

# POULTRY

## DETERMINE SEX OF A GOOSE

One Good Way is to Notice Difference in Voice—Mating Season is Usually in Fall.

In answer to a query as to method or rule for determining the sex of geese, an exchange makes the following reply:

There are no marks by which one can tell the gander from the goose. The only ways are to watch the actions of the birds and to notice the differences in their voices. The gander has what is popularly called a tenor voice. It is possible that all four of your birds may be geese. If so,



Toulouse Goose.

you will be unfortunate in attempts to raise any goslings even if you do secure ganders. This is because the mating season is in the fall, usually in September or October, and also because geese very much dislike to have their quarters changed when once accustomed to them. For this reason people who wish to secure birds for breeding purposes make their purchases in the fall so the fowls will get accustomed to their new surroundings. Doubtless nests will be made and the eggs laid, but the eggs may not hatch. If you are forced to buy a gander this spring, it will perhaps be advisable for you to purchase some good eggs of the same breed as you keep, and use these rather than the eggs from your own flock, or at least mark the eggs so that you can distinguish the purchased ones from those laid by your own birds. In this way you should not be wholly disappointed.

## GIVING CHARCOAL TO FOWLS

Puts Them in Good Condition for Work and Prevents Many Diseases Incidental to Season.

Does the average farmer know that an excellent grade of charcoal can be made by burning corn cobs till they turn red, extinguishing the fire and when dry grinding for mash feeding for the poultry.

Charcoal is not a food, though fowls gain in flesh and eggs during its use; it simply puts them and keeps them in a good condition for work. It prevents disease because of its great capacity to absorb gases, acids and impurities. It is an alternative, changing diseased conditions to normal, disinfecting the digestive tract and toning up the system.

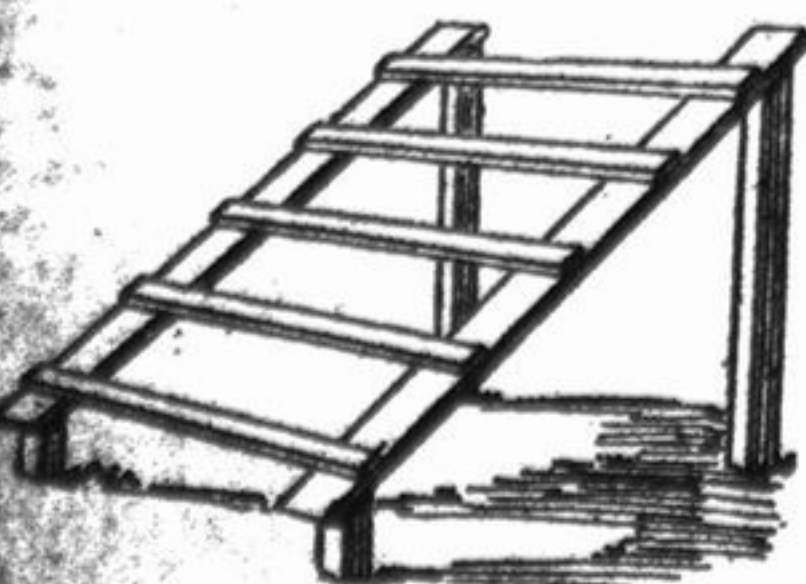
In putrid disease like roup, in fermentation like sour crop, in intestinal maladies like diarrhea or cholera, it is of great benefit. In spring and in summer, when the fowl's blood is sluggish it is needed as a purifier to ward off diseases incidental to these seasons.

It should be kept before fowls in size to suit their age, and where fowls refuse to eat it fine charcoal should be mixed in the mash occasionally. It is best given to individual birds in five-grain capsules—large doses are necessary.

## ROOST IS QUITE CONVENIENT

Made of Two Four-Inch Pieces Six Feet Long, Nailed Together With Five Crosspieces.

Select two four-inch pieces six feet long. Lay them parallel and nail five crosspieces, three feet long and three inches wide, to these. The legs may be made of 2 by 4 stuff the desired



Convenient Chicken Roost.

length. By means of long spikes secure them to the parallel pieces, says the Iowa Homestead. Place these in roosting quarters for chickens and they will soon be perching upon it at night.

Healthy Food. In a good poultry feed the birds should have a good deal of the warm

# POULTRY

## FEW LESSONS WITH TURKEYS

Breeder of Twenty-Two Years' Experience Finds Business More Profitable Each Year.

I have raised turkeys for sale 22 years, and find it a more profitable business each year, says a writer in the Farm and Fireside.

I have had to learn many lessons by quite an expensive route. One year I failed entirely by too close inbreeding. Another year I let my turkeys wander at their own will and roost where they pleased. Again I allowed some to go up in the trees—a hard storm blew them out and drowned 21 beauties. Since these lessons I have worked differently.

I change either breeding hens or toms every other year. I usually buy a thoroughbred bronze from some unrelated flock. I keep old hens for breeders, and find their poulters more healthy. One early turkey is more profitable than three late ones, so I use the first eggs and sell the later ones. Chicken hens are set on the first laying and the poultry given to the first turkey hen that becomes broody. Large, airy pens or coops with rainproof roofs are built quite a distance from the house.

The hens are kept up two weeks, and then turned out every morning, unless the weather becomes rainy. They have learned to come when called, and will answer me from ever so far when I call "Pee turk! Come on!" I am never too busy or too tired to get them up at the approach of a hard storm, and at four o'clock in the evening. They soon learn to come home. After they are five or six weeks old I never feed at noon.

I feed no sloppy feed, but have good luck with wheat or corn bread, cracked corn, cooked soft, wheat, mashed potatoes, etc.

The first two weeks are the most particular. I give each poult a grain of black pepper when it is 24 hours old, and a stroke of lard or vaseline from bill to top of head.

Then a feed of hard-boiled egg, shell and all, crushed fine, mixed with bread soaked soft and squeezed dry. Fresh water, sand, lime and ground charcoal are kept handy. They eat of all; I never feed too much. I never feed over four times a day, and that often only a week. More turkeys die from overfeeding than underfeeding. I use a flat board to sprinkle their feed on, and keep it clean. It pays to be cleanly with turkeys.

## LEGHORN HENS AS MOTHERS

Although Called Nonsitters Occasionally One Is Found and Will Cover Many Eggs.

Although the Leghorns are called nonsitters, they do sit occasionally, and I like them very much as mothers. It would hardly seem possible that a Leghorn hen would cover more



Single-Comb Leghorn.

eggs than a Cochon, but it is a fact, says a writer in an exchange. The Cochon's wings are short and stubby, while the Leghorn's wings are long and she will spread them over a big nestful. Last summer a Leghorn incubated 20 eggs for me and hatched 19 of them. It was, however, in the month of July, and her nest was carefully arranged in a basket; but I never give them less than 15. They take excellent care of their young; being light weight, they seldom hurt a chicks by stepping on it, and they will fight intruders fiercely.

# POULTRY NOTES

Keep your stock healthy, clean and comfortable.

Not all the failures of poultry life are due to the hens.

The first duck eggs of the season are hardly ever fertile.

Don't gorge the growing chicks one day and starve them the next.

Any fowl is liable at times to produce an egg containing blood spots.

Well grown ducklings very often will begin laying at five months of age.

Chicks like heat, and it is good for them; but there is a difference in heat.

Don't let chicks squeeze through slatted coops until their bodies are deformed.

Poultry breeding as a pursuit is undoubtedly a labor of love, but it is, nevertheless, a labor.

# NOTES FROM MEADOWBROOK FARM



Peas enrich the soil.

Soy beans make good silage.

More dairy products are wanted.

Give the cow nothing but fresh water.

Cleanliness is one of the essentials in poultry work.

Are your neighbor's crops looking better than your own?

Move the farm closer to town by means of better roads.

While charcoal is not a food, fowls gain flesh faster during its use.

Progress in dairying is greatest where there is the most interest.

The only honest way to water milk is to give pure water to the cows.

No part of the farm work is more universally neglected than the garden.

Throw your ashes into the poultry-house and watch them enjoy themselves.

Trouble with weeds has caused more alfalfa failures than any other one thing.

The cow that is a large producer of milk must be a large consumer of feed and water.

For grinding purposes alfalfa hay should be cut when the very first blossoms appear.

When the horse is in normal condition he should have all of the water he will drink.

It is possible to milk in comfort if the stables are kept in a clean, sanitary and light condition.

To the good dairyman it is important that the exact age of every fowl on his premises is known.

A profitable farm garden is a continuous source of satisfaction from early spring until frost comes.

Alfalfa should be raked and cocked up the afternoon of the day of cutting where conditions are favorable.

Indiana produced \$26,000,000 worth of poultry and eggs in 1909, year of the last census—figures just out.

In the rush, don't forget those odd corners that are growing up to weeds and seeding the farm to these pests.

Where milk is "set" in pans it is a good sanitary precaution to cover the pans with clean paper after cooling.

A good farm paper is the very best machine on the farm, and will be the means of making the most money for you.

The three essentials for a successful dairy cow are vigor, capacity for food and well-developed organs for milk production.

Corn silage is no less valuable for carrying stockers and feeders through the winter months than for fattening and finishing heaves.

The most humane method of dehorning a cow is to do the work with a little caustic potash when the horns are just starting on the calf.

A record cow is not only a good ad for the breeder, but it is a boost for the breed as well, to say nothing of the country which produced it.

When swine are bred for mere fancy points and when constitution and substance are lost sight of they cease to be profitable assimilators of food.

Good butter is as good as gold anywhere in the summer time, and a farm that turns out a good supply of the A-1 kind every week is a gold mine.

J. A. Ferguson, Missouri station, is urging farmers to set out forest nurseries in a portion of their vegetable gardens—later to plant waste places with the seedlings.

Chickens need fresh water several times during the day. They need feeding regularly four or five times a day, just a little at a time. If you give them a lot of feed, they do not know when to stop eating, and eat too much.

Never feed lettuce to the chicks unless your garden is fenced in or you are prepared to give them all they want. The taste acquired may lead them to the garden to help themselves. It is a first rate food for them.

study each cow's ration.

Give chickens good range.

Keep live stock of some kind.

Humus in the soil is necessary.

Guinea fowls are always in demand.

Market your product to suit your market.

Flavor in butter is more important than color.

Keep a sharp lookout for the cabbage worm.

Coal and charcoal are great aids to digestion in pigs.

The farm dog should not be allowed to run the dairy cow.

Badly kept poultry quarters are usually the cause of lice.

Bumble foot is said to be nothing less than a stone bruise.

Efficiency in directing the power of the horse means a great deal.

A treeless home is a lonesome looking place to one who is a lover of trees.

The two row cultivator helps the farmer to keep well ahead of the weeds.

A home repair outfit will save you many dollars before it outlives its usefulness.

Trouble with weeds has caused more alfalfa failures than any other one thing.

Best poultry tonic on earth is God's tonic—the common dandelion fed freely.

Rainfall saved by timely cultivation is worth a whole deluge of water a week too late.

The quality of next year's asparagus will depend upon the growth made this year.

The use of celery is obviously on the increase, but the demand is, for a first-class article.

Corn silage is valuable and efficient for carrying beef breeding stock through the winter.

You must watch goslings that are hatched with hens, as lice weaken and kill them easily.

If the fetlocks are clipped and the horse's legs are kept clean, scratching will never bother.

Half bran, hold cornmeal, mixed with skim milk, makes a good ration for young goslings.

A dirty floor is not desirable in a milking stable, but it is preferable to a filthy, dusty atmosphere.

When the pea crop is over, clear away the vines and plant potatoes, cabbage, sweet corn, beets, etc.

Late truck crops are grown chiefly upon land from which hay has been mown or following strawberries.

Do not pay out your good money for a mass of mixed feeds made out of materials you know nothing about.

When you have carefully selected the sows select a sire of the same breed from a good reputable breeder's herd.

A cloth will do a better job of straining milk than any wire strainer. Boil the cloth frequently to keep it sanitary.

Lime is a splendid disinfectant and can be used to advantage in the stables, hog houses and poultry houses or upon the farm.

Ducks in the garden will devour many bugs, slugs and worms and cannot scratch. Guinea hens also are useful in the garden.

Cucumbers and cantaloupes will not cross, as they are two different species. No danger of mixing if they are planted alongside each other.

The chief crops which are grown for a late market are cabbage, celery, cucumbers for pickles, sweet corn, tomatoes, squash and rutabaga turnips.

When meat is given to chickens it is a good plan to mince very fine and mix with meal, otherwise the chicks dislike other food for several hours afterwards.

To prevent roup setting in, when a bird appears to have taken cold, wash the bird's face and nostrils with carbolic acid diluted in the proportion of 1 to 60 with chlorinated soda.

Clean, plump, selected seed, true to variety, not mixed, free from weed seed and from disease and with strong germinating power should always be planted by the farmer as a means of increasing his own yield.

If we use but one crop on the land and cultivate it clean all the time the soil will quickly be robbed of its humus, therefore we must follow a proper rotation in order to supply humus, without which we can do little. Some men have never discovered this fact, however.

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