

SUGGESTIONS FOR TURKEY BREEDERS



FLOCK OF PRIZE-WINNING TURKEYS.

(By B. A. AHRENS, Poultry Department Oklahoma A. and M. College, Stillwater.)

The bronze is the giant of the turkey family and can be easily grown with proper care.

The parent stock must be strong and vigorous, just the same as for chickens.

Hens are in profit until five years of age.

Gobblers should be changed every year.

Hens must not be allowed to become too fat before the breeding season.

When the gobbler becomes too fat, infertile eggs result.

Remember that turkeys are of a roaming disposition and must not be kept in confinement.

It is estimated that a breeding flock of six should produce from 75 to 100 young.

Two-year-old toms to four-year-old

hens make the most reliable breeders. Turkeys are reliable for both incubating and brooding.

It is a noted fact that if the gobbler is present when the first clutch of eggs is laid, the second clutch will be fertile without its presence.

In catching turkeys, avoid rough handling.

The presence of the tapeworm may be noted by droopy condition of the birds. Small pieces of the worm may be found if the voidings are examined carefully.

An authority says that powdered male fern is a good remedy for tapeworms. It may be given in doses from 30 grains to one dram of the powder, or from 15 to 30 drops of the liquid extract. Give night and morning before feeding, allowing the smaller dose for the youngest stock, but increasing the dose as they grow older.

Try oil of turpentine for the worms that inhabit the digestive tract.

LET POULTRY HELP WIN WAR

Threatened Hunger Period May Be Warded Off in Great Measure by Attention to Chickens.

The hunger period which threatens the United States and its allies in the present war may be warded off, in part at least, by attention to the lowly chicken, says A. C. Smith, head of the poultry department of the Minnesota College of Agriculture.

The hen is the only producing creature that can be profitably kept on small areas such as city and village lots, that will transfer table waste into a highly edible product. She selects from waste material, bugs, weeds and grasses a large part of her living for several months in the year, and during this time is usually a high producer of very fertile eggs.

She reproduces her kind much more often than any other productive animal.

She can be cared for by women and children and often by invalids and convalescents.

For these reasons, Mr. Smith urges that every well-selected hatchable egg should be set at this season when eggs are lower in price than at any other time of the year.

Other poultry including ducks, geese, and squabs should also receive careful attention in view of the present and future food situation.

CAUSE OF CHEEPIING CHICKS

Either Head Lice or Too Much Grit Before Feeding—Use Salty Grease to Kill Pests.

When chicks stand and cheep, either they have head lice or have had too much grit before feeding and are passing sharp pieces in the excreta. Investigation will show these chicks to be humped up, sleepy-eyed, sometimes tilted back like unhappy kewpies. Catch them, and the chances are that head lice are boring into the little heads, and gorging about the throats of the victims. Treat with salty grease, melted and rubbed in well, to prevent using too much. Too much grease will kill the chicks, especially if they are exposed to the hot sun. Grease the head, throat, a bit under each wing, and about the vent.

Give the hen a good treatment for lice. When a chick gets out of order, lice multiply much faster on it. Many cheeping chicks usually indicate something is radically wrong with the care and feeding, as well as having lice.

DON'T CROWD POULTRY HOUSE

Allow From Two to Four Square Feet of Floor Space for Each Bird of Small Varieties.

Do not crowd the poultry house. From two to five square feet of floor space per bird should be allowed. The exact ratio should depend upon the breed and the extent of the yarding.

As a rule it will be found advisable to allow about four square feet for the lighter breeds, such as the Leghorns.

CARRY FINE FOWL PROPERLY

Allow Bird to Rest on Forearm With Its Head Between the Carrier's Arm and Body.

When carrying a fine fowl, hold the legs with one hand and allow the bird to rest on the forearm with its head between the carrier's arm and body.

PREPARE FOWLS FOR MARKET

Just as Important to Fatten Poultry as It Is to Fatten Beef Cattle or Other Animals.

It is just as important to fatten chickens sent to the market as it is to fatten hogs or beef cattle. In fact, when the chicken comes from the range it is in the proper condition to put on economical gains. Students in the poultry department of the University of Missouri found in recent tests that chickens will gain about 23 per cent in 12 to 14 days' feeding. That this gain is economical was shown by the fact that the grain required to put on a pound of gain was approximately three and one-half pounds.

DAIRY

VENTILATION OF DAIRY BARN

Better Health of Animals Is Assured by Supply of Fresh Air—King System Described.

More of us every year are building barns with ventilating flues or putting flues into stables already built. Fresh air means better health in herds.

The system described by F. H. King, the Wisconsin authority on ventilation, never has been outclassed. It is the natural way.

In illustration, the movement of the air is shown by arrows. The pure air comes in above the animals and the foul air is taken out through the outtake shafts which have their openings down near the floor and extend up through the roof or to the cupola.

Some builders run the shafts straight up through the roof, others run them up to the roof and then over to the cupola, and some join the lower shafts at the ceiling and then use but one main shaft to the roof at each end as shown here.

The galvanized metal shaft is preferred by most dairymen who have used this sort of ventilating system.

Draws are produced by sprouting medium-sized or small roots in warm plant beds. These beds are usually heated by using fresh horse manure or by means of fire carried in flues underneath the bed. Wherever steam or hot water is used on the farm it may be economical to heat the beds from this supply.

Plant Beds.

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Covers of Beds.

Plant beds need some form of covering, not only to retain the heat, but to shed water. The ideal covering is glass sash, but where this is not available canvas or oiled muslin is used. Many growers in the South practice covering the beds with hay or pine straw, but where early plants are desired this covering is not satisfactory.

Sweet potatoes are usually bedded in plant beds about six weeks before they are desired for planting, but if no source of heat is supplied plants cannot be secured under seven or eight weeks.

Care of Plant Beds.

In sprouting potatoes a layer (four to five inches) of sand or loose soil is put in the bed, and the potatoes bedded firmly in this, close together, but not touching. After the potatoes are placed a layer of two inches of sand is spread evenly over them and water applied until the soil is well dampened. When the plants begin to break through the surface another inch of sand is spread on the bed. The bed should be watered when dry, thoroughly moistening the soil, but not soaking it. When the plants appear the bed should be ventilated whenever the weather permits, and a few days before planting the covers should be left off entirely to harden the plants.

The soil for sweet potatoes should be thoroughly prepared before planting, for this extra labor in preparation will be repaid by the ease of later operations. The depth of plowing has considerable influence on the shape of the potatoes produced. A deep soil produces roots that are long and slender, while a more shallow soil tends to produce short, chunky roots which are more desirable for market. A soil of medium depth (five to six inches) is usually best for potatoes. Plowing should be done when the soil will break up fine and mellow, and the harrow should follow immediately after the plowing. If the soil is very cloddy it should be rolled, and the best results are obtained after a light shower when the clods are moist.

Sweet potatoes are sometimes grown on ridges made by throwing two or four furrows together. A plunger or flatter is then run over the ridges to flatten them down and compact the soil. Low, flat ridges are generally preferred to high ridges. There are machines on the market that will mark the land, distribute the fertilizer, and form the ridges all at one operation.

Planting.

When the sweet-potato plants have developed three or four leaves they are ready for setting in the field. The bed should be thoroughly watered before pulling the plants, and the potato should be held in place with one hand while the plants are pulled with the other.

The plants may be set by hand or with transplanting machines. In planting by hand a small hole is made with the finger or a pointed stick, the plant inserted in the hole, and the soil firmly packed around the plant. When the soil is dry a small quantity of water is poured around the roots, and after the water has soaked in loose earth is pulled up around the plant. Transplanting machines open the furrows, apply the water, and firm the

soil about the plants all at one operation. A notched stick is sometimes used in planting. The plants are dropped where they are to be set, the stick is placed on the plant at the base of the root, and the plant forced into the ground to the depth desired. The soil is then firmed with the foot.

The distance for setting plants depends on the variety grown. The usual distance is 14 to 18 inches apart in rows 3½ to 4 feet apart. Large-growing varieties should be planted in rows four to six feet apart.

Cultivation.

Sweet potatoes should be cultivated soon after the plants are set, to loosen the soil that was compacted during planting. Cultivations should be given after each rain, to break the crust and keep a surface mulch. The latter cultivations should also work the soil toward the row to maintain the ridge. Hand hoeings are necessary to loosen the soil between the plants and to keep down weeds. When the vines begin to interfere with cultivation they may be turned into alternate rows by means of a stick, and after the soil has been cultivated the vines are turned back and allowed to grow undisturbed. Large weeds that appear after the last cultivation may be pulled by hand.

Harvesting.

Early sweet potatoes may be harvested as soon as the roots are large enough for market. Late sweet potatoes should be harvested just before frost is expected or as soon as possible after frost has killed the vines. When frost has killed the vines and it is not possible to dig the potatoes at once, the vines should be cut from the plants to prevent decay from injuring the roots.

Digging.

A spading fork may be used for digging small patches of potatoes, but for larger areas a plow or regular potato digger should be used. Potatoes should be harvested with as little bruising as possible, for bruised potatoes do not keep well. The implement used for digging should be one that will not cut or bruise the potatoes. An ordinary plow, fitted with a rolling colter to cut the vines, may be used for digging potatoes, but a much more satisfactory implement is a digger made for this particular purpose. A good type of digger is one that is equipped with iron rods in place of a moldboard to separate the potatoes from the earth and vines. The digger should also be fitted with rolling colters to cut the vines.

After plowing out, the potatoes may be scratched out by hand and left exposed long enough for the dirt to dry. They should not be left exposed to the hot sun for any long period of time or left in the field overnight. Digging should be done when the soil is dry and the weather clear.

Gathering.

Sweet potatoes should be gathered in padded harvesting baskets or crates, and every care should be used to avoid bruising them. Never handle potatoes in sacks, for the shifting causes severe bruising. A good spring wagon should be provided for hauling the potatoes to the storage house or to market to avoid excessive bruising. It is also a good plan to gather only the marketable roots at first, then later to go over the rows and pick up the culms. The strings, or very small potatoes, may be left in the field for hog feed. The various lots of potatoes should be stored separately, for this will save much time and loss when removing them for market.

MOST POWERFUL OF HORSES

Large Muscles Give Power and Deep, Broad Animals Are Strongest—Height Gives Speed.

Deep, broad horses, with bodies close to the ground are powerful horses. Tall, slender ones are capable of greater speed. These conditions are not mainly due to shape and weight. It also depends upon the muscles, which are the source of all motion. Large muscles give power; long muscles give speed.

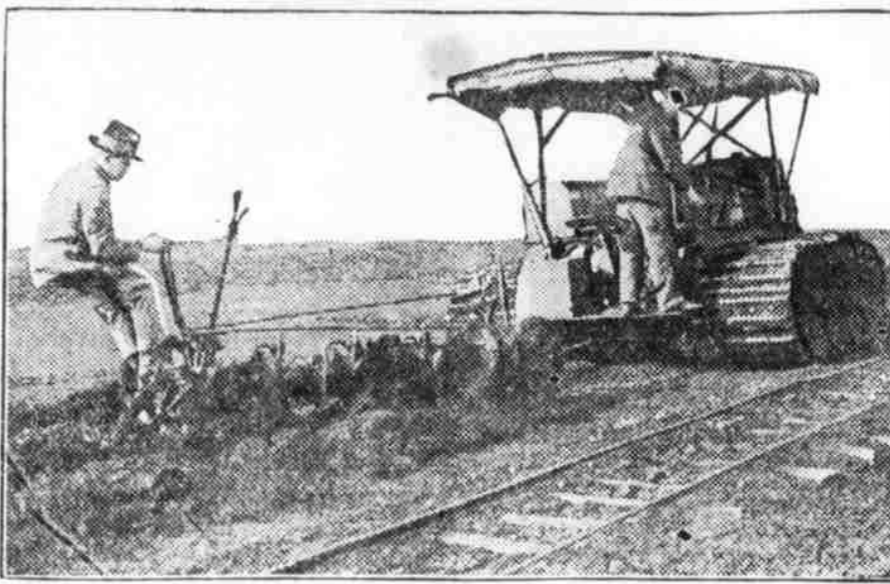
EXAMINE TEETH OF HORSES

Something Is Wrong With Digestion When Animal Does Not Thrive on Ordinary Feed.

When a horse does not thrive on ordinary food, and does not gain when additional food is given, something is wrong with the digestion.

First, have the teeth put in order by a good veterinary dentist; then feed molasses on wheat bran and cut hay, and note results.

MAKE SUCCESS WITH SWEET POTATO CROP



TRACTOR HAULING PLOWS OVER POTATO FIELD.

(Prepared by the United States Department of Agriculture.)

Sweet potatoes may be grown from either draws (slips, plants) or vine cuttings. If extra early potatoes are desired, draws should be used, but for later crops vine cuttings are generally preferred.

When vine cuttings are to be used draws are set in the field as early as possible, and after the plants begin to send out runners, cuttings are made to plant the additional acreage. One acre of early set plants under average conditions will furnish enough cuttings to set six to ten acres.

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THOSE AWFUL CRAMPS

Suggestions that may save Much Suffering

Marysville, Pa.—“For twelve years I suffered with terrible cramps. I would have to stay in bed several days every month. I tried all kinds of remedies and was treated by doctors, but my trouble continued until one day I read about Lydia E. Pinkham's Vegetable Compound and what it had done for others. I tried it and now I am never troubled with cramps and feel like a different woman. I cannot praise Lydia E. Pinkham's Vegetable Compound too highly and I am recommending it to my friends who suffer as I did.”—Mrs. GEORGE R. NAYLOR, Box 72, Marysville, Pa.

Young women who are troubled with painful or irregular periods, backache, headache, dragging-down sensations, fainting spells or indigestion should take Lydia E. Pinkham's Vegetable Compound. Thousands have been restored to health by this root and herb remedy.

Write for free and helpful advice to Lydia E. Pinkham Medicine Co. (confidential), Lynn, Mass. Only women open and read such letters.

SEA SOLDIERS GOOD SHOTS

There Is a Story From Vera Cruz That Tells of the Marksmanship of Uncle Sam's Marines.

The marines know how to handle a rifle; 50 per cent of the force are qualified, listed shots. There is a story from Vera Cruz that tells of good shooting and a sure eye, Henry Reuter-dahl writes in the Youth's Companion.

Our bluejackets were marching up the street from the plaza between rows of low two-story houses. A well-dressed Mexican, with a newspaper over his knee, was sitting on the balcony of his house, apparently intent on watching our sailors advance; but hidden under the paper he held a big revolver, and as our men went by he fired. The bullets were striking, but our officers could hardly suspect a well-dressed Mexican, reading a paper and looking peacefully on from his own house, of being the sniper.

Dropping his paper, the Mexican went inside to reload. When he came out again on the balcony the glint of the gun caught the attention of Lieutenant Colonel Neville on horseback in the plaza, 1,000 or more yards away. Through his eight-power fieldglass the colonel saw plainly the flash of the shots under the newspaper.

“Get him,” he said, turning to his orderly.

The man raised his rifle, pressed the trigger—and the Mexican fell out of his chair.

“Got him, sir,” said the marine.

Self-Evident.

“Please, lady,” begged the very dirty tramp at the back door, “can you help a poor man that lost his job three weeks ago and ain't been able to find no work since?”

“What sort of a job was it?” asked the lady.

“I was workin' in a soap factory.”

“Well, it's plain to be seen that you were not discharged for dishonesty.”

Always.

“What does your electricity cost you?”

“Oh, I pay current prices.”—Boston Transcript.

If you have talent for criticism, don't fail to use it on yourself.

The Danger Zone for Many Is Coffee Drinking

Some people find it wise to quit coffee when their nerves begin to “act up.”

The easy way nowadays is to switch to

Instant Postum

Nothing in pleasure is missed by the change, and greater comfort follows as the nerves rebuild.

Postum is economical to both health and purse.

“There's a Reason”