

such animal and vegetable food as she can find. The young raised in that manner are strong and healthy and when they get well started they grow rapidly. But heavy rains and periods of damp weather sometimes cause heavy losses in broods so raised and various means are taken to prevent such loss by limiting the range for a longer or shorter time after hatching. One method is to set up a fence (perhaps two feet high) of boards, or small mesh wire, to enclose an area of two or three hundred square feet, on a dry spot, where no water will stand during a rainstorm. This fence will confine the poults, but will permit the hen to leave them for a few minutes, if she desires to do so. During the cool weather of early spring the board fence will protect the early hatched brood against harsh winds better than wire; but later in the season, when the sun beats upon the ground, wire is better because it permits a free circulation of air. These fences should be moved to a fresh location as often as is necessary to keep the ground thoroughly clean. Poults thus confined are allowed their liberty when they are strong enough to get out of the enclosure.

Another plan is to confine the turkey hen in a coop and allow the poults to run at large. The coop for this purpose should not be less than four feet long by three wide, and high enough to allow the hen to stretch to her full height. Hens that have not been accustomed to any kind of restraint seldom can be confined in a coop successfully.

These coops must be moved daily to fresh locations and the hen must be dusted with lice-killing powder once a week to keep down the lice, which breed and increase rapidly when the turkey is unable to take a thorough dust bath.

Unless the hen is very tame she cannot be let out for an occasional run, for it is not often possible to get her to go back to the coop.

The poults grow well and appear to be strong and vigorous, but when the hen is finally set at liberty, as she must be at the end of a month or six weeks, she may lead them so hard a chase that some of them become

worn out and lost.

Little turkeys whose parents are accustomed to getting their food by foraging seldom need to be fed anything from the farmer's stores; in fact they can seldom be found and approached.

For those to be raised under other conditions there is nothing better than stale (not mouldy) bread, dampened with milk, for the first two days. After that a good quality of prepared chick food made of small and finely cracked grains is a safe and desirable ration until the poults are large enough to eat whole wheat, cracked corn and other coarse food. Those that are in pens, or whose mothers are confined in coops, must be fed three full meals a day. Some whole corn should be provided for the hen, and fresh water should be supplied at least twice each day.

The youngsters should not be fed as soon as they are hatched and dried off. They will be healthier and grow faster if no food is supplied until they are at least two days (forty-eight hours) old. They are supplied naturally with enough nourishment to last them two or three days, and to give them more, before that is assimilated, disturbs the action of the digestive organs.

Potatoes Needed.

It may be surprising to farmers in this territory to learn that from the 6,000,000 farms of the United States sufficient potatoes are not raised to satisfy the demands for home consumption. It is estimated that the amount raised each year in this country is a little more than three bushels for every man, woman and child in the country, amounting to 250,000,000 or 275,000,000 bushels a year. However, it has been necessary to import more than a million and a half bushels of this tuber. In one week of the summer of 1904, 60,000 sacks of foreign potatoes of an old crop were imported in New York city and sold for over a dollar a bushel. It is time for farmers to be alive to the fact that they are neglecting a source of great revenue.

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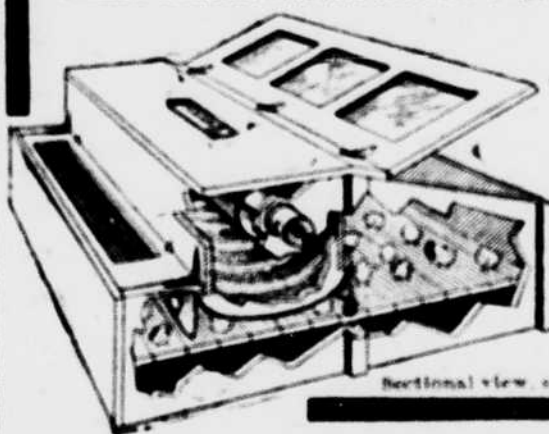
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