

program for the large broad-breast turkey, but there may be a small type turkey in the near future when the small type turkey will return the most profit because of consumer demand. In order to be ready to meet this change, if and when it should come about, it may be a good plan for the hatcherymen and breeders to maintain a flock of small type turkeys.

If we hope to maintain our present desirable characteristics in the turkey of the future, it will be necessary to do a continuous job of selection and breeding for these characteristics. This is especially true of the large broad breast. There is a definite tendency to revert to the "wild turkey" type through natural selection over a period of years. Then, too, don't make the mistake of trying to develop a strain of turkeys with hens and toms of the same size by mating average size hens with small toms. This has been tried a number of times by turkey breeders, but the resulting offspring are just smaller in size with approximately the same "natural ratio" of size and weight between sexes.

Feed Economical Rations

Since the cost of feed is the largest item of expense in the production of turkeys, the ration which has been found by experience to best give the most efficient gain is most desirable. Since everything that a turkey eats is considered a part of the ration, let's talk a little about pastures. Did your turkeys have all the succulent pasture that they could eat last season, from

the time they went to range until the late fall? If they did please let me know about your program, because I have failed yet to find an Indiana grower of over 1,000 turkeys that could answer this question "yes"; I believe by next year at this time, Lem Johnson of Orange County can say "yes" to this question, because he will have 48 acres of ladino clover ready for his 15,000 turkeys this spring. He plans to pasture the ladino for short periods throughout the entire season by keeping the turkeys on the morn.

There is a question as to how much feed can be saved with a succulent pasture. I don't know the answer as far as turkeys are concerned, but 20% of the feed cost of a growing pullet can be saved with ladino clover pasture. If near the same results can be obtained with growing turkeys this could mean the difference between profit and loss some years.

Efficient Management Practices

When we talk about "efficient management practices", it is necessary to consider every method or practice that we use in taking care of the turkey from the arrival of the day-old pullet to the time the turkey leaves the farm. This problem of increasing our efficiency is so big, that it will only be possible to mention a few of the newer methods of mass production that will save labor and return greater profits.

Probably the greatest change in turkey production during the past few years, has been in the methods of brooding. There has been a very rapid change from the single 15' x 12' brooder or house unit to the large commercial unit. With the introduction of the large permanent house also come automatic watering systems, central heating plants automatically controlled by thermostats, and the deep litter idea. As time marched by, turkey growers also found that they could grow just as good pullets with a lot less labor by eliminating partitions which were used to separate the turkey pullets in small groups. So, today most growers brood several thousand turkeys together in one pen.

In addition to the saving of labor required in caring for individual stores, the large central heating plants also reduce the fuel cost. Take the heating problems on the turkey farms of Lawrence Bartley, Dubois County. Mr. Bartley has two large tile houses 24' x 80' where he broods 1,000 pullets at one

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