

SOME DUCK TROUBLES

Many Difficulties Result From Improper Feeding.

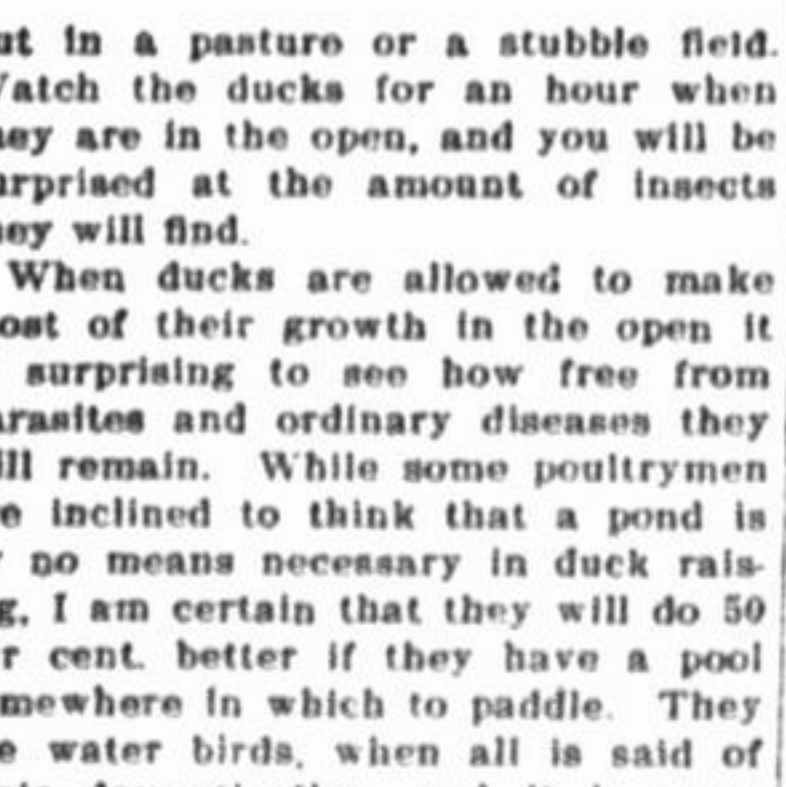
Soft Feeds Are Far Superior For Young Fowls to Whole Grains, as Given by Average Growers—Give Them Free Range.

I hear a great many people complain that they cannot raise ducks, says a writer in the Farm Progress. They give all manner of reasons, from climate to parasites. I am of the belief that it is because of erroneous ideas of diet among the duck raisers.

Most growers feed whole grains to their hatches of ducks, and while this is all right for half-grown birds or adults, the young duck will do a lot better if fed on soft food.

The duck has no teeth in his crop—in fact, he has no crop, with its gravel and other hard substances used in reducing the food to a pulpy mass.

It is bad business to keep the ducks penned up too closely. While not such tireless foragers as the turkey, the guinea or the chicken, the duck will do a lot better if allowed to go out and catch a few slow-flying insects and grasshoppers for himself.



Indian Runner Ducks.

out in a pasture or a stubble field. Watch the ducks for an hour when they are in the open, and you will be surprised at the amount of insects they will find.

When ducks are allowed to make most of their growth in the open it is surprising to see how free from parasites and ordinary diseases they will remain. While some poultrymen are inclined to think that a pond is by no means necessary in duck raising, I am certain that they will do 50 per cent. better if they have a pool somewhere in which to paddle.

Once over the downy, soft stage, with feathers showing, and bodies hardened, the ducks will get along famously if allowed in the open during the day. I have had more trouble from rats attacking the young ones than from any other one cause.

PROFIT IN YOUNG COCKERELS

Birds Should Be Rushed to Market Soon as They Reach Weight of Four Pounds to Pair.

Keep watch of the cockerels and rush them to the broiler market as fast as they attain a weight of three to four pounds to the pair. There is more profit in disposing of cockerels as broilers than to hold them for roasters. Of course, if one has a special market for fancy roasters it will pay to hold the cockerels of the heavy breeds and dispose of them when they weigh five to eight pounds each.

Pen for Little Chicks. A feeding pen for little chicks should be centrally located where the chicks can run to it at any time, and the older birds cannot get at it.

Danger of Drafts. Whatever your scheme of ventilation in the poultry house, let no drafts reach the roosts.

HOW TO FEED YOUNG CHICKS

As the Youngsters Grow Older Grain Is Gradually Increased—Fine Sand Is Ideal.

(By J. G. HALPIN, Wisconsin College of Agriculture.)

For the first 10 to 14 days we feed the chicks at the university farm a little commercial chick feed, which is thrown into a fairly deep litter of hay chaff three or four times a day.

In the middle of the forenoon and the afternoon we feed a little mash made up of equal parts of coarse ground corn, wheat bran, wheat middlings and rolled oats. Once a day we mix a raw egg in with this mash, one egg for about each 60 chicks.

As fast as they learn to eat it we mix more and more wheat and cracked corn into the chick feed, so that by the time they are three weeks old they are eating cracked corn and wheat entirely. From the start we give access to dry mash made up at first like the wet mash, except that the rolled oats is omitted after the second week.

Fine sand on the brooder floor, covered with short-cut alfalfa hay, is ideal. Ground bone in little hoppers, so that chicks can help themselves, is also good. A few drops of a potassium permanganate stock solution, just enough to turn the water red, may be put into the drinking water.

ANSWERS TO FEW QUESTIONS

Fat Hen Will Not Starve Until Reserve Is Utilized—Hay and Green Cut Bone Produce Eggs.

The following replies to queries regarding poultry, which are self-explanatory, will be found of much interest:

E. D. C.—A hen that is fat will not starve until the stores of fat on her body are utilized, as this reserve of warmth is just so much carbonaceous food in the form of fat.

H. D.—We believe the cause of the poor laying of your flocks is the absence of green food and meat scraps from the ration. Hens need both.

N. A. T.—Clover hay and green cut bone are excellent egg producers. Green bone should not be fed oftener than three times a week, and then only a pound allowed for every sixteen head of stock.

J. L. O.—When it can be had, milk is an excellent article of food for broilers or any chicks, but milk is not absolutely necessary.

C. T.—Clover hay is mainly intended for winter feeding, to take the place of green food during the cold months. But where green food is equally scarce in the summer it is best to feed it the year round. It can be scalded or cooked, and mixed with bran, cornmeal, middlings and ground oats.

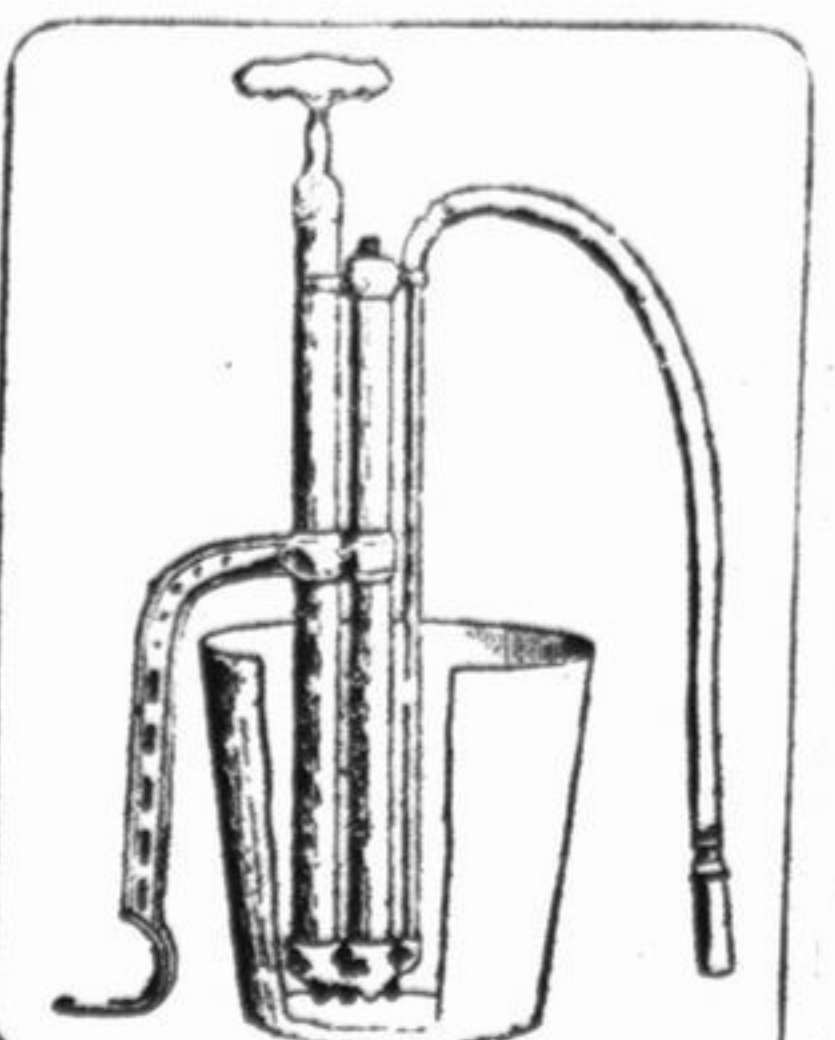
G. L. W.—Vegetables can be fed either cooked or raw; in the latter case they are not so fattening.

M. A. S.—Blood is excellent for laying hens, but do not feed more than ten per cent. at a feeding.

SPRAYING "GETS" THE MITES

One of Best Mixtures to Use in Combating Parasites is Kerosene Emulsion—Use Spray Pump.

Kerosene emulsion is one of the best mixtures to use in combating mites in the poultry house. It is made by the mixing of two gallons of kerosene oil one-half pound of white oil soap, one quart of home-made soft soap and one gallon of water.



A bucket spray pump such as used in the garden is just the thing to spray the poultry house.

The kerosene is at once. Churn this mixture rapidly and violently until it is as smooth as beaten cream. One part of emulsion to several parts of water is used to dilute the mixture for spraying buildings, dropping boards or nest boxes. Add one or two ounces of carbolic acid to the emulsion just before applying.

Sunflower Seed Valuable. Sunflower seed is very valuable for fowls during the molting period, and it contains much oil and gives an added gloss to the new plumage. There is no danger of feeding them too much of it during this period. As a general rule, they are fed a handful for each fowl per day.

Guinea Flesh Excels. No poultry meat excels if any equals a half-grown guinea split down the back, broiled and buttered. It is meaty, tender and of splendid flavor.

NEED OF SANITATION

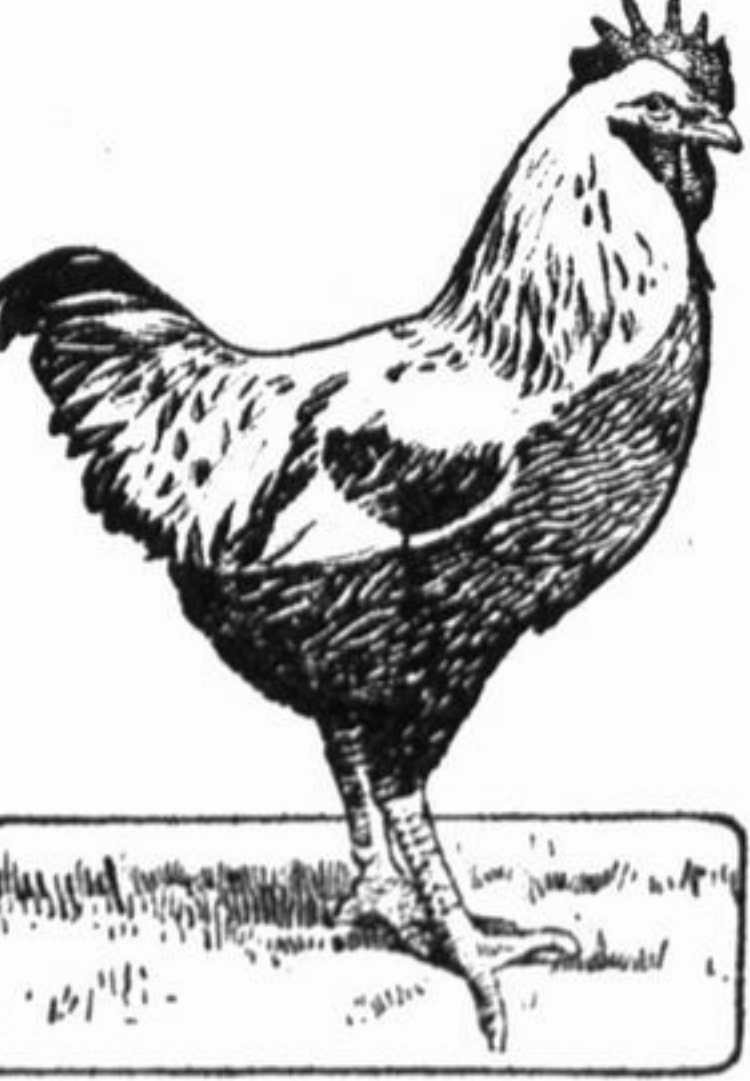
Success Is Result of Eternal Vigilance and Care.

(By PROF. JOHN WILLARD BOLTE.)

Summer brings flowers and little chicks, and all manner of beautiful things. In contemplating these pleasant sights, one must be careful to remember that the same conditions which make them possible also encourage the production of vermin and disease.

The spring and summer are the very busiest months for the poultry keeper, not only because he has all of the added labor of rearing the young chicks, but because of the much greater care he must exercise to prevent trouble with both young and old. Success is the result of eternal vigilance and prompt and thorough care.

Both body and head lice are a warm weather pest and they must be kept off the young chicks particularly. Infection comes from the older fowls and infected buildings, old litter, etc. If you hatch with hens, have a clean nest in a clean place, and dust the



Prize Winning Silver Plymouth Rock.

hen with pyrethrum twice during the incubating period. Should the chicks appear droopy after they have begun to feather, dust them. Head lice appear on them earlier and a little lard oil on the back of the head and under the wings will dispose of these.

The older fowls must have access to a sunny, dry dust bath. If they show signs of lice, disinfect the hen house with white wash and carbolic acid, put in clean nests and litter, and dust the hens with pyrethrum.

The entire interior of the house should be whitewashed about four times a year and the roosts and surrounding area should be painted or sprayed with kerosene or some coal tar disinfectant, to keep down the red mites, every two weeks in hot weather.

Do not let the young chicks mix with the old fowls or inhabit their quarters. Change their run frequently to avoid fouling the ground, as this sour condition of the soil causes bowel trouble.

If sloppy, wet feed or table scraps are fed, do not throw them on the ground. Use a trough or box and throw the refuse away where the chickens cannot get to it, or trouble will surely result.

The ground near the watering place, the feeding place and the house becomes foul first, and it should be spaded up frequently to furnish fresh soil.

Clean water is of the greatest importance. Use some fountain feed device and scald it out frequently. Never let it run dry or the fowls will overload when it is filled again. A tablet of potash permanganate in the water from time to time is a good mild disinfectant and corrective.

Give all the pasturage and green feed available, plenty of shade, cool fresh air to sleep in and keep the vermin down, if you value your profits.

HOUDAN IS GREAT FORAGER

Bird Is Capable of Hunting for Greater Portion of Food When Insects Are in Abundance.

(By W. R. GILBERT.) The Houdan is a splendid forager on the grass range, and during periods in which insect and vegetable life are abundant, it is capable of hunting for the greater portion of its food. It stands confinement tolerably well, and if rightly managed it is a good breed for the town dweller or the suburbanite. It is a breed worthy of considerable notice from those who desire a good, all-around class of fowls. It is an egg and meat producer of high quality, features that few other Mediterranean breeds can lay claim to.

Preventing Bowel Trouble. Where milk is fed regularly and a teaspoonful each of ginger and soda added to each gallon every third or fourth day, there will be no cholera or other bowel troubles. Stir the mixture until thoroughly dissolved before feeding. This is very easily prepared and will keep their digestive organs toned and sweetened.

Air Space. The air space should occupy more than one-third of the egg before the end of the hatch.

CHICKENS MUST HAVE SHADE

Average Poultryman May Lose Several Hens Before He Realizes That Heat Is Responsible.

(By J. G. HALPIN, Wisconsin College of Agriculture.)

Not disease, but lack of shade, is responsible for many poultry losses in summer. The average poultryman may lose several hens before he realizes that heat is responsible for their death, or he may expose young chicks to hot sunshine too soon. A young chick hatched during hot weather must not be put out in the hot sun until after it is several days old, and must be gradually accustomed to the sun. Otherwise the sun may blister its tender skin, so that even though it is not killed outright, it is greatly weakened.

For shade, a corn field, small patch of sunflowers, shrubbery and bushes of any sort, as well as fruit or shade trees, are very satisfactory. Many times something could be accomplished along this line by turning the houses around so that they face north and thus shade the chicks. Portable colony houses with solid floors can be raised a foot or more off the ground so that the chicks can get under them for shade. Old doors and objects of that sort can be used for shade by driving four stakes into the ground, and elevating the north end of the door some three or four feet from the ground while the south end is only about a foot from the ground. Small ducklings and goslings are even more subject to sun stroke than the chickens and so should be guarded with especial care.

KINDNESS SHOWN TO FOWLS

'Excellent Practice to Call Birds to Their Feed With Low Whistle—Should Not Disturb.

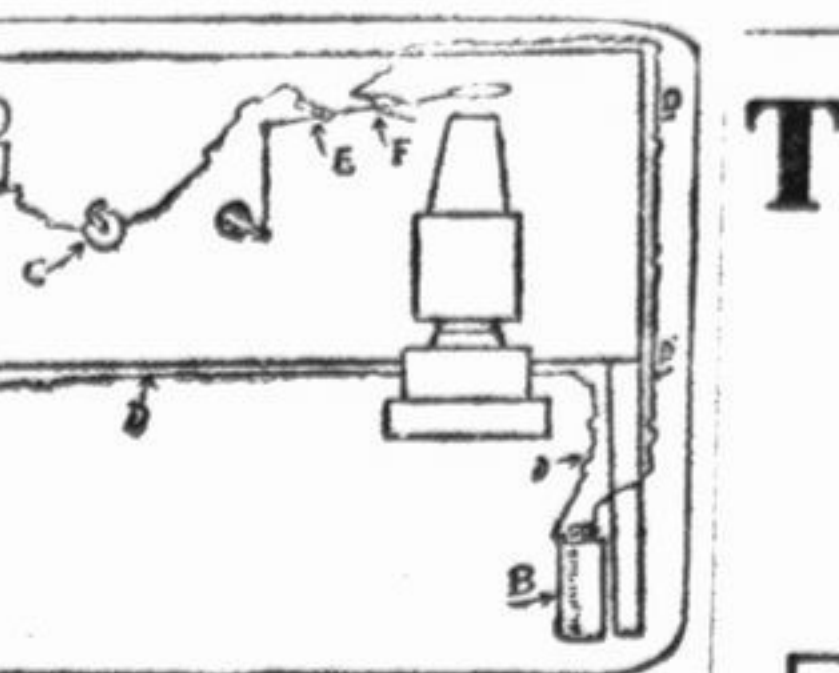
Did you ever stop to consider that kindness pays just as well in the barnyard as in the home? Laying fowls, like bees, sting when disturbed by quick motions or otherwise, the only difference being that the sting is in the pocketbook. Fowls to produce well must be kept tame. At feed time when the birds are hungry, and you have from one to five minutes' time that can be spared, sit or kneel down at the usual feeding place with the bucket of feed, and throw out a little of the feed near you, gradually shortening the distance from day to day. In this way the birds may be made to approach rather close, and after a few trials they will usually eat from one's hand.

Avoid hasty passing by windows or openings of poultry houses and do not enter suddenly. Sometimes it is well to draw the birds' attention so that they will not be taken by surprise and pile into a corner or try to get out by way of the roof. When walking among the birds, do so with a slow, deliberate step. It is also a good practice to call the birds to their feed with a low whistle and to use this same whistle when entering the pen, or when the birds are disturbed in any way.

ALARM BELL FOR INCUBATOR

Electric Contrivance Found to Be of Great Convenience in Avoiding Overheating of Eggs.

We have an electric alarm bell connected up with our incubator that we find of great help in avoiding overheating or chilling of the eggs, writes F. J. Johnson of Council Bluffs, Iowa, in the Farmers' Mail and Review. A is an electric door bell connected to the incubator, B is the battery, C is the switch and D is No. 15 annunciator or bell wire. The wire runs from the bell to the switch, then to the regulator at E. F is a fine wire tacked in the shape of a two-pronged fork, one prong about one-fourth inch above the regulator arm and the other the same distance below, when the regulator is in a normal position. The prongs are of very thin wire, so as



How Bell Is Connected.

not to interfere with the movement of the regulator arm. One wire from the battery connects with F and the other passes under the machine to the bell. The circuit is closed as soon as the regulator arm comes in contact with one of the prongs at F, which rings the bell.

Fine Mothers for Chicks. Turkeys make fine mothers for chickens. In France they persuade the turkey hen to sit before she has laid an egg. They fill a box too narrow for the hen to stand upright in, with hay, to within 12 inches of the top, give the turkey a good feed of grain and some eggs, fasten her down and leave till the next day, when she is taken off to feed and water. In four days it is claimed she is ready to adopt the nest and eggs, and can be given the eggs to be hatched.

Fertile Egg Warmer. During the last part of the hatch a fertile egg will be one or two degrees warmer than an infertile one in the same tray.

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