

# POULTRY MANAGEMENT;

AND

## THE PRESERVATION OF EGGS

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### FEEDING HENS IN WINTER

The aim when feeding poultry during the winter months is to provide a sufficient variety so that a bird will be able to supply itself with all the different classes of foods which it could gather for itself when on free range in summer.

On a good range during the summer months fowls eat (1) a variety of grains and seeds; (2) a large amount of grasses and vegetable matter; (3) a smaller quantity of meat food (in the form of bugs, snails, grasshoppers, etc.), (4) some mineral substances (in the form of gravel) containing principally lime and phosphates; (5) they also drink a lot of water.

In the summer a hen gets practically all of these things for herself and in doing so is compelled to exercise from daylight to dark. This exercise in the open air keeps her muscles and digestive apparatus in such excellent trim that she is able to digest a great deal more food than is required to sustain her. The surplus is either stored up as fat or is used in the production of eggs.

In order to get hens to lay in winter we must not only provide the kinds of food which they would be able to get on good range in summer, but we must feed in such a way that the birds, while getting a crop full will be required to exercise almost as much as they do in summer.

Any of the common grains, namely: wheat, plump oats, or barley, make good poultry food. A mixture of all three would be better, or the grains might be fed alternately. Wheat is the best single grain food for poultry and frosted wheat, say No. 4 or No. 5, if not heated or mouldy, make more economical feed than No. 1.

Whole grain is best for the early morning feed. It should be scattered in a litter of clean straw (which should cover the hen house floor to a depth of four or five inches), allowing about a gallon and a half or say (12 pounds), for each hundred hens. The birds will be kept busy till noon scratching among the litter for the grain. A