

POULTRY

BREEDING TURKEYS ON FARM

Surprisingly Small Number of Fowls on Farms—More Could and Ought to Be Raised.

(Prepared by the United States Department of Agriculture.)
Raise more turkeys on the farm. It can be done with little additional outlay, and many more turkeys could and should be raised.

The small number of turkeys per farm in the United States is surprising. According to the census of 1910, which is the latest census that has been taken, only 13.7 per cent of the total number of farms reported any turkeys at all and on these farms reporting turkeys, an average of but



Profitable Type for Any Farm.

slightly over four breeding turkeys was found per farm. There are some farms which by the nature of the crops grown on them or because of unfavorable surroundings are not adapted to turkey raising, but most farms are adapted to turkey raising and could easily handle a breeding flock of from 10 to 15 hen turkeys and a tom, raising from 75 to 150 turkeys each year at a good profit.

Good prices were paid to the turkey raiser during the past marketing season. On December 15, 1917, the average price per pound live weight paid to the farmer was 30.5 cents in New York state, 23.7 cents in Illinois, 25 cents in Georgia, 19.3 cents in Texas, and 27.1 cents in California. The average price throughout the United States was 23 cents.

BEST POULTRY HOUSE FLOOR

Each Has Its Advantages and Disadvantages and All Should Be Carefully Considered.

(Prepared by the United States Department of Agriculture.)

In making the floor of the poultry house several things must be taken into consideration. Where the soil on which the house is constructed is light and well drained, earth floors are satisfactory and economical. Where the soil is heavy and drainage is not good, as is usually the case when it contains much clay, floors made of wood or cement are generally preferred. Each kind of floor has its advantages and disadvantages, and it is only after the consideration of all types should a poultry keeper make his selection.

A floor of earth needs to be renewed at least once a year. If the droppings that fall upon the floor are carefully removed at frequent, regular intervals, much of the earth is removed with them. If the regular cleaning of the floor is superficial, the earth of the floor to a depth of several inches becomes so mixed with droppings that its condition is very insanitary.

When the poultry keeper has a garden, the manure obtained by removing the earth floor of the poultry house will compensate for the labor of renewing the floor, and the new earth required can be taken from a convenient spot on his own land. When the poultry keeper must pay some one else to take away the old earth and bring in new, the cost will in a few years exceed the cost of a cement floor.

The principal fault of a cement floor is that it is likely to be cold and damp. These conditions may be corrected by covering the floor to a depth of an inch or two with dry earth or sand, using over this scratching litter of straw or shavings. Floors so treated require as much routine work to keep them in good order as earth floors, but the supply of clean earth required is much less and the work of annual renovation is eliminated.

Floors of wood are not now much used in poultry houses except when the space under the floor is high enough to be occupied by poultry. A wooden floor close to the ground soon rots, while any space under a floor not high enough to be used for poultry makes a harbor for rats and other vermin.

The wooden floor of a poultry house should have a light coating of dry earth, sand, chaff or similar material, to prevent the droppings of the birds from sticking to and saturating the boards.

Save Every Egg.

Every egg which is the least bit doubtful must be saved for market while it is good, and not spoiled by incubation.

Must Have Materials.

A duck that lays an egg must have materials from which to make large quantities of protein, but does not require much fattening food.

FAVOR GOATS AS MILK PRODUCERS

Interest Growing in Possibilities of Milk-Producing Breeds in This Country.

CALLED THE POOR MAN'S COW

In Many Parts of Europe Animals Are Used for Milk Supply in Summer Months While People Are Enjoying Vacations.

(Prepared by the United States Department of Agriculture.)

In this country the goat is usually regarded simply as a plaything for the children, but in some parts of Europe it is regarded as the poor man's cow. A well-known American importer of live stock states that "the goat of Switzerland is the Swiss peasant's cow, the Swiss baby's foster mother, a blessing to the sanitariums for invalids, and a godsend to the poor." In England and in many other parts of Europe people who leave the city during the summer months, either for their country homes or for travel, often take a milk goat with them in order to insure a supply of good milk of uniform quality. In this country the fact that the goat will supply sufficient milk for the average family at low cost and can be kept where it is impossible to keep a cow, is beginning to appeal to many people, especially those in the small towns and in suburbs of cities. In this way the milk shortage which is now felt in many localities.

Adapted to This Country.

The milk goat is adapted to this country and the industry is likely to become of greater importance every year. The goat is especially useful to those who desire a small quantity of milk and do not have room for and cannot afford to keep a cow. In fact, a goat can be kept where it is impossible to keep a cow, and will consume considerable feed that otherwise would be wasted.

A doe that produces three pints a day is considered only a fair milker.



Group of Angora Goats.

while the production of two quarts is good, and the production of three quarts is considered as excellent. Goat's milk is nearly always pure white. The small size of the fat globules is one of its chief characteristics. In consequence the cream rises very slowly and never so thoroughly as in the case of cow's milk. If it is properly produced and handled, it will keep sweet as long as cow's milk, and there should not be any goatly odor. The milk can be utilized for the same purposes as cow's milk, but is less satisfactory for making butter and perhaps better for making cheese. Practically all publications dealing with milk goats attribute considerable importance to the use of the milk for infants and invalids.

During the last few years a number of goat dairies have been in operation in different parts of this country. Not only a few goats are kept, it is not necessary to have much equipment, if any. Any clean, dry quarters free from drafts may be used for housing goats. The building should have proper ventilation, plenty of light, and arrangements made so that each goat can be properly fed and handled.

Feed for Goats.

Goats should receive a liberal quantity of succulent feed such as silage, mangel-wurzels, carrots, rutabagas, parsnips, or turnips. The grain feeds best suited for their rations are corn, oats, bran, barley, and linseed-oil meal or oil cake. A ration that has been used in the government herd, and which has proved to be very satisfactory for milk goats during the winter season, consists of two pounds of alfalfa or clover hay, one and one-half pounds of silage or turnips, and from one to two pounds of grain. The grain ration consisted of a mixture of 100 pounds corn, 100 pounds oats, 50 pounds bran, and ten pounds linseed-oil meal. All feed offered for goats should be clean and of good quality. Plenty of rock salt should be kept before them, and occasionally a small quantity of fine salt mixed with the grain feed. A good supply of fresh water is necessary.

UNIMPROVED LANDS TO INCREASE SHEEP

Opportunity for Wool and Mutton Found on Idle Areas.

United States Should Possess Three or Four Times Present Number of Animals—Much Assistance in Winning War.

(Prepared by the United States Department of Agriculture.)

Immediate opportunity for increasing the sheep population of this country is found on the rougher and idle lands of the Appalachian region, the cut-over timber lands of Wisconsin, Minnesota and Michigan, and to some extent those of the South Atlantic and Gulf States. The acreage of these areas that is suitable for sheep is alone capable of supporting as many breeding ewes as are now kept elsewhere in the country.

Unimproved land in farms also offers opportunity for increasing our sheep population. Such land amounts



Pastures Are Essential to Sheep Production.

to nearly half of the total area in farms. To some extent these lands are now in use as live stock pastures, but much of the area that is wholly idle would furnish fair summer grazing for sheep. Some readjustment with regard to cropping and the keeping of other stock would be required, to furnish winter feed, but under existing conditions of farm labor and the present grain prices this change would have a favorable effect upon the net farm income.

For the greater production of wool and mutton, however, future dependence must be placed chiefly upon the more general rearing of sheep upon improved lands. The keeping of one ewe to each three acres of all land in farms on one-fourth of the 90 per cent of farms now having no sheep would double the number now in the country. Sheep on farms seem to be assured a larger place, as successful participants with other stock in the economical and profitable utilization of the products of the soil, as well as producers of valuable clothing material for which there is no complete substitute. Before many decades have passed the United States should possess three or four times the present number of sheep. A doubling of the present number within four years is quite possible, and it would be of most valuable assistance to our war interests if such a result could be produced in a shorter time. Doubling our wool product would not render us independent of wool imports, but it would furnish all that is needed for military purposes and a large part of that needed for civilian uses.

REDUCE COST OF LIVING

(Prepared by the United States Department of Agriculture.)

Do you want to make extra money during your spare time this summer at home?

If you consider money saved is money made, you can do it.

Put in a half-acre garden. If well planned and cared for properly, it will produce far more vegetables than the average family can consume.

That means a supply of a variety of fresh vegetables for the table—a reduction in the cost of living.

WATCH FOR PLANT DISEASES

Food-Products Inspectors Are Reporting Disorders Found in Shipments of Vegetables.

(Prepared by the United States Department of Agriculture.)

To detect local outbreaks of diseases of vegetables and fruits which when uncontrolled cause heavy losses in the field or in transit, the food-products inspectors of the United States department of agriculture are reporting diseases found in shipments of produce at twenty-three of the leading market centers of the country. Some of these inspectors are expert plant pathologists and others are market inspectors who have been trained to detect signs of important diseases and rots.

Whenever a shipment shows a serious disease or rot, the department at once notifies its county agent and other representatives in the affected locality and distributes explicit instructions for overcoming or minimizing future losses. The notification to the point of shipment also prevents shippers from continuing to ship material certain to spoil in transit and thus waste car space.

This detection of disease, however, is largely a by-product of the market inspection made at these markets by the department to certify to shippers the condition as to soundness of fruits, vegetables and other food products, as authorized by the food production act, approved August 10, 1917.

DAIRY

NATION NEEDS DAIRY CALVES

Dairyman Will Be Doing Patriotic Duty by Developing Heifers—Hints on Care Needed.

(Prepared by the United States Department of Agriculture.)

No dairy calf that gives promise of a profitable milk producer should be sent to the market to be made into meat. Although meat is in demand, these calves will serve the nation better if allowed to grow and produce milk and more calves. The dairyman, too, will be doing a patriotic duty by developing the heifers, and in addition he will be building up a more profitable herd if he uses good judgment in caring for his young stock. Careful attention during the first two weeks often means the difference between a sickly, undersized, stunted animal and a large, well-developed one, when it enters the herd as a milking cow.

Immediately after birth the navel of the calf should be washed with an antiseptic solution and tied with a silk thread in order to prevent infection. For the first feed the calf should have the first milk from the cow after calving, and should have its mother's milk for a week thereafter. The sooner the weaning takes place the better, but ordinarily it should not be postponed later than the fourth day. The sooner the calf is weaned the more easily it is taught to drink. When first fed from the pail eight to ten pounds, or four or five quarts, of milk a day, fresh and warm from the cow, and divided into two feeds, are sufficient. The feeding times should be as nearly regular as possible, and at first it is advisable to feed more than twice a day. The amount fed should be constant, and to insure this, scales or measuring cups should be used, as variation tends to get the digestive organs out of order. At all times the utmost care should be taken to prevent any digestive disorder, as all such trouble hinders the thrift and development of the calf. Calf scours is the most common indication of indigestion.

The following named precautions, to a great extent, tend to prevent scours:

Feed regularly.
Be sure that the milk is always sweet and warm.

In feeding use only clean pails.
Feed the calf a little less than it wants.

Should the calf become sick, reduce the amount of milk one-half, until the animal has recovered.

The amount of milk fed can be gradually increased until at the end of the second week the calf receives from 15 to 16 pounds, or three-fourths to two gallons of milk a day. This time the gradual substitution of skim milk for whole milk may commence. Hay and grain should be placed before the calf at this period, and it will be found to



Foundation of Dairy Herd.

nibble at them a little. At the end of the third week the substitution of the skim milk will be complete. By slow changes milk can be increased thereafter until 20 pounds or 2½ gallons a day are fed; this amount will be found sufficient when fed with the grain and hay. If skim milk is plentiful more may be fed, but the added amount will give proportionately better results.

Cornmeal, bran, and linseed oil meal, mixed in the proportions of three, two, and one, make an excellent grain mixture. This grain when fed with plenty of fine clover or alfalfa hay makes an ideal supplement to skim milk in balancing the ration. Calves should be allowed all the grain that they will eat until they consume three pounds a day; from this point the feeder should use his judgment as to whether an increase is justified.

The calf, from the time it is two weeks of age, should always have clean, sunny quarters, abundance of exercise, and access to plenty of clean, pure water.

The general practice is to feed calves skim milk from two to six months. In the latter case, with fall calves the time of final weaning from milk comes in the spring, when pastures are ready. Under this system the calves usually make excellent growth during the entire period without any break in gains.

Feed for Maintenance.

It should be remembered that a good dairy cow requires approximately 50 per cent of her ration to keep alive and maintain body weight, while a poor cow requires an even larger portion for maintenance.

Ventilation in Stables.

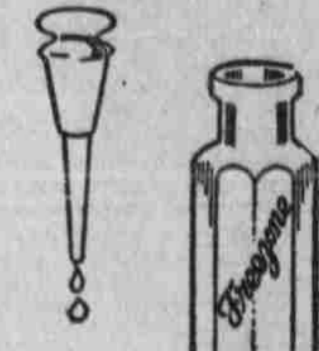
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With a Preview.

Mistress—Is your husband a good provider, Geneva?

Maid—He jes' ain't nothin' else. He gwine to git some new furniture providin' he gets the money; he gwine to git de money providin' he go to work; he go to work providin' de job suits him. I never see such a providin' man all mah days.

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