

POULTRY YARD

Low Cost Cement Floor

Geo. A. Wright, Ont.

A cement floor in your poultry house has many advantages, and if put down in the economical way, will cost no more than boards.

We have no use for earth floors as they are apt to become poisoned and foul. We have board floors in eight of our breeding pens and the rest of them were earth underfoot, till last fall, when we put in the simple cement floor, which we wish to describe.

At any brickyard you can get, as we did, broken bricks for about seventy-five cents for a big load, and this is your foundation for a grand floor. We first leveled the earth then laid the bricks fairly close with the flat side

one could wish, and it is very easily cleaned. Of course, broken stone can be used for the foundation instead of brick. Cinders are also sometimes more easily obtained. The broken brick, however, if available, is the best, as it makes such an even, compact surface to lay the cement on, and when finished, the floor is absolutely solid and lasting.

A good floor is very important in any poultry house and if constructed as outlined above will cost so little that any person can have it.

Charcoal for Chick.

A lady subscriber desires readers to know that she has found freshly burned charcoal, including charred grains, one of the best of all remedies for bowel diseases, even for roup. The problem with little chicks in brooders is bowel disease, to overcome which she every day pulverizes fresh charcoal and mixes with the

Value of Foods for Poultry

Walter M. Wright, Renfrew Co., Ont.

During the high prices of grains on the market we often think that perhaps it is possible to rearrange the grains and food stuffs that we are using in the daily rations of our fowls and for that reason an explanation of the true value of foods will assist perhaps in making a cheaper and more substantial bill of fare. With a knowledge of their value and digestibility, the local market prices will readily determine in individual cases what ones can profitably be eliminated and what ones substituted.

Wheat: This is the most common grain used by poultry men and we find it supplied in various forms such as bran, shorts, coarse flour, and whole. As an exclusive whole grain it is not desirable, being deficient in protein or the flesh forming element, and somewhat deficient in fat. The bran of the wheat is good having nearly all the flesh-forming element, and is a good "corrective" when used in the mash. The shorts and coarse flours are high in the albuminoids or the egg-forming material, and can to advantage be fed as the bulk of the mash feed. When saying that whole wheat is not desirable as the only grain feed I have in mind confined stock only because those flocks which have liberty can easily fill up from other seeds, etc., the deficiency in protein, fats or salts.

Turning now to the grain most used by our friends across the border we find:

Oats: This grain in its two forms, husk and whole. If it were not for the husk of the oats we would have in it a perfect food as it combines in the proper proportions those elements necessary for the perfect rebuilding of the body, hence also all the elements necessary for the making of eggs. This is the reason that cockerels raised on oats in any form grow to be such husky chaps and the reason that they grow so steadily and fast. But in the form of oat meal it is too expensive a food and in the whole it has perhaps too much of the husk. Consequently oats are generally fed in the mash form and certainly pay well where the price is not too high.

Barley: This grain is not as much used as it might be, and compares favorably with wheat only that it has an excess of husk. But this must be fed cautiously as it affects the bowels sometimes. This grain, however, is more profitable to feed than is often imagined. It makes a splendid mash food.

Rice: Is a starchy food much used and even though its price were high is not a very desirable food for any but growing stock and even then is not a paying grain.

Chicks Bare on Backs

What is the cause of chickens becoming bare on the back, all the down being gone, and no feathers showing? The chicks seem healthy, and growing well, but no feathers except a few on the wings. What is best to do for them?—T. S.,—Peterboro County.

The bareness is caused by too much hot sun when the down was thin, and loosening preparatory to the coat of feathers replacing it. At this time sunburn sometimes affects the skin and retards the appearance of feathers while the down is loosened and rubbed off. Another and more common cause perhaps, is overheating at night, owing to overcrowding in the sleeping quarters. The weaker ones are thus kept at the bottom of the heap and it is a wonder they live till morning in this awful crush and foul air from the floor. Get these weaker ones away from the flock where they will not be crowded, and provide more room for them.

Pen the weaker chick in a shady place, and give some of Hess Panacea in their feed for a few days till they look more thrifty.

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