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A COMPLETE SYSTEM.

OF

RAISING TURKEYS,

HENS, GEESE, &c.,

THE RESULT OF

Forty Years' Experience.

BY W. A. BROWNING.

NORWICH. *C.T.*

PRINTED BY GORDON WILCOX.

1873.



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PREFACE.

I have been a farmer all my life. I am no book farmer. I have raised and help raise Turkeys for over forty years ; I have watched their habits closely ; I have got what information I could, and put it in practice, until the raising of Turkeys has become to me almost a perfected science ; and having been very strongly solicited by many of my friends to put my knowledge of the art in print, I have reluctantly consented. And if by the printing of this little book, the farmers can be informed how to raise Turkeys to eat the bugs, worms, grasshoppers, &c., and thereby convert those pests of earth into good nourishing food, it will afford lasting comfort to

THE AUTHOR.

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W. A. BROWNING,

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E. G. H. - Aug. 7/12.

RAISING TURKEYS.

BIRDS.

Almost all kinds of beasts and birds that are wild are one and the same color: that is, the same species are of the same color, the male of some kinds of birds differing as to color from the female; while almost all kinds of domestic (or tame) beasts and birds are of different colors.

TURKEYS.

Turkeys in their wild state, in the western forests, are a very light bronze or brown, while the domestic or tame turkeys, as every one knows, are of various colors. The wild turkeys are very hardy, while the domestic or tame turkeys, when young, are many times very tender, requiring much care. The way I would recommend, to raise them successfully, would be something in the following manner:

YARD.

There should be a yard of one-fourth of an acre, in which nothing but turkeys should be allowed to go during the early part of the season. A yard set to pears, peaches or currants (what every farmer should have,) is just the place; and in trimming the trees or bushes, leave the brush in heaps, for the turkeys love to get into the brush out of sight to lay. In the latter part of March suitable nests should be made, and the turkeys watched and made to stay in the yard till they all lay. Or, by building a picket fence eight feet high, and putting brush on top, they are not apt to get out, and by putting them in during the fore part of the day, when they usually lay, they may be let out towards night and put in again in the morning. Then in this yard they will be out of the way of hogs, cattle, &c.

TO MAKE THEM LAY.

Where there is a spring or a brook near the house, where the turkeys can get green grass in the month of March, they usually lay earlier; and early spring turkeys will (with proper care) be early fall turkeys. A good piece of

winter rye near the house is sometimes very beneficial to turkeys about laying early, for they need something green. When turkeys roam in the fields during the summer season, they pick the grass and weeds; they also eat grasshoppers, worms, and bugs; they eat vegetables, and they eat meat; feed them with warm dough, and mix into it scraps or bits of meat, and a little Cayenne pepper.

NESTS.

Nests made on the ground are better than in barrels; for in barrels, when the turkey sets, the boards under the turkey many times become so heated that the eggs will die. The eggs of all birds that lay and set on the ground are continually being cooled from the ground, while they are heated from the bird; so with birds that lay in nests on trees, the air circulating under their nests serves to cool the eggs to a certain extent. Nests should be made of the proper size and covered, to protect the turkey from the rain, and made so tight that, when the eggs are hatched, and the turkey is being taken off with the little ones, that the little ones cannot get into the wall or brush, and thereby be lost. A very good way to make nests is, to cut your boards two feet long,

and nail one end of each piece to a billet of wood or bit of a joist two feet long, and spread at the other end two feet, so that it will be a kind of gable shaped coop; then board one end tight, and nail a bit of a board across the top of the front, so that the turkey can get in and out. This may be kept for years, and moved from place to place when needed. A quicker way to build a turkey's nest (and perhaps equally as good) is to put boards on three sides of a nest of a proper length and hight, supported by stubs drove in the ground, with a board on top large enough to cover the nest, and a stone on top of the board, so that when the turkey is taken off she cannot flutter and knock the board off, and get away. If you can, always have your nests open to the south, for the turkey will be better protected from the cold storms of April and May. When a turkey lays in the brush, and you fix a nest for her, put back some of the brush around the nest, or she may forsake it.

TWO OR MORE TURKEYS LAYING TOGETHER.

When two or more turkeys lay in one nest, let them lay half a dozen eggs to a turkey; then

build other nests each side, and put addled or chalk eggs into them; for where there is a good nest with eggs in it, a turkey is not apt to crowd on to a nest with another turkey. I have had five set in a row, and all did well; but they need watching when they are setting, as they will sometimes go on to a nest with another turkey, and the eggs get cold and die. One or two chalk eggs should be kept in each nest while turkeys are laying.

EGGS.

The eggs should be brought in every night, to prevent their freezing or being destroyed by vermin, (unless they are in a warm secure place,) and put in a basket or dish, to the number of seventeen or eighteen, as many as you want to set under one turkey, the baskets being marked 1, 2, 3, &c. : and when you set a turkey, set her on the eggs in one basket. The reason for this is, old eggs are longer in being hatched than new laid eggs—probably takes one day longer to hatch eggs ten or twelve days old than new ones, and about in that proportion, as they become older. When turkeys lay, and the eggs are left

in the nest, the turkey going on every day to lay and setting an hour or so, warms the eggs and they will all hatch together. The eggs should be covered with a cloth, (the turkey covers with straw or leaves,) it keeps them warm—they do not die so quick,—and they should be turned over once a week, or the yolks may settle on one side; the turkey going on and coming off from her nest, stepping her feet among the eggs, moves them. A very good way to keep them is to set them on the little end, and cover them with oats. 'Turkeys' eggs kept cold for twenty-five days are apt to die. When a turkey lays thirty eggs, the last ten will not hatch as well as the first twenty, if all are properly cared for. When the nest is secure from hogs, vermin, &c., and the weather is warm enough so that the eggs will not freeze, by all means leave the eggs in the nest, and let the turkey manage to suit herself; the eggs will hatch better in that way than any other, because it is natural. God has taught the turkey how to do it just right. When a turkey is setting, if she stays off all night, the eggs will not die unless they get very cold,—as old people used to say, "stone cold."

SETTING.

Turkeys laying side by side should be set at the same time, (paying attention to the age of the eggs, however,) for if they are not set at the same time, when one hatches, the peeping of the little turkeys will make the old ones uneasy, and it is sometimes very difficult to prevent them from forsaking their nests. When a turkey goes on to set, take away all the good eggs, leaving two or three addled eggs, or bad eggs, and let her set, (if other turkeys lay by the side of her) and to prevent other turkeys laying to her, set a bit of a board before her nest two or three hours in a day, say from eight till twelve; and when all that lay side by side are ready to set, put under the eggs; and sprinkle a teaspoonful of yellow snuff in the nest, (to kill the lice,) which it is well to renew in two weeks, at some time when the turkey is off. Sometimes we cannot make all the turkeys lay near the house; they will steal away into the woods and lay: then watch them and find their nests, and secure the eggs, and when the turkey goes on to set let her set five or six days; then very carefully take her from her nest and put her on to a nest where you want her to set, and shut her on three or four

days, then take away the board and let her come off when she pleases; but when she comes off she will go back to her woods nest unless she is watched and drove back on to her nest. If she persists in going to her nest in the woods, let her go; and when she gets quietly set on her woods nest take her by the legs and bring her home, and shut her on for a week; for turkeys when setting do not usually come off oftener than once in from four to seven days, if nothing is the matter. When turkeys are setting, the eggs becoming uncomfortably warm under them, they will stand up and with their bills they will mix their eggs all together, and roll them over, to get the cold side up; and in so doing they sometimes break an egg, and when they do they invariably take that egg in their bills and carry it off; and then we say that turkey is eating up her eggs; but it is only because nature teaches her to keep her nest clean. But if the yelk of the broken egg gets on to the other eggs, in nine cases out of ten it will kill every egg that it touches, unless the eggs are washed in warmish water and wiped clean, and the nest cleaned out and the eggs put back, after first putting a little dry straw or leaves into the nest. I have lost a

whole nest full [eighteen eggs] at a time, nothing the matter only the breaking of some of the eggs,—the turkey being a little distance from the house, I could not or did not attend to her. On breaking the fourteen remaining eggs some of them just showed the effects of incubation, some of the young ones were half grown, and some were almost ready to hatch,—showing very plainly that the eggs had been killed at different times. When the turkeys are fed with dough and a little lime mixed with it, during the month of March, or when the turkeys have a plenty of broken oyster shells to pick upon, they are not apt to lay eggs with the shells so thin as to break. When two or more turkeys set side by side and hatch, and are taken off and put together, they are very apt to herd together and not fight, thereby running over and killing the little ones; for when the little ones are being hatched they are continually peeping, and the old ones talking to them in brooding notes, they become acquainted with each others' voices; consequently are not apt to fight. If they do not set side by side, but are taken off at the same time and put together, they can, with a little care for two or three days, be made to herd together.

TAKING THEM FROM THE NEST.

When a turkey is ready to be taken off, take a small basket and go quietly to the nest and put your hand under the turkey and take out two or three little ones and put into the basket, and so continue to do, as long as the turkey will set still; but when she becomes so uneasy that she is about to come off, then take her carefully by the legs and take her off, then catch the remaining little ones; if the turkey is wild, it is better to catch her before taking out the little ones; but if gentle, catch the little ones first, for they are less liable to get hurt if the turkey flutters. Then have a strong decoction of tobacco already made, and with this wash the old turkey on the under side of the wings and on the naked parts of the body under the wings, which will kill the lice, if there are any, and if there are none the tobacco will do no harm. If the young turkeys get lousy, put yellow snuff and grease on the under side of their wings, and naked parts of the body; for little turkeys will not live, or if they live they will not thrive or grow when they are lousy. If you find they droop or act sleepy examine them, and if you can find any lice, yard

them immediately, and apply the snuff and grease to all, both old and young. Mix a little sulphur with their dough occasionally, at the rate of a teaspoonful to a pint of meal. Large flocks of turkeys are more liable to be lousy than flocks with less in number.

MANAGING THE LITTLE ONES.

When turkeys are taken off from their nests make a yard with three boards that are twelve or fifteen feet long and twelve inches wide, so tight that the little ones cannot get out, and put boards on one or two corners for a shelter. In this yard put one, two, or three old turkeys with their young ones,—as many as will remain peaceable. When turkeys are taken off, if some of the little ones are not strong, wrap them in a cloth and put them under the stove; or what is better, put them under a setting turkey or dunghill hen, until they are fit to put into the yard. Set a pie-pan of water in the yard, so that the little ones can get in and get out. Keep the turkeys in this little yard two days or more, and then let them out, when the weather is pleasant and the dew is off.

RAMBLE.

Turkeys must be allowed to ramble, or they will have the gapes, or they will be sickly and feeble; they will not live and do well if kept shut up for any length of time. If turkeys are inclined to ramble more than you want them to, or get into the mowing or grain, then tie a shingle to the wings of the old ones, with the strings close to the body; then they cannot fly; then stop the bars up tight, and you can keep them out of mischief; indeed you can pasture them almost as well as you can geese or hogs. They can hover (or brood) their little ones just as well.

WATCHING.

Turkeys should be watched constantly for three weeks after they are hatched, to keep the crows and hawks from catching them, and to prevent any from straying behind and getting lost, and to make them go in flocks or herds; and even a longer time is better, for the longer you watch them the more you will raise. I have lost twenty this season that have been, as I suppose, caught by the hawks after they would weigh a pound to the turkey.

LARGE GRASS.

Turkeys should not be allowed to go into large grass with their little ones, for the little ones struggling through the grass, get tired and set down, and the old turkey passes on out of hearing, and the little one sets there and dies. It is very, very difficult to raise turkeys successfully where it is heavy mowing all around the house; for one-half of them will drabble to death when the grass is wet, and the other half will do about as much damage as they are worth. On the great fertile plains of the west they are better off without turkeys than with. It is a crop (so to speak) adapted to the sterile soil of New England.

HERD.

Make as many herd together as possible, for it takes but little longer to drive home eight old ones and a hundred young ones, than it does one old one and twelve young ones. And if the turkeys get on to your neighbor's land, or get into mischief, you will not have so many flocks to look after.

FEED.

The best feed for little turkeys is corn ground coarse, and eggs boiled hard and chopped very

fine and mixed with new milk, about in the proportion of one egg to a pint of meal and mix it rather dry; it will scatter better; it gives the little ones a better chance to get a crumb or two; the old ones cannot eat it up from them. When the little ones are two weeks old, give them less and less eggs; they will begin to shift for themselves; then boil sour milk into a curd and mix their meal with that; and as they grow older have their corn ground coarser; it is not so liable to bake in their crops. Little turkeys need but little to eat, but need it often. When they are hatched their crops are full. If you do not want your turkeys to lay the second litter, let them eat with the little ones until the little ones have learned to eat; then with a stick drive the old ones carefully away when you feed the little ones. If you feed the old ones they will most assuredly lay the second litter. Turkeys should for the first two months be fed morning, noon and night; and they should always be fed twice in a day, and they should always be drove home at night, else the skunks or foxes will catch them. They should never be fed after six o'clock at night; you may find some dead in the morning. Horses and cattle eat during the

night, but turkeys never do ; you should not attempt to change the order of nature. They should always have a plenty of oyster shells in the cart path that they can go to, morning and night.

STABLING WHEN YOUNG.

Care should be taken that they do not set with their little ones in hollows at night, as there may be rain, and pond around them and drown them by scores. In rain storms or showers they should be put under the barn, or on the barn floor, or in a stable, putting only one flock in a place. It is well to put them in the stable every night till they are a month old or more ; then they are out of the storms and secure from vermin ; and when you want to kill them in the fall of the year, they will not be afraid of the barn, and you can yard them as well as you can a flock of sheep. If in the stable, as a matter of course they set on the ground (or floor) ; they are not as liable to be deformed as they are when drove on to the trees to roost, when they are too small ; for when little turkeys roost on the trees too young, when they are growing fast, their little bones are soft and limber and their breast bones

become crooked, and usually grow worse and worse, until many times they are very much deformed. Such turkeys it is almost impossible to fatten, and they never dress off handsome. Care should be taken that too many little ones do not get under one old one; for the old turkey in stepping and changing her position for rest during the night, if there are too many little ones under her, will sometimes step her toe across a little one's neck and choke it to death. I have lost three or four under one old turkey in a night. Twenty is as many as a turkey ought to brood (or hover) at one time, and fifteen is better.

KIND OF TURKEYS.

Turkeys two, three, or four years old are the best ages to keep for breeders, for they are more apt to be gentle, and they are better mothers or nurses, and they lay larger eggs, and the young ones are larger and stronger when first hatched. Never save little late turkeys for breeders, for, as a general thing, they lay little eggs and hatch little feeble turkeys. It is well to kill some old ones and save some young ones, every year. Have your turkeys as gentle as possible; it is convenient and profitable. Change gobblers

with some neighbor every year, and be sure and see that the gobbler's breast is straight, and that he is well proportioned, with his legs not too long for his body, and see that he struts and gobbles well. One gobbler is enough for twelve hens. Where a gobbler is as tall as a crane the young ones are very apt to be crooked breasted, and otherwise deformed.

MARKING.

When neighbors live near each other, so that their turkeys get together, one neighbor may mark his turkeys in one way, and another mark his in another way. My mark is, when I butcher my turkeys in the fall of the year, I catch every turkey (not already marked) that I am going to save for a breeder, and sew a piece of thin leather (old boot leg) an inch or more in width around the turkey's leg, sewing it loosely, or the leather will wet and dry and shrink, and lame the turkey. Another way is to sew a strong piece of cloth, of any color you may select for your mark. Another way is to cut off the end of one of the toes. In this way all sized turkeys may be marked. You may cut the toe off from the little one when you take it from the

nest. By marking your turkeys, and then taking proper care, you may keep your turkeys on your own land; for neighbors are under no more obligation to keep their neighbors' turkeys than they are their neighbors' sheep; both are taxable property, and both are liable for damages.

SALT.

Salt is very poisonous to turkeys. In salting meat in winter we sometimes turn the old brine that we throw away down in the barn yard; and that will not freeze, and for want of water the turkeys will drink the brine and die. I have lost them repeatedly. I have a neighbor who saw his turkeys drink the brine, and though they were perfectly well when they drank it, yet all three of them died in twenty-four hours. In salting cattle in the summer, if they do not lick it up clean, the little turkeys seeing that it looks white, like their dough, will sometimes pick it up and die. I lost ten at one time by eating salt. The little boy who was watching them saw them eat it and drove them away as quick as possible. Some of them died in fifteen minutes; and they kept dying for twenty-four hours.

TO FAT TURKEYS.

Boiled potatoes mashed and mixed with meal are very good to fat turkeys, but old sound corn is better; and good old corn meal boiled to a pudding is still better. Turkeys should not be fed with new corn until it is pretty well dried, for it makes them too loose; it affects them in the same way that green grass does our cattle in the spring of the year. When we first turn our cattle to grass, in the spring of the year, we do not expect them to fatten. Corn must be sound; they will not eat musty corn; at least they will not eat enough to become fat. New England corn is worth more, pound for pound, than western corn. Do not feed any more to them than they will eat up clean. Take a little time to feed them, and throw corn to them until some of them begin to stop and look round; then stop feeding. Or feed them in part on half shelled ears of corn. In that way you keep their appetites good, for they are apt to get cloyed. Apples do them but little if any good; the apples physic them too much. Turkeys fed on white corn will be whiter when dressed than those fed on yellow corn. When turkeys have learned what milk is, (which they will learn very quick by putting it

in troughs or pans near where you feed them.) they will drink it voraciously ; and milk, whether new or skimmed, will make almost as many pounds of turkey as it will of pork—worth nearly three times as much. If turkeys are too loose, scald the milk and let it cool, then give it to them ; it will regulate their bowels in a wonderful manner. To fatten turkeys good, they should be fed, at the least, twice a day, from the day they are taken from the nest till the day before they are killed ; always taking care that they have a plenty of water or milk. When turkeys are fat their feathers will shine in the sun, of a beautiful changeable green and purple.

BUTCHERING.

When you get ready to butcher, feed the turkeys as usual, the night before you intend to kill them ; then make the barn floor tight, by nailing up boards before the mangers, &c. ; then open the great barn doors as quick as the turkeys come off from the roost in the morning, and drive them carefully in ; they will not fly much when they first come off from their roost in the morning ; nor will there be anything in their crops. When once on the barn floor, you can drive them into the alley, or catch them and put

them in a stable, or catch them on the barn floor as you want to kill them. Then fasten some strong cords or small ropes in a shed or stable, or under the barn, at a proper hight, with a slip-knot in the end ; and in this slip-knot put a turkey's legs, and with a small knife stick the turkey as near the head as you can, and let him flutter. Some prefer sticking them in the mouth, by opening the mouth and holding on to the upper part of the bill with the left hand, then bend the head back and put the knife into the mouth and cut across the neck bone until you cut off the veins. The neck is cleaner when you get them dressed, but it takes them longer to die. As soon as he stops fluttering, so that you can work at him, strip off the feathers, pin-feathers and all ; cut the neck off as near the head as possible ; cut off the wings and draw the turkey before you take it out of the rope ; or, in other words, hang it up by the heels alive, and take it down ready for market ; then lay it on its breast or side, on a clean board, to cool. If the weather is very cold, carry them into the house or shop, (by the fire) to pin-feather and draw. Avoid rubbing the skin off from their backs, for it rubs off very easy when they are warm, and

looks bad. If turkeys are as fat as they should be, it is well to rid the inwards, and put the riddings into the turkey; it makes excellent stuffing. Some prefer to kill the turkey and take him in their lap; then hold his head between the right leg and the box into which they are putting the feathers, and hold his legs with the left hand, and with the right hand pick the feathers. Perhaps they can pick faster in this way, but it is very difficult to dress them without rubbing the skin off from their backs. Take care to dress your turkeys nice; get out all the pin-feathers; it makes a cent in a pound difference in the price, when the dealer gets them into market. A poor turkey neatly dressed will sell almost as well as a fat turkey meanly dressed.

When you carry to market, pack your turkeys on their breasts, and have clean straw in the bottom of the wagon; and as you pack them, sprinkle straw on their necks; it keeps them from getting bloody.

REMARKS.

One great secret of raising turkeys is to take care—and take care all summer; and even then you cannot always raise them, for they will not lay, or they will not hatch, or something will

befall them. Sometimes we raise turkeys without much of any care, and say it is luck ; and it is luck ; for sometimes we have an appletree in a pasture, that without any care will produce a plenty of good apples, but it is not half as liable to as a tree well cared for. A boy ten or twelve years old, with a little direction from his father, will do the taking care to raise a hundred turkeys ; he cannot earn so much money in any other way. It is an old maxim that if a thing is worth doing, it is worth well doing ; still, some may think that if this is the way to raise turkeys, it is too much trouble. To such an one I would say, you can omit any part or all of it, if you choose. If you know any better system, by all means pursue the best course. I give you my experience of forty years, and I will give you a sketch of my success for the past four or five years. I have usually summered over from eight to eleven hen turkeys. I have reared from ninety-nine to a hundred and thirty-seven in a summer. This year I have a hundred and fifty-three. I shall probably lose some between this time [Sept. 2d.] and butchering time.

PROFITS.

In 1868 I sold my turkeys for 27 cents a pound ; they came to \$380 40. In 1869 I sold my turkeys, some for 25, and some for 27 cents a pound ; the amount sold was \$386 18. That year I kept an account of expenses : I fed from Jan. first, 1869 to Jan. first, 1870, \$147 60 worth of grain ; the expense of butchering and marketing was \$10 ; and allowing the grass they eat at \$15, the profit I got for raising them was \$213 58. In 1870 I sold for 25 cents a pound ; the amount sold was \$311 37. In 1871 I sold for 18 cents a pound ; the amount sold was \$286 13 ; and at these low figures the net profits were more than \$150.

I had rather raise and fat turkeys at fifteen cents a pound than to raise and fat pork at ten cents a pound. Perhaps in fattening pork you may save the manure better ; but take care to save the droppings of the turkeys ; if gathered up once a week and kept dry, it is worth nearly half as much as guano ; it is certainly worth a cent a pound. You can over stock with turkeys as well as you can with sheep or cattle, or anything else. When they have eaten up all the grasshoppers,

bugs, and worms, it requires a good deal of feeding and very great care to make them do well.

Turkeys will always sell, and sell for the money ; they are a great luxury, and they are not expensive living, for there is but little waste to them, and they are a very nourishing, healthy food. The poultry dealers say that the demand increases faster than the supply, for the American people are the most industrious and the most enterprising people that ever lived ; and they exceed in extravagance of food, dress, &c., as much as they do in enterprise. It is very fast becoming the fashion that every family, from the millionaire to the pauper, or even the state prison convicts, must have a roast turkey for Thanksgiving, and another for Christmas. The market is not likely to be overstocked or the business overdone, for it is too much work for lazy folks to raise turkeys successfully every time.

HENS.

Much has been written in regard to dunghill fowls. To have hens lay well in the winter, they should have a warm, tight roost, well lighted on the south side, and a shed or hovel opening south,

where they can stand in the sun and scratch in the dirt. Feed them with warm dough, and some bits of meat of some kind, and sprinkle a little Cayenne pepper on their dough. See that they have some powdered oyster shells or gravel that they can have access to. Be sure that they have water every day. Let them have a heap of dry ashes to roll in ; it keeps them from being lousy. Whitewash the inside of the roost once a year. Rub the roosting poles with kerosene oil once in two or three months, and you will not be plagued with lice. Scrape and clean the roost out once a month, and your chickens will not be likely to have the gapes, or get lousy. Sprinkle a tea-spoonful of yellow snuff in their nests occasionally.

GEESE.

Geese are the most uncertain fowls that we raise, but where they do well they are the most profitable fowls that we raise, though cattle, &c. do not like the grass where they run. They should be treated kindly, so as to make them as gentle as possible. They should have a spring or brook to go to, especially in the latter part of

winter or early spring, for then they will tread well, and gathering green grass they will lay earlier, and lay a greater number of eggs than where they live on snow and corn. But where there is no spring or brook, then make them a large flat trough, in which keep a plenty of water; and when the weather is cold, warm the water a little, that it may not freeze so quick. It is very necessary for them to have water, to drink and to tread in. If they can get green grass, they need but little feed during the latter part of winter and the spring. If they do not get green grass, feed them with warm dough, with some bits of meat or a little grease mixed with it. Shut them up nights under the barn or shed, or some place where they will be secure from drifting snows, and there make for them nests. Bring the eggs into the house at night (if there is any danger of their freezing,) and cover them with a cloth; the goose covers with straw or leaves. It is safest to keep chalk eggs in the nest; they will not freeze nor break. When a goose wants to set, put the eggs in her nest and let her set; and when she hatches, let her come off herself. A goose will cover nine eggs, and a large goose will

cover eleven or twelve. If you can, it is best to set them all at once; then they will come off together, and will not fight so bad.

Take care to keep the goslings out of the rain, (when small;) they will drown as quick as chickens. Feed the old ones with dough; the goslings will learn to eat in a day or two. Take particular care that the goslings do not get angle worms to eat; for if they do, they will die.

The geese will do to pick in ten days after the goslings come off; and then the geese will do to pick again in nine weeks; and the goslings will do to pick on the breasts; and then in nine weeks more they will do to pick again. There are some little slim quills under the wings which should not be plucked; if they are, the wings will droop, and then they grow poor; and on the goslings, the bunch of feathers on their sides, on which their wings rest, should not be disturbed. The goslings should run in the pasture four or five weeks after picking the last time, before they are shut up to fat, so that the feathers may grow, as the feathers do not grow well when they are shut up.

To fat goslings to advantage, shut them in a small pen, covered to keep them from flying out, and give them a plenty of corn and water; and fix the corn and water so that the goslings cannot get into them—which can be arranged by nailing barrel staves nearly perpendicular, so that the goslings can put their heads between the staves; for if they get into the corn or water they will make them so nasty that they will not eat or drink. One gander is sufficient for three or even four geese, but two geese and a gander make the best arranged flock; the gander is less liable to fight the goose that is not his special favorite. Geese one year old rarely raise many goslings. Every farmer should keep some geese; for, (if they do not raise goslings,) by picking them three times during the summer, the feathers will pretty nearly pay their keeping.

DUCKS, GUINEA HENS, &c.

Ducks should be treated nearly the same as geese, except we set ducks' eggs under hens, and then we take them off the same as chickens or turkeys. Where a person lives by the side of a

cove or tadpole pond in which the ducks (after the young ones are half grown) can rollick, may make it profitable to keep ducks; but as a general thing, those who intend to keep ducks or guinea hens, and more especially pigeons and peacocks, had better keep debit and credit, and see how the books balance.

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