



## TURKEY RAISING

Among our native fowls the turkey is entitled to rank first. No other kind of domestic poultry has come into such general use for Thanksgiving and holiday feasts. Although to an extent domesticated, the turkey retains the instinct of a wild bird, and this should be recognized by those who wish to make a success of raising it. The nature of the turkey is now quite well understood and few people would think of attempting to raise them in confinement, thus the farm more and more becomes the home of the turkey. Its many acres form a natural breeding spot, and provide an abundance of food such as grasshoppers, bugs and plenty of green stuff that is particularly pleasing to his taste. No matter what variety one may keep for breeders, he should always select those that are strong, vigorous, healthy and well matured. The hens should be over one year old, and of good medium size. The male may be a yearling or older, and he, too, should be of medium size, strong and vigorous. He should not be akin to the hens in order to get strong poults. It is not necessary to have more than one male, should you want to keep as many as six or ten hens. The turkey hens may be readily induced to select nesting places in empty barrels or boxes, if fed near them. It is best to prepare the nests a few weeks in advance of the laying season, which usually begins during March or early in April. Turkey hens produce such a limited number of eggs, and are almost indispensable to the successful rearing of the poults. This makes it necessary that they hatch them, so they will own and raise them. Frequently a turkey will lay more eggs than she can cover conveniently, in which case it would be best to give a part of the eggs to a chicken at the same time that you set the turkey, then the poults may all be given to the turkey to rear. It takes from 27 to 29 days for turkey eggs to hatch. The eggs usually are fertile, frequently every egg in the nest will produce a poult. If one has three or more turkey hens, and wishes one or two of them to lay the second lot of eggs, he may prevent them from setting. Place the first eggs under a chicken and by the time she has covered them for three weeks the turkey will become broody again, when she can be given the eggs. She will own the poults and be as proud as though she had done all the incubating herself.

In this way you will have the turkey hatched just as early and will also have more eggs from the same number of hens. It will be of a further advantage to start the eggs under chickens, as you will not need to keep them so long as you would if you wait for a turkey to become broody. The fresh eggs will produce stronger

poults. The chickens will hatch them just as well as a turkey, but when it comes to the rearing, the young poults thrive better with the turkey, for they get more of their natural food, which is insects, bugs and seeds. Then the lice on the chickens are detrimental to the growing turkey. After the poults are hatched do not be in a hurry to feed them; it is best that they should remain under the hen unmolested for 24 to 36 hours to gain strength. Then they may be removed to a dry, sunny place, away from the other poultry. The first food should be stale bread moistened with sweet milk and then pressed dry. To this may be added dandelion leaves cut fine. I have had them eat the dandelion in preference to the other feed. As they grow older, add a little cracked corn and wheat, cottage cheese, and, in fact, anything they will eat. Do not over-feed. A little at a time and often until they go on the range and then morning and evening to induce them to come home will be enough. They should be provided with grit, charcoal and a liberal supply of fresh water. If the weather is pleasant they may be allowed the range of the farm at four weeks old. A flock of turkeys ranging over a farm is a benefit to any farmer, because of the many troublesome insects they devour daily. Turkeys rarely destroy wheat, oats or corn in the shock. This can not be said of any other poultry. Young turkeys are very susceptible to the effects of unfavorable conditions. Therefore, they should be carefully protected from the attacks of parasites, also from excessive heat and dampness, until they have gained sufficient size and strength to wander with the parent turkeys and are able to care for themselves upon the range. To guard the young turkeys against lice and mites, the plumage of the turkey hen should be dusted with insect powder, worked down to the skin. Careful attention should be given this. The young poults should also be examined closely for lice and should any be found, they must be freed of these enemies. They may be found on top of the head, under the throat, under the wings or around the vent. The lice may be destroyed by rubbing a small amount of clean, unsalted lard upon the head and throat; insect powder is usually sufficient for the other parts of the body. Another disease which has become very troublesome in the east and is coming west is called "Black head," because as the disease progresses the head becomes black. No remedy has been found. In case of any contagious disease, isolate the affected birds and bury deep or burn the bodies of any that die. Disinfect the coops very thoroughly thus keeping the disease in check.

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#### Pomona Grange Meets.

The quarterly meeting of the King County Pomona Grange held at Des Moines on the 13th of the month was not as largely attended as usual. This was owing to the fact that a number of the members were busy in the hay field, and could not spare the time. However, those who were in attendance were royally entertained, and spent a very pleasant day. The meeting was held in the hall owned by the Orphan's Home, and at noon the luncheon was served in the grove near the landing.

Mr. C. E. Cline, who is working under the supervision of the State College in the interest of "Country Life" addressed the gathering, and gave some excellent advice as to the benefits derived from the civic center idea. This is the plan now advocated in farming communities where a central building will be used for all neighborhood gatherings, making it a social center. They are usually under the direction of Grangers or the Farmer's Union. The idea is growing rapidly and bids fair to solve some of the "Back to the farm" questions. Mr. Cline made a strong plea for better agricultural teachings in our high schools, and especially in high schools in country districts. This address was followed by one by Prof. Jas. Taylor, of Seattle devoted to political questions of the day. He had been a granger in early life and gave a great deal of history of the trials of the order in Ohio and surrounding states.

On returning to the hall, the Resolution Committee, consisting of J. D. Dean, Fred Nelson and J. I. Gilmore, presented the resolutions presented by the members.

Several resolutions were presented supporting the demand for local option election in King county outside of incorporated cities. This was passed unanimously. A resolution was passed supporting the County Commissioners in their contention that King county tax payers should not be compelled to appear before Pierce county courts. This is in the matter of condemnation of lands which are known as the Green River Water system of Tacoma.

A strong resolution was passed demanding that Congress pass a parcels post system, and the members were requested to correspond with their Congressman, requesting that they vote for such a law. A resolution was passed endorsing the fight of the east side residents of Lake Washington are making for a second free ferry. It was shown that 20,000 people

were living on that side who were dependent upon a single ferry to reach the city of Seattle, their main market. As this is really a part of a county road, it is believed that they should have the support of the balance of the county in their demand for transportation. It was shown that the present ferry is inadequate and often out of repair.

A resolution was passed asking for the establishment of a board to take up the country life problem. This is to be composed of a member of the teaching corps of the State University, from the State College, one high school superintendent from east of the mountains, a high school superintendent from west of the mountains and the state superintendent.

Eight candidates were initiated in the fifth degree, and on report of several Granges, it was shown that most of them were prosperous. They are adding new members and their influence is extending.

A committee was appointed consisting of Fred Nelson, Ralph Hewitt and D. O. Getty to superintend the circulating of the local option petitions.

A committee was appointed consisting of Frank Terrace, A. Jorgenson and J. D. Dean to appear before the Commissioners in regard to the matter of the fight the settlers are making in the Green River district.

The proceedings were closed with a fine clam bake given by the citizens of Des Moines and Lake Grange, and all went home feeling that they were glad to have been there.

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