock is every morning confined until after nine o'clock, that we may secure all their eggs. This little pen they know as home and they make frequent excursions to the trough, leaving the horse troughs, which are higher and less convenient, unmolested.

"If you desire feathers begin plucking in August. You can pluck twice while the ducks are alive, fatten them and take the third crop of feathers when you dress them for market or for the table. You will be surprised to find how quickly the marriageable daughters may be provided with pillows, etc., and they will want a nice pair of ducks to take to the new home."

CORRESPONDENCE

Fences Still a Necessity

To the Editor of FARMING:

In response to your enquiry *re* farm fencing I would say that in this section of the country woven wire is coming very generally into use.

On this farm consisting of 785 acres we have adopted a system of this sort of fencing. It is known as the "Gem" fence. It is a field-made fence, and can be constructed by the farmer or his hired help. Any number or size of wire may be used. Ours consists of ten No. 9 wires for horizontal wires, and is woven together with No. 12 for stay or cross-wires. We have upwards of twenty miles now in use on this farm.

As to the question of dispensing with fences along the highway would say that we quite agree with some of your other correspondents, in expressing the opinion that the plan is not yet practicable. How is the farmer to pasture his fields adjoining the highway, providing he has no fence, to say nothing of the damage likely to result from stray animals, or others being driven to and fro? We believe that fences are still a necessity.

Yours respectfully,

A. LAFRAMBOISE,
Farm Superintendent.

Sandwich, Ont., July 3rd, 1899.

Municipality Should Bear the Cost of One-Half the Road Fence

To the Editor of FARMING:

I have been much interested in reading replies to questions *re* "The Farm Fence" in your issues of June 27th and July 4th. As there are a few points which I consider of importance, which have not been mentioned, I take the liberty of adding a few thoughts to those already given:

1. The old crooked rail fence is being replaced by various straightrail fences, some built with posts and some with stakes. Some of these give good satisfaction. By utilizing material already on the ground expense is saved.

2. A great many kinds of wire fence have also been built within the last five or six years. The Page and the Gem seem to best meet the requirements. I like a barbed wire at the top of a fence, but nowhere else. Let the barbed wire be not less than five feet from the ground. An animal will seldom jump a fence of that height without putting its head over to try it, and the barbed wire not only prevents the animal from leaning too heavily on the fence, but it will seldom try to jump after trying its height. All wire fences should be built of hard coiled steel wires (horizontal wires), woven together with a soft wire which will not keep horizontal wires bent should an animal run against it. No. 12 soft wire is heavy enough for this purpose, while the