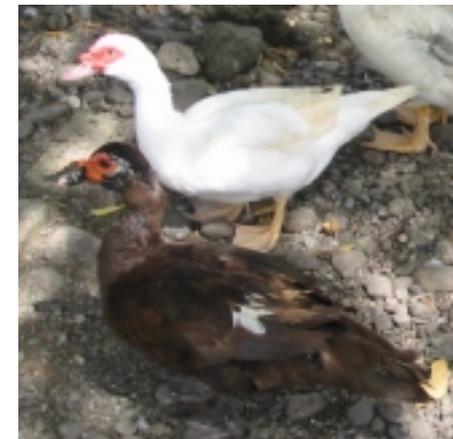




National Agricultural Research Institute

Muscovy Ducks



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DESCRIPTION

Muscovy ducks are white, black or sometimes black and white in color. The face is covered with red patches called “caruncles” with rough skin and they have well fleshed breasts. The ducks (females) are smaller than the drakes (males).

These ducks are considered to be dual-purpose ducks because they are used to produce eggs and meat. They are quite tame, hardy and robust birds and can perform well under village conditions, sometimes even better than other types of duck or Australorp chickens.

Muscovy ducks are suitable for villages, schools and back yard farming in towns. They require a very low level of management and skills. They are easy and cheap to look after and their meat and eggs can be sold for cash or consumed by the family.

MANAGEMENT

A simple inexpensive deep litter house close to a source of water is all you need for the ducks. For the first six weeks the ducklings (young ones) must be housed at all times and fed with commercial feed (broiler starter / broiler finisher) or

cooked garden food and greens.

After reaching six weeks of age, they should be allowed to forage or scavenge the whole day and fed one meal of staple food in the night house. Feeding should be done at the same time and place every day. Fencing the duck house is not necessary but may be required for security reasons. Swimming water is not necessary but the ducks must have sufficient clean water at all times to drink and wash their heads.

BREEDING

A good size for a family breeding unit is 1 drake and 5 ducks. The birds are ready for breeding at the age of 7-8 months. Muscovy ducks lay large tinted eggs (10-30 eggs per clutch) with a production capacity of 80-100 eggs per year. These ducks are good mothers, sitting readily on their eggs. It takes 35 days for their eggs to hatch from the time the mother starts sitting on them.

The ducklings should be removed from the mother and reared separately. They can either be sold or killed for family consumption at about twelve weeks of age.