

POULTRY YARD

How to Conduct a Profitable Pekin Duck Ranch

The first essential in the running of a profitable duck ranch, is to have a man who is determined to succeed. The next most important is the foundation stock. More people have come to grief on this one thing, alone, than on all others. It will not do to take eggs laid by any old duck, as the bird is over fat (as is generally the case) will lay eggs that are of a very low vitality, and the ducklings that do hatch have so poor vitality, they are soon, counted with the "Great Majority." To get good eggs or stock we must go to a reliable breeder, who makes a specialty of this, and get birds that have been fed right to produce strong, fertile eggs, or eggs that come from a strong stock.

The incubator you intend to hatch in is also, an important factor. Our advice would be to be very particular, and get one that gives the largest amount of fresh air to the eggs during incubation, as we believe that this is the greatest factor in the successful hatching of duck eggs artificially; moisture should also be used, and eggs sprinkled every day the last three weeks. Ducklings should be hatched the proper time to catch the highest markets; this you must figure out yourself, as it all depends on the market. If a summer resort trade is to be supplied, then you can have them come just when wanted; if a large city trade that demands the birds at highest price when put of season, then is when you must have them to get the most profit. And right here we will say that it is possible to have your ducklings come any time in the year. This past season (1907), there were just two weeks that we did not hatch ducks, and we propose for (1908) to hatch every week. Ducklings, at this writing are bringing us \$20 a pound in Buffalo and Rochester, to the private trade. We are also shipping to Cleveland, Ohio.

There is one thing in brooding young ducklings that causes the beginner much trouble, and that is the mortality in his early flocks caused by leg weakness, where the legs swell up, and the chicks are enlarged, and they cannot walk, and soon die. This is caused by brooding them at

too hot a temperature. They will not stand as much heat as chicks, and must be weaned from any hover at not older than three weeks. Then room heat to 60 to 70 degrees is sufficient. There is just one rule to remember in feeding, and it properly applied, will come out all right. Start with a large amount of bran and a small amount of corn meal, and animal food, and as they grow, gradually increase meal and animal food, and reduce the bran. Start at 4 parts bran, one part corn meal, and 1/2 part beef scrap, and finish at 4 parts corn meal, one part bran, and 1/2 part beef scrap. We have found pork scraps better to fatten the last two weeks.

In marketing where you have no market established, you may be compelled to sell your goods cheaper than you can afford, but after they have had them a few times they will come back for more, and then is the time to make your price. We will remember a time, several years ago, when we sold a large hotel in Buffalo a ton of dressed ducks for \$200.00, or 10 cents a pound. We could not afford to do this, as it cost us that to produce them, but when they had used up these ducks they came back for more, and then we set the price, 17 cents a pound being the lowest they have ever paid us since then, and the highest 26 cents a pound. So you see you must sacrifice on the start, until the quality of your product is known.

(Continued Next Week)

Feels Well Repaid

If you catch a hen pulling the feathers from another and then continuing to peck at the sore spot made where the feathers came out, until a raw spot is formed, the best treatment is to slub the offender in a coop for eight or ten hours, then with a hatchet, carefully remove the head by a sudden blow back of the neck. Take her feathers off nicely and prepare for the pot or oven according to age, and then take all the satisfaction you can out of her.

Single or Rose Comb Leghorns

Is there any difference in the laying qualities of the single and Rose Comb Leghorns? If not, what advantage has one variety over the other, if any? I want an egg producing flock, and wish to get those with the best record.—A. B. T. Grant Co.

There is no difference as far as variety goes. One flock of Single Combs

may far out-lay another of the same kind, simply because they are bred for eggs, while the other is bred for fancy points. Choose the kind you fancy, and then pick up a man who breeds them for utility. One advantage claimed for the Rose Combs over the Single is greater hardihood in cold weather. This is worth considering, and may mean more eggs in winter.

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Many energetic persons during the past year have obtained one or more of the following premiums by securing new subscriptions for The Canadian Dairyman and Farming World. Do you not think that a little hustling on your part would well re-pay you?

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We will give a setting of eggs, of any of the standard varieties of fowl, for only two new subscribers. A pure bred pig, of any of the standard breeds, from six to eight weeks old, with pedigree for registration, for only ten new subscribers, at one dollar a year.

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\$800 for 700 new subscriptions.
\$700 for 650 new subscriptions.
\$500 for 600 new subscriptions.
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\$150 for 150 new subscriptions.
\$80 for 100 new subscriptions.
\$35 for 50 new subscriptions.

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FOR SALE.—One pair white Cochins Bantams, also one single-comb White Leghorn Cockerel, for hatching. Also my pure-bred White Leghorns. Price per 15 eggs, \$1.00. Apply Box 5, The Canadian Dairyman and Farming World, Peterboro.

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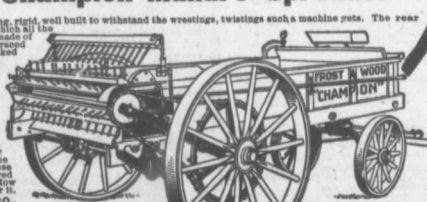
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