

Of course, just now my hogs are running on clover pasture and do not need much else to supplement the green feed. A little later, when the pasture is gone, I have some third cutting of alfalfa hay which I will use.

Heretofore I have utilized this in two ways: The easier is, of course, to simply put it in a rack, as I would for sheep, and let the hogs go to it and eat it as their appetites demand. The best way, is to run it through a feed cutter and then mix it with swill. This I do when I am coxing flesh on small pigs or old stock. It is not so necessary with healthy, vigorous hogs. Of course, cutting and mixing with swill adds to the cost of fattening hogs. I give them a little oil meal, not very much, but enough to assist in keeping the hogs in good condition. I am tempted at times to feed a little cracked wheat, but unless I have screenings on hand, I won't do it. This year, of course, we have no winter wheat in our neighborhood, and I will have to depend principally upon corn.

One year I fed tankage to my feeding hogs. I previously used it with growing pigs and found it exceedingly satisfactory. It seemed to help the fat hogs, but not as much as the others, so I do not think that I will feed it again this winter, except to my growing stuff. I think it is a grand feed, but fattening hogs when well along need very little protein except that furnished by the alfalfa hay.

#### Spraying for Lice.

A few years ago I found my hogs were badly infested with lice. I secured some of the commercial spraying mixture and applied once a month. I then dipped my hogs, but when the cold weather came this was rather disagreeable and sometimes an unsatisfactory operation, so for the last few years I have used a knapsack sprayer, and when I feed my hogs in the morning I go among them and see that they are thoroughly sprayed. After they are once free from lice, I am not sure that spraying once a month is necessary. However, it is not much trouble, costs very little, and I believe it pays.

I find it necessary and highly desirable to feed cob charcoal as a condiment. It seems to be very palatable and is easily prepared. I dig a hole in the ground, start a fire, fill with cobs, then cover with a piece of sheet iron. When the cobs are pretty well charred, remove the sheet iron and pour in water. Make the hole large enough to secure charcoal for a month. Sometimes it lasts only two weeks. I find also that breaking up ordinary soft coal in small pieces and feeding it to hogs gives good results.

I find that pure water is very essential to the rapid fattening of hogs. I have a wind pump on the place and the water is pumped into an elevated tank. From this I pipe it to my hog lots, and thus it is possible to have pure water in the troughs at all times. If the troughs become at all filthy I clean them out and wash them thoroughly without delay.

I used to feed cattle quite extensively, and during that time I had quite a number of hogs following steers. The last few years it has been impossible to get steers at anything like a satisfactory price, consequently I have been feeding my hogs by themselves. I think I will again go into the cattle feeding business in a small way.

I realize that my method of fattening hogs is probably no different from that of hundreds of others. I try, however, to have clean pens, pure water, spray to keep the animals free of lice, and then give plenty of corn, alfalfa hay, cob charcoal, etc. If this is done you will have very little difficulty in putting your hogs on the market at the earliest possible moment in fine condition. The time of marketing is somewhat governed by the weight most popular with shippers and to a greater extent by the price of fat hogs in the central markets.

#### Getting Eggs in Winter

C. N. Whitaker, Van Buren Co. Mich.

Eggs will bring high prices this winter, and farmers who wish to have their poultry yards show a nice balance

during December and January should bear in mind that to bring this about more can be done in a few days during the fall than in several weeks after winter is here.

Start right now and clean out the henhouse. Take out the dirt to the depth worked in by the hens and fill in with clean, fresh soil, so it will dry out before winter comes. Spray the interior well with some good disinfectant. Examine the roof carefully and repair all leaks or weak places that may become leaks before spring. Wash the windows and replace all broken panes of glass with new ones. There will be several months during which the hens will be shut indoors, and everything must be as comfortable for them as possible in order to have them do their best work in filling the egg basket.

#### Liberal Feeding an Egg Secret.

The hens have probably moulted by this time and growing the new feathers is keeping them thin. The sooner the new feathers are grown the sooner the eggs will come, and to hurry them along as fast as possible the fowls should be fed liberally. Give them all the mash they will eat, and a good feeding of grain at night. To many it looks like throwing away money to practice heavy feeding while there are no eggs coming in, but this is one of the secrets of getting winter eggs. The molting season is the most critical period in the life of a hen. Growth of new feathers is a heavy strain on vitality. As the hen is fed on the average farm it takes her two to four months to recover from the effects of it. By giving her the necessary materials with which to make the feathers so she will not have to take them from the tissues of her body, she will be ready for work as soon as she has her new plumage; often before.

Pullets should be handled in the same way. They are not yet fully developed and will not begin to lay until the amount of food they consume is enough to support growth, with a surplus to go into something else. This surplus will go into eggs or fat, according to whether the food given is fat-forming or egg-producing. With both the hen and the pullet it is the surplus food that

goes to make the egg. The reason the average farmer does not get more winter eggs from his flock is, that after keeping the body in good physical condition the hens have no surplus.

#### Food Formula for Eggs.

The laying mash has become generally recognized as the most convenient, as well as the most economical method of providing the hen with these materials. The following is a good formula: Coarse wheat bran, coarse middlings, ground corn and oats, alfalfa meal, meat scrap, each 100 pounds; linseed meal 40 pounds, fine table salt 10 pounds. This 550 pounds of feed, costing around \$10, should be enough to last a flock of 100 hens one month, and should produce during that time, at December and January prices from \$50 to \$60 worth of eggs. There is not another animal on the farm that will show this profit from the same amount of feed given in addition to the regular rations.

As soon as snow comes so the hens are confined to the house they should be given a good litter of straw, in which they are compelled to dig for every kernel of grain they get, in order to keep them active and in good health. In the morning give them a light feed of wheat, buckwheat or oats, and about 10 o'clock put enough dry mash in the hoppers to last all day. Be sure it is thoroughly mixed, and remember that when you begin to economize on mash you will get fewer eggs. It is a good plan to have the hoppers cleaned up daily so the fowls will always have fresh feed before them. About an hour before time to go to roost give them a liberal feed of cracked corn in the litter. The exercise they get in scratching for this will get them warmed up by bedtime.

#### Pure Water and Pure Air Always.

Be sure they have plenty of pure water, and though authorities differ, I do not favor giving them a warm drink. If warm water is put in it will become cold in a short time, and the change from warm to cold and from cold to warm is not beneficial.

One thing more, and this is by no means the least important; pure air night and day is absolutely essential to good health, and, therefore, to good egg

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