DUCKS, GEESE AND TURKEYS.

Opinions Expressed by a Practical Man at an Ohio Farmers' Club.

At an Ohio farmers' club a practical farmer who has proved by his own experience that there is a handsome profit in the poultry business, properly conducted, expressed himself as follows concerning the relative merits of ducks, geese and turkeys. He said:

Ducks pay large returns for the care bestowed on them, and of the various breeds the Pekings are the undisputed superiors. A well bred Peking duck will begin to lay in February and will keep it up until she has about 150 eggs to her credit. Young ducks are the hardiest of any variety of poultry, and once hatched are pretty sure to live to maturity. They can be fed on corncob and chopped feed than any other kind of poultry, and of late years a large demand has sprung up for spring ducks at the time they are about 10 weeks old.

Geese to be very profitable ought to have a low wet meadow or pasture for a range. Where this can be provided geese may be raised with considerable profit. The goslings require careful attention until they begin to feather out. After that time they will thrive if given the range of a good pasture and a small feed every day.

Turkeys on a large farm are considered fairly profitable, if the owner does not mind the grain that a flock of these birds manage to destroy in their wanderings. However, as their wanderings are often through the fields of neighbors, the owner may not always feel this loss. Turkeys have not been a source of profit with me. The young birds are hard to rear and have to be coddled a great deal the first few weeks. As I have no range for them, I have no use for turkeys until they are well roosted, and I believe I can buy them cheaper than I can raise them.

To get the most profit from poultry, the birds should not be fed too high during the months when insects abound. This will induce them to search for food, and in their wanderings they will destroy many injurious insects. Too many fowls are kept, as a rule, that are of no special breed. My experience with chickens convinces me that the large breeds are not as profitable as the smaller breeds. The Mediterranean class (which includes the Leghorns, Minorcas and Spanish fowls) and all varieties of Hamburgs can be kept for much less than the Asiatic breeds, and as a rule will produce twice as many eggs, so it will be seen that the smaller breeds are doubly profitable.

The New Celery Culture.

In truck gardening intensive culture must prevail to insure satisfactory returns. Big yields of smallest possible area and in the quickest time and with best labor is the golden rule observed by our progressive cultivators. Celery, a most important crop, is no longer grown by the old laborious methods. With increased demands simpler modes have been evolved, until we have now the Neuik method, or new celery culture, as it is also called.

This new method, which does away with the "banking up" for blanching, is described in detail by Robert Neuik and other practical men who have tested it in a little manual issued by the Rural Publishing company, New York. The main features of this method, briefly stated, are: Enrichment of the soil, usually with chemical fertilizers, and a full preparation of the same, which must be made level and fine. It is then marked off in rows seven inches apart, and the plants are seven inches apart straight in the rows. These plants, placed seven inches apart each way, are cultivated as long as possible with the wheel hoe and hand tools.

The more fertilizer used the larger the growth of the plants and the more water required to make the fertilizer available hence irrigating is an all important work, as the rainfall cannot be depended on to give sufficient moisture. The growth is rapid comparatively the crop is tender, solid and brittle. It has been estimated that, set as described, one acre contains 126,000 plants that bloach as they grow, and with proper treatment turn out at least 100,000 good plants suitable for commercial uses.

The Plant For Green Manuring.

The plant to be grown exclusively for green manuring is one that we can use as a stolen crop on land that has already produced a crop for the season or is growing one. It is doubtless hard to find in connection with the ordinary crops of the farm or usual rotations. A New Jersey farmer writing in this connection to The Country Gentleman says:

I am inclined to think that crimson clover fills the bill. It fits in with my system of partial seeding, soon after early potatoes are my first crop of sailing corn, and is harvested the ensuing season in time for a second planting of corn or a crop of Hungarian grass. We cut it the last of August. Experience with it in two years of drought indicates that it may be sown safely with us as late as Sept. 1, if not as late as the middle of that month. It is a more vigorous grower than ordinary clover. I have scarcely had experience enough to fix the time of maturity further than to say it would give a big crop for plowing under about June 1.

At the Experiment Stations.

The dairy school of the Wisconsin agricultural college station is in a prosperous condition.

At the California station an apparatus for the testing of spraying nozzles has been constructed, and the station will make a thorough study of the different kind of nozzles.

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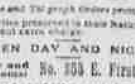
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