

By keeping a monthly account it is possible to see just what the hens are paying you. For this purpose blank forms similar to the one shown on page 4 are supplied free upon application to the Poultry Division.

By filling a bin in the hen house with grain once a month and providing a good sized dry mash hopper, the trouble of keeping account of the feed is reduced to a minimum. It needs no great effort to record the daily egg yield on the same sheet with the amount of feed deposited in the bin and mash hopper. Keeping an account of expenditure and daily yield will make the work far more interesting and is a great incentive to better production.

*Feeding.*—To secure the best results in feeding it is necessary to separate the hens from the pullets. Feed that will give good results with pullets will make the old hens too fat. There are many methods of feeding and each individual must decide for himself just what plan he will follow. The old-fashioned method was to feed moist mash, but of late owing to the high price of labour, poultrymen, seeking for methods that would reduce cost of production, have found that the dry food system gives good results and have very largely adopted it. In this system the ground grains are mixed, just as they would be in making the old-style mash, but instead of wetting enough for each feeding, a quantity of the mixture sufficient to last some time is placed in a hopper, where the hens can have free access to it; or, a hopper can be made with a hinged cover, so that it may be opened or closed at will. The whole grain is fed in the litter as under the old system. Provided the requirements are supplied the simpler the method of feeding the better. Pure water should be accessible at all times, sound grains in variety, meat in some form, green food and grit. Sour milk can be had on most farms and nothing gives better results for either raising chicks or feeding the layers. When the fowl are in confined quarters, feed them so that they will be eager for the grain feed, which should be thrown in a deep litter so as to keep them busy.

If milk is not to be had, it will be necessary to feed one-half ounce green cut bone per head per day or one of the commercial meat foods.

The mash may consist of bran, cornmeal and middlings, equal parts with ten per cent of whole ration of beef scrap added or about twenty per cent of mash ration.

*Marketing.*—No matter how successfully production is managed the profit will to a great extent depend on the marketing. The ideal method is where the producer can sell direct to the consumer; if it is impossible on account of location to do this, aim to market so as to have as few middlemen as possible. If you are not situated close to a good retail market, probably the co-operative egg circle method will be best. But under any system, care should be taken to market only high-class products. If you are shipping to a circle send nothing but strictly new laid eggs of good size and colour. If you have any eggs that are small or of uncertain age keep them at home for cooking, as the marketing of them will spoil your reputation and the price for your good eggs. If you are supplying private trade it will aid you to better prices if they are put up in neat cartons on which is printed your name and other information that may be thought advisable. The same care should be taken in marketing table poultry; see that it is properly fleshed, and if sold dead that it is neatly dressed.

Endeavour to make every month of the year a selling month. Sell the surplus cockerels from your early hatchings for broilers when the price is high rather than hold them till fall and sell at a lower price as roasters. As soon as the breeding season is over sell off the old hens; they will fill a gap between the time the broilers have finished and the time the roasters are ready. They will bring much better prices than if held until the fall and they will not crowd the market at the time the roasters are being sold thus avoiding the glut and low prices at that time of the year.