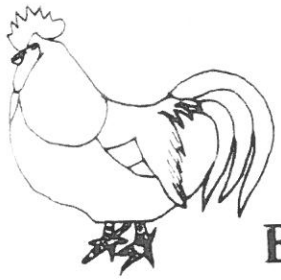


BELLSOUTH BACKYARD POULTRY CLUB NEWSLETTER

140 COLBY DVE. BELGRAVE SOUTH 3160

MARCH 88

Dear friends,

I have found the state of politics in our country somewhat disturbing over the last few months, and for a long time I have been unable to place just exactly what is wrong. It is easy to discard all politicians as dishonest, or corrupt, but I believe that is too simplistic.

In my thinking on the political state of the nation, in the midst of the hoo haa of the bicentenery (not bicentenniel which means lasting 200 years and I am glad this will not go on for that long) I have come to the conclusion that 2 things are wrong, and they are both related.

Firstly, politics today assumes that we can change the way society operates by changing the outside rules under which we live. Someone has described society as a madman, and the politicians have put him in a straight jacket, but he keeps breaking the straight jacket. So they try to make the jacket stronger. So we are subject to stronger rules over every area of our lives. This is not the answer, the answer is to cure the madness so that the straight jacket is not needed.

The second disturbing element has been the inconsistency of politicians in the way they make policies and enforce them. I was astounded to see the Victorian givernment acceptance of the Nieuhousen report which said that the availability of alcohol did not effect the abuse of alcohol, and so more outlets were to be allowed and even corner stores allowed to supply it.

In the next breath the goverment has banned semi automatic weapons, and made the most forceful pronouncements that the availability of guns increases abuse.

All this in the light of research showing that 80% of murders were committed while the offenders were intoxicated, statistics showing that the majority of cases of domestic violence occur when the offender is under the influence of booze, 50% of all road deaths and road accidents(the numbers of which make the murders pale into insignificance) were alcohol related, and 70% of swiming accidents are alcohol induced.

This inconsistency even leads to government departments working against one another, with the goverment refusing to restrict availability of alcohol, but the police having to

increase the policing of the abuse, handle the domestic violence, and try to prevent the accidents. The water police also run advertising campaigns to try to prevent the costly search and rescue costs, much of which is associated with the abuse of alcohol.

I am not so much against alcohol, or for guns as I am for consistency and the correct approach. Consistency of approach to legislation at least will give people a regard for politicians. At least principle becomes valuable again and politians become respected, and because of that respect obeyed. In days gone by breaking the law was wrong,and earned public disrespect and disaproval for the offenders. Now we have a new term, bought about by the inconsistencies, and low moral position of the law makers. It is now "civil disobedience" to break these inconsistent laws, and people who do so are admired.

Unfortunately this leads back to the madman in the straight jacket, and more rules to try to control him.

Where is the answer. Many of you know my stand here. I believe that the power to change the madman comes from God via His Son Jesus Christ, working change in individuals, allowing individuals to act morally because that is what we were made for, to reflect God's character. Until our politicians realize that they have a reponsibility to act not according to whim, or expediency, but according to the high moral principles of the Bible, all that is ahead is laws, rules, regulations , number upon number, to try to strengthen the straight jacket, not liberty and respect for each individual , who is valuable to a Holy, Just God.

JIM Jim

Record Breaker

Records were broken all round at this year's British Turkey Federation Heavy Turkey Competition sponsored by Nitrovit. BUT's entry weighed in at a new world record weight of 81 lbs ¼ oz (36.75kg) which went to auction at a record price of £3,600 paid by Dewhurst.

Record bidder, Ray Argrave is seen left with two nurses from St Bartholomew's Hospital in London who received the turkey on behalf of the Waring Ward.

Pictured below, left to right, Colin Cutler, manager of the farm that reared the heavyweight, Pamela Eastwood of BUT, celebrity Anita Dobson of the BBC's Eastenders series who presented the auction proceeds of £8,000 to Mrs Cynthia Clayton for the Save the Children's Fund and Mo Hawkins, BUT managing director.

COCCIDIOSIS

This parasitic disease is the most common amongst growing flocks. At this time of the year we often strike outbreaks of the disease for a number of reasons, and this has been the case of late. The disease is described most completely in our book A Beginners Guide to Poultry Parasites $4.50 in post. At this stage I believe that a review of the symptoms and preferred treatment is required.

Coccidiosis is caused by a protozoan parasite called a coccidia. There are about 7 species which effect the domestic fowl, and if the attack is a low level one the birds develop an imunity to the species which has caused the attack. It will not give immunity for the other 6 varieties so one outbreak does not mean that the problem is finished.

The parasite has several growth stages during which it changes form, and is finally passed out in the droppings, where the final maturing stage occurs. The fowl then picks up the ripe eggs from the litter and reinfects itself.

SYMPTOMS

The most common early symptoms of coccidiosis are; Wet and runny droppings, followed by diarhorea, blood stained droppings, possible black droppings. At any of the above stages, the bird may appear ruffled and off colour, go off its food, and become lethargic. As young brooding chicks, they will be uncomfortable and require more heat. Some chicks with symptoms means all the chicks should be treated. The worst effected chicks will go off their food, and as a result get less coccidiostat from the food and allow the condition to deteriorate rapidly.

Treatment with medication in the water should commence with as soon as chicks are seen with wet droppings.
Delayed treatment will still allow the chicks to recover but the bowel may be permanently damaged and so reduce the possibility of top performance from the bird.

Outbreaks occur for several reasons.
Firstly, outbreaks occur because of a build up of ripe eggs in the litter. This is especially prevalent where the litter is damp and caked, or where the outside runs have been used for many years and so the levels of coccidia eggs build up. The eggs can survive for long periods in the right localions.

Secondly, coccidiosis outbreaks may occur if the medication to control it is removed or diluted. All chick growing or starter feeds have some medications in them to prevent coccidiosis. This is called prophylactic treatment. The idea is to allow a low level of infection so that the birds develop immunity but prevent a breakout of the coccidia, where they multiply very rapidly.

This occurs if the birds are accidently changed from a grower food to a layer food, or to an unmedicated home mix feed. Dilution of the medication by adding to the diet can have this effect. Wheat, green feed,or kitchen scraps are fed to the birds. If the diet is extended by 25% the the medicated poart of the feed will not supply enough medication to control the coccidia

and a breakout will occur.

Thirdly, the type of coccidiostat or its use method may be wrong. This is a very common problem. There are two distinct types of drug used for treatment and each has its correct use method. If you mix the right drug with the wrong method at least the effects will be wasted, and the long term consequences possibly very bad.

There are three types of treatment used for coccidiosis. The first is treatement continously in the feed, called preventative or prophylactic treatment. We have little control over this unless we home mix our feed. If we do so then the coccidiostat is usually used as a preformulated premix of vitamins, minerals and coccidiostats.

The second is SULFA drugs of which there are many forms. The third is AMPROLIUM, a derivative of thiamine.

SULFA DRUGS

These should be used very carefully to ensure the correct dose rates, and sulfa drugs have a distinct withdrawal time which must be observed. The program for these drugs is an on off program. This is because the sulfa's only effect coccidia in the bowel. As they taste the sulfa, many are killed, but many retreat into the walls of the bowel and are untouched by it. Take away the medication for a day or so and they come back out of the bowel wall , just in time for the next batch of sulfa. The sulfa's are effective in this role but care must be excersized to ensure the correct dose rates, as well as the withdrawal period before slaughter when the medication must not be given. Unwithdrawn stock should not be slaughtered for human consumption especially by children and pregnant women. Incorrect dose rates can effect the kidneys of the birds. Sulfa drugs come in a number of brands, with individual dose rates and programs. Always follow the label instructions. If sulfa drugs are given to laying birds, the eggs should not be used for human consumption.

AMPROLIUM

Amprolium is a completely different substance. Available as a powder or liquid, Amprolium is derived from Thiamine, one of the 'b'group vitamins. Amprolium works by inhibiting the coccidia's ability to feed from the bowel contents. The coccidia " starve out" of the bowel. Amprolium can be used incorrectly in a higher dose rate and will only cause a complete cleanout of the bowel. This is not advised as it may allow a greater outbreak when the medication is removed. No immunity can develop under those circumstances.

Amprolium, under the brand name AMPROLMIX PLUS should be used at a continous level for about 5-7 days to allow the coccidia to starve. The usual dose rate is 3 ml per litre for the first 5 to 7 days. Then I recommend 1.5 ml per litre for the next 5 days . This allows a little infection and the proper development of immunity. Repeat if necessary.

Amprolium as soluble powder should be used in the water at

the rate of 6 grams in 5 litres of water for the first 5 to 7 days then 3 grams in 5 litres of water for another 5 days. Repeat if necessary.

Amprolium soluble can be used in the feed for those who mix their own. The prophylactic (preventative) dose rate is 2.5 grams in 4 kg dry weight of feed continously.

To my way of thinking Amprolium is the drug of choice. It is extremely safe, can be used with fowls in egg production without effecting the eggs, can be used right up to slaughter, and cannot effect the fowls if you accidently overdose. Altogether a very safe product and easy to use.

SUMMARY

Coccidiosis is a very common disease, which if uncontrollable would have prevented the development of the poultry industry. Treatment is simple and effective, as long as the symptoms are recognised and action taken early.

BACKYARD POULTRY KEEPERS CALENDER

This illustrated calendar is half out of date now but still a worthwhile item. Well illustrated and including tips on keeping the fowls.
Available from Night Owl Publishers Box 764, Shepparton 3630 for $6.50 including postage.

Nutrition And Egg Quality

THE nutrition of the hen has an important influence on egg quality—particularly shell strength.

The nutrients that have an influence on the construction of a strong shell are calcium, phosphorous, magnesium, zinc, manganese, chlorine, potassium and vitamins.

Calcium

Calcium is the major nutritional factor involved in good shell formation. Laying birds must have adequate supplies of calcium in their diet and the amounts of calcium supplied should be based on the birds' feed consumption (Figure 1).

Feeding too much calcium is as detrimental as feeding too little.

Many figures are presented for optimum calcium requirements for layers but I have referred to the publication "Feeding Standards for Australian Livestock—Poultry", S.C.A. Canberra 1983. The recent publication states that marked increases in shell thickness occurred at calcium intakes of up to 4g/day. Intakes above 5 g/day may decrease egg numbers, feed consumption and egg weight. The ideal layer diet should supply each hen approximately 3.8g of calcium per day. This means when the layer is eating 100 gms feed/day the ration should have a calculated calcium content of 3.8%. Knowing feed consumption is of the utmost importance in supplying the correct calcium level and also other essential nutrients. Calcium is mainly supplied in the hen's diet through meat and bone meal, ground limestone, shellgrit and marble grit.

Practical application

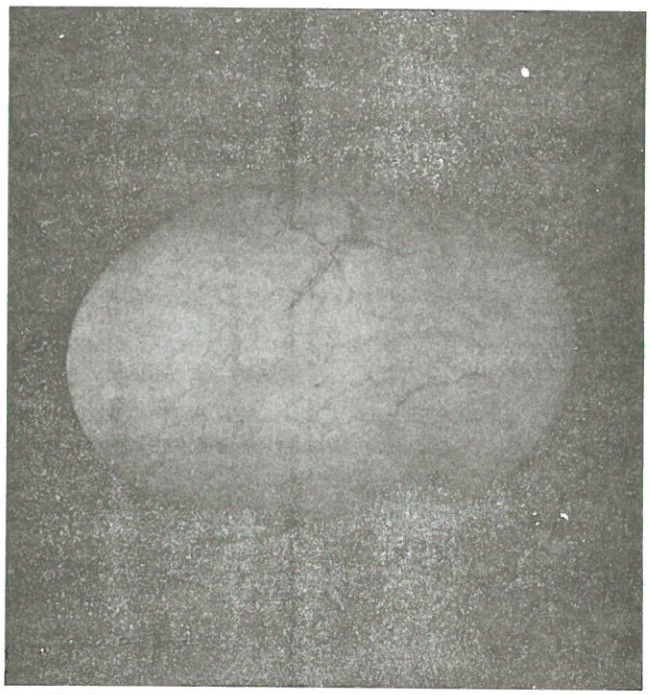
Particle size—several researchers have claimed that calcium supplied in larger particle size improves the thickness of egg shells more efficiently than finely-ground limestone, particularly during hot weather when calcium intake is reduced because the hen eats less.

High temperatures—cause physiological changes within the hen that have a major influence on shell quality, e.g. reduced CO_2 and bicarbonate concentration in the bloodstream.

Where shell quality is a problem due to hot weather, providing shell-grit may be useful. The beneficial effects of larger particle sizes of calcium supplement can be attributed to the longer retention of grit particles in the gut of the layer providing a slow and steady supply of calcium to the bloodstream during the night when most of the shell formation is taking place.

Pre-lay feeding—It is recommended to increase the level of calcium to pullets about two weeks before lay begins, to assist the pullets in storing calcium in their bones in preparation for the following early demand on calcium for egg shell formation. High levels of calcium fed to pullets before this time will adversely affect laying performances.

Calcium separation—Can be reduced by having transfer distances short and by keeping augers in repair. Air delivery causes more separation than augers.



Shells with a weak structure and subject to cracking are generally a result of poor nutrition.

FIGURE 1

Calcium intake of layers at varying feed intakes and calcium contents of the diets

Daily Feed Intake gms.	Percentage Calcium in the Ration			
	3.0	3.5	3.8	4.0
85	2.5	3.0	3.2	3.4
95	2.8	3.3	3.6	3.8
100	3.0	3.5	3.8	4.0
110	3.3	3.8	4.2	4.4
120	3.6	4.2	4.6	4.8
130	3.9	4.5	4.9	5.2

Figure 2

Nutrient requirements for shell calcification

Nutrient	Suggested levels for crossbred layers
Calcium (%)	3.8
Total Phosphorous (%)	0.4
Magnesium (mg/kg)	400
Zinc (mg/kg)	50
Manganese (mg/kg)	50
Chloride (%)	0.1
Potassium (%)	0.25
Vitamin D3 (I.U./kg)	500

Phosphorous

A level of 0.4% total phosphorous is required for the correct maintenance of egg production and shell quality.

The mineral phosphorous is considered in association with calcium. Phosphorous plays an important part in the metabolic process and the correct level for the layer is important. An excess intake of phosphorous will result in reduced shell strength.

Not all phosphorous fed is available to the layer. It is

considered that only 30% or less of plant phosphorous is available to the bird. Also, if phosphorous in the diet is mainly supplied from meat and bone meal then a level higher (say 1-3%) than that recommended is safe because of the unavailability of a part of the phosphorous in the bone particles.

Magnesium

A dietary level of 400 ppm magnesium is essential for maintaining shell strength. An excess of magnesium (over 1% of the diet) is harmful as it inhibits the precipitation of calcium. Some limestones contain high levels of magnesium and these products should be avoided to prevent the level of 1% from being exceeded.

Zinc

Fifty ppm of zinc is required by the laying hen to ensure sound egg shells.

Zinc is important because it is a component of the enzyme carbonic anhydrase which is one of the two enzymes involved in shell calcification in the uterus of the bird. A deficiency of zinc could reduce the activity of the enzyme and indirectly affect shell formation.

To ensure the correct level of zinc is provided to the layer, zinc oxide is added to the diet to supplement the zinc occurring in natural ingredients.

Manganese

Layers require at least 50 ppm of manganese in their diet for the maintenance of shell thickness. Wheat, meat and bone meal diets provide manganese but because of the unknown availability of the natural manganese of these products manganese is added to the diet in the form of manganese sulphate.

Chlorine

A dietary level of 0.15% chlorine is necessary for digestion and food utilisation. Chlorine is met by adding salt to the diet. A chloride level in excess of 0.25% is harmful for shell calcification as this would cause the metabolic condition known as acidosis. When this happens the bicarbonate level in the blood declines and shell formation suffers due to a shortage of carbonate ions required for combination with calcium to form calcium carbonate crystals.

Potassium

A level of 0.25% is required in the diet. Potassium helps to maintain the bicarbonate level in the blood.

Vitamin D3

Vitamin D3 is needed for normal egg production and for the proper utilisation of calcium and phosphorous for production of bone and egg shell material. Vitamin D3 is supplied in synthetic form.

Internal Quality Defects Caused By Nutritional Deficiencies

(a) Yolk Colour.

Synthetic pigments are added to the layers' diet for satisfactory yolk colour.

Areas needing attention for the application of yolk colouring additives are:

- Reduced feed consumption during hot weather means a reduced yolk pigmentation intake. Check on yolk colour continually to avoid this happening and add higher levels of yolk additives if required.
- Correct mixing of the additives into the ration is important. Small quantities only are required and the yolk colour additive must be included in the premix before adding to the major part of the ration.

(b) Blood Spots.

This major defect causes down-grading of eggs and consumer rejection.

Heredity is an important factor in blood spotting. It is believed that low levels of Vitamin A fed to layers for maximum egg production is the amount required to minimise blood spots.

(c) Flavour of Eggs.

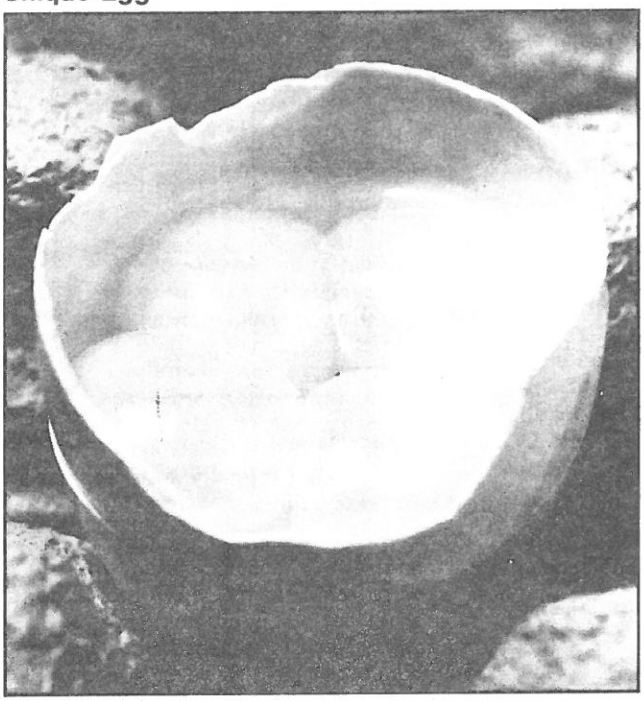
Flavours of eggs can be affected by feeding fishmeal, rapeseed meal to the layer. Remember, flavour can be created by storing eggs in coolrooms with other products, e.g. onions.

(d) Yolk and White Discolouration.

Discolouration can occur from feeding cottonseed meal in the diet. Also if birds have access to marshmallow, discolouration of yolks and whites is likely to occur □

Rod Woolford

Unique Egg



We are indebted to the Swedish Egg Marketing Association for this month's cover photograph. In the accompanying letter, Mr C.O. Johansson states that this is the first time in more than 50 years of handling eggs that his Association has discovered one with four yolks.

Today, the Association has seven packing plants with a combined weekly capacity of 50 000 boxes. It was at one of these plants in Perstorp, southern Sweden, that a sharp-eyed candler spotted this unique egg, which weighed just 55g.

What Sets A Hen's Heart Racing

BEAK TRIMMING causes a hen no more stress than picking the bird up, and less than some loud noises.

That is one of the findings from a research project undertaken by Dr Philip Glatz, a researcher at the Department of Agriculture's S. Australia Parafield Poultry Research Centre.

He said beak trimming caused the same increase in a bird's heart rate as picking it up to inspect it.

Dr Glatz's project was designed to establish a means of objective assessment of stress in hens, to determine the optimum amount of beak to trim and to assess the impact of commercial beak trimming on the productivity of hens.

He found commercial levels of beak trimming induced very little stress and had no detrimental effect on production, but the trial also produced some interesting sidelights.

Heart-Rate Response of Hens to Different Stressors

Number of Observations	Stress	Increase in Heart-Rate (beats / min)	Recovery Time (min)
4	Air Conditioner Compressor ON	75-120	6-8
2	Air Conditioner Compressor OFF	30	4
1	Power Saw	105	16
1	Power Drill	30	2
1	Truck	75	10
2	Lawn Mower	75-120	8-10
3	Light Aircraft	30-60	2-4
1	Telephone	120	6
1	Thunder and Heavy Rain	45	2
1	Other Bird Species (Sparrows)	60	2
1	Hen Escaping from Cage	60	4
1	Sudden Awakening from Sleep	105	2
1	Person Walking in Shed	45	4
4	People Talking Loudly Nearby	15-60	2-6
170	Handling	100	6
85	Beaktrimming	100	10-20

During the tests, in which the birds were monitored for heart rate, respiration rate and skin temperature, some were exposed to various incidental noises such as vehicles, a lawnmower, the compressor of an air-conditioner and a chainsaw outside the test area—all noises to which birds in commercial sheds might be exposed.

Those noises were not a scheduled part of the test programme, but happened while tests were underway, and he took the opportunity to monitor reactions to them.

Each of the stimuli increased the hen's heart rate by between 100 and 120 beats a minute.

The heart rate of the bird subjected to the noise of a power saw during testing rose by 105 beats, and returned to normal 16 minutes later.

All other periods of disturbance were shorter, except for some disturbances after beak trimming.

The heart rates of birds being trimmed, peaked at an increase of 100 beats a minute, and took from 10 to 20 minutes to return to normal, depending on the strain of bird, Dr Glatz said.

A lawnmower and an air-conditioner compressor outside the test area produced the highest heart rates—120 above normal.

Even people talking loudly nearby caused heart rate increases of up to 60 beats a minute.

The same picture was obtained from respiration rates and skin temperatures, Dr Glatz said.

The tests showed that the birds were adaptable and recovered quickly, Dr Glatz said, and the incidental observations suggested that noise was a source of stress for hens.

With that in mind it seemed poultry farmers would be advised to minimise sudden loud noises around their sheds.

8

MANAGEMENT OF GEESE

THE "SET"

Geese put together for breeding purposes are usually referred to as a "set". The gander is placed with a number of geese. Some writers recommend not more than two geese, but others suggest as many as five being a suitable number. Much depends on the virility of the gander and existing conditions, but certainly if too many are included in the set the eggs may not be fertile. With the very large geese it is certainly advisable to limit the number of females.

The birds should be placed together in the autumn and, if possible, the arrangement should last the whole season. There is nothing more disturbing to the geese than being introduced to new companions. When placed in the run the geese should be locked in a suitable fox-proof shed for a few days. This then enables them to associate the accomodation with "home" into which they can be driven each night. After a period they will probably go into the shed by themselves.

Geese mature slowly and live for a considerable period – 20 years or even longer. However, because of this slow development, geese should not be bred from until they are at least 2 years of age. Indeed, with a gander, maturity may not be reached until he is 3-4 years of age. Goslings from young parents may turn out to be rather weak.

Once a set is breeding, success may be achieved for a long period often exceeding 10 years.

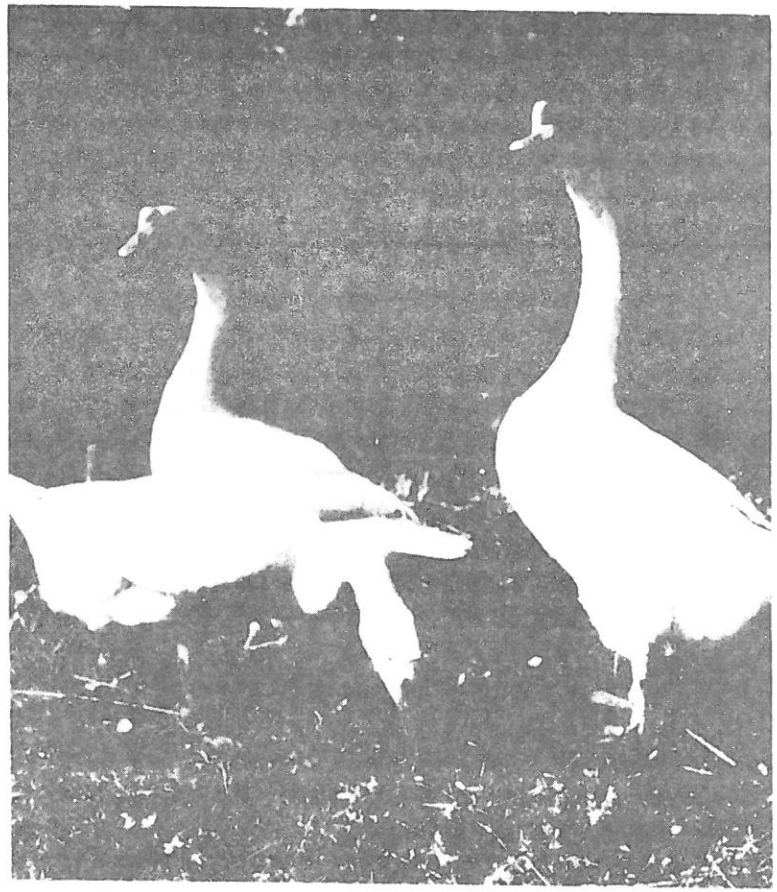
ACCOMMODATION

Geese will thrive in any type of accommodation built along the lines suggested for ducks. Each goose should have floor space of around 4 square feet. Floor litter of leaves or shavings should be changed regularly or the floor will become wet and unhygienic.

Ventilation is absolutely vital and, therefore, wire netting or slats should be provided to allow a constant flow of air.

Nest boxes may be provided – one per goose – and these should be around 2 feet 6 inches square. Fresh straw should be placed in each nest box. However, keep a watchful eye on any likely quiet spots where a goose may lay. All eggs should be collected daily and, if the goose is to be allowed to sit, pot eggs should be put into the nest. A goose may become broody after 30 eggs have been laid.

In the breeding season a food hopper may be kept in the shed containing layers' pellets. This will supplement the normal food giving the proteins essential for successful breeding.



A set of White Chinese Geese

THE RUN

Geese may be kept in a limited run, but this is not advisable. They are large birds which feed primarily on grass. Accordingly, around ½ acre of grazing land is essential and with a set of 4-5 geese an area of 2-3 acres is advisable. Otherwise, particularly early in the season, the area will not yield sufficient food.

The area of the run should be surrounded by wire netting. If it is to be fox-proof then wire at least 6 feet high is essential. Furthermore, wire should be laid on the ground on the outside of the fence, thus preventing a fox from scratching a hole and going underneath.

Within the run there should be a pond, or, at least, a suitable water fountain. **Adequate fresh water is vital**. This need not be swimming water although it is thought that the presence of a pond does improve fertility.

BREEDING SEASON

Geese should commence laying in February, but the precise date depends on age of the birds, weather, food available and related factors. Some start earlier and others later.

Once started a goose will lay a clutch of eggs – usually between 12 and 30 eggs. As noted earlier each egg should be collected daily and replaced by a pot egg. Then once the goose becomes seriously broody — becoming aggressive, hissing and staying on the nest constantly – the proper eggs may be put under her.

As with any broody, she should be segregated from the rest, being placed in a small shed or coop. The goose should be allowed off the nest daily and given food and water. She may be allowed to run in the same area as the other geese, thus remaining as part of the set.

A broody hen may also be used for hatching. However, whereas a goose will cover around 15 eggs, a broody hen will probably cover between 4 and 6 eggs. This means that quite a number of broodies will be required and for this reason an incubator may be employed.

Although difficulty used to be experienced with artificial incubation of goose eggs, modern methods enable them to be hatched quite successfully. The incubation period is around 30 days with a possible time of 28-30 days, (but possibly as long as 34 days). The hatching procedure is similar to that for ducks.

If the maximum number of eggs is to be obtained then a goose should not be allowed to sit on her eggs. She can then be induced to lay more eggs within the laying period which covers from early in the year to July. Once this period has elapsed no more eggs will be laid and the season is over. The total number of eggs laid will depend very much on the breed and the food supplied. Around 30 eggs is normal, but some geese will lay more than 60; the good layers may exceed 100 eggs.

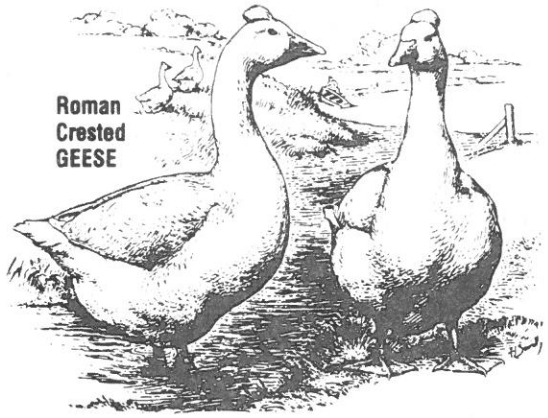
GRAZING

There must be ample grass for the geese to graze. In winter supply them with pellets or, when the water is not frozen, wheat soaked in water is quite beneficial.

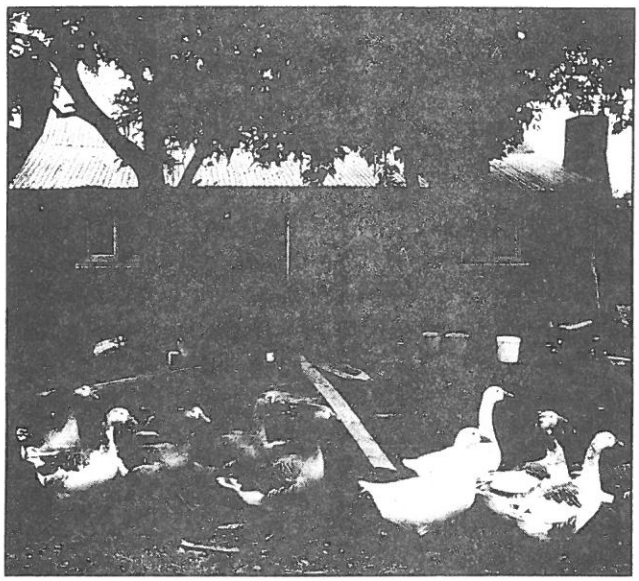
They may be allowed to roam around an orchard or even a semi-woodland enclosure. However, do remember that they may damage young trees and certain trees and plants are not good for them. Usually, if a tree is poisonous; e.g. Laburnum, then it is better to fence it off.

Geese are tremendous foragers and will, therefore, keep an area quite clean and the grass quite short. With a large enough area they will fend for themselves. If there is inadequate food to be found a goose will "go light" and may even die. For this reason sound management is absolutely essential. Moreover, the fancier or breeder should watch very carefully for any signs of geese losing weight or looking rather lifeless.

If in doubt, and always when birds are laying or being fattened, keep a hopper well topped-up with layers' pellets. This should be kept indoors or the food will spoil; moreover, wild birds and other creatures will consume a tremendous amount of food. This is too expensive to waste!



Green stuff such as kale and cabbage may also be given. Some farmers also feed root crops such as turnips which are finely minced. **Remember though, that grass should be the main food; it is cheap and effective.**



OPERATION GOOD NEWS 88

As the secretary of the local Baptist Church, I have become involved in an large and exciting project, Operation Good News.

The aim of this project is to ensure that every household in Australia has a copy of the Bible available to them, and to encourage people to read the book and ask Who is this Jesus?

The scope of this project is enormous and all the main churches have joined together to achieve this goal. Despite our differences, all the churches agree that the Bible is able to change lives, and to give meaning and purpose to those lives.

I know that there is no other book which has influenced me as much as this book, which told me of a relationship which I had not known, my relationship with God.

I make no apology for my beliefs, or for the way I live. I wish to offer you, with no strings attached, a copy of the Bible, free of any charges, free of any obligation of any kind.

This project has been given the official stamp of the Australian Bicenteniel Authority, but dont let that put you off. Many of you in remote rural areas may not have a local church to ensure you have a copy, or you may not have this opportunity again.

To put it another way, I personally wish to make this gift to you, ask and it is yours. There is no obligation in any way, nor any cost to you for the book or postage.

Phone me, write to me or call in, I can assure you the pleasure is all mine.