

POULTRY YARD

What Grains to Feed

What grain I feed to my hens with profit this year? I can get oats and buckwheat, but no wheat. There is a car of corn coming in at \$1.40 per 100 lbs. Can I do better than that? I can oats and wheat, or buckwheat, be obtained, and how much more would you pay for the whole grain than for the screenings?

Corn at \$1.40 is reasonable, providing it is good corn, and I think for the winter this should make a good proportion of your feed. We are buying buckwheat at \$1.25 a cwt., which at that price is cheap, and we are feeding considerable of it. Our feed wheat costs \$1.75 in Montreal, and I have on that account not fed as much of it as usual. I do not know where you can get corn and wheat screenings. I have never been able to buy any of it with satisfaction.—F.C.E.

Feeding Value of Sunflower Seeds

Tell me what is the feeding value of sunflower seed, and how best to feed same, whole or ground, and amount to feed?—J. H. Halton Co., Ont.

Sunflower seed is a very valuable food for poultry, especially at moulting time. Corn has 10.4 parts protein in 100; sunflower has 13 parts and wheat, 11.9; buckwheat, 10. The sunflowers are also very rich in carbohydrates and fat, and if you have much of the sunflower seed it would be well to mix it with the other grains. If you are feeding a mixed dry mash in a hopper you might put in about 10 per cent of ground sunflower, or it can be fed whole with the other grains in the litter. Hens are very fond of it, either way. If you mix it with your grain ration you might put in one-quarter to one-sixth of it.—F.C.E.

Dressed Poultry at Ottawa

Among the special prizes for poultry at the Live Stock and Poultry Show to be held at Ottawa, January 17th to 21st, is \$10.00 for best case of 12 fatted cockerels as per select grade, P.P.A., donated by Poultry Producers' Association of Eastern Canada; \$10 for best collection of dressed poultry donated by Poultry Yards of Canada, Limited, Pembroke. Goods value \$5 for second best collection of dressed poultry.

For the benefit of those wishing to compete for the Poultry Producers' special, the following information is given: The select grade to consist of specially fattened chickens, extra well fleshed, and of superior finish and appearance, unbroken skin, without blemish, straight breast bone, and neatly packed in packages that hold one dozen birds; the package shall be made after the plan recommended by the Department of Agriculture and illustrated in bulletin No. 7. One package shall include only birds of uniform size and color of flesh and legs.

The package referred to is a case made of $\frac{1}{4}$ inch to $\frac{1}{2}$ inch basswood or spruce. For chicks weighing from $\frac{3}{4}$ to 4 pounds each the boxes should be inside measurement 20 $\frac{1}{2}$ inches x 16 $\frac{1}{2}$ inches x 4 $\frac{1}{2}$. For chicks weighing from 4 to 4 $\frac{1}{2}$ pounds it will be necessary to have the boxes 24 $\frac{1}{2}$ x 17 $\frac{1}{2}$ x 4 $\frac{1}{2}$. For the larger birds weighing from 4 $\frac{1}{2}$ pounds to 5 $\frac{1}{2}$ or 6 pounds the boxes should be 26 $\frac{1}{2}$ x 18 x 5 $\frac{1}{2}$ inches.

The chicks shall be killed by dislocation bleeding in the mouth, dry plucked and cooled. If preferred a shaping board may be used. They should be tightly packed in this case. Only a few feathers should be left at the neck. Take all the feathers off the hocks and the wings. Line the box with parchment paper and in packing the birds put them either abreast or backs up which is preferred. If the backs are well covered with flesh they will present a better appearance this way than with feet up.

Poultry at the Amherst Fair

As usual, the poultry department at the Maritime Winter Fair drew the crowd, and well it might. There were about 1,000 birds cooped; the quality was good, and in some classes the competition was decidedly keen. In the open classes, judged by A. C. Smith, Waltham, Mass., the Barred Rocks and White Wyandottes were best represented. The utility classes were well drawn, and I had the work of placing the awards contained some good birds. The White Wyandottes took the lead, the Barred Rocks and B. Orpingtons also making strong classes. The utility classes were shown in pairs and pens. The cockerels and the pullets were shown separately. The showing in pairs, however, was not very satisfactory to the judge or the exhibitor. As an illustration of how it acts, the best cockerel in the Barred Rock class was not placed at all, as his mate was a very inferior specimen. This was also the case in the White Wyandottes. The turkeys were a good showing, the geese and ducks fair.

The dressed poultry was not as large an exhibit as has been shown, but the quality was up to the mark. The entire exhibit was bought by Mr. Henry Gatehouse of Montreal. In the dressed exhibit a very interesting feature was the judging contest. The women of Amherst and vicinity, who are members of the Hospital Aid, provide meals for the fair visitors and do noble work at the fair. By their efforts they raise about \$1,000 each year for the hospital. Every year there has been given a handsome silver service to the woman who can place most correctly three chickens, three turkeys, three ducks, and three geese. Each contestant must give reasons for the placing of the chickens, etc. This year three prizes were also given to women who were not members of the society. Some of the judging was very close, and showed that the women of Amherst were becoming expert in judging dressed poultry. The first place in the members' contest was awarded to Mrs. Alice Christie, of Amherst. In the non-member class the three prizes were won by—1st, Miss Arkison, an automobile cook; 2nd, Mrs. Wheatley, a suit case; 3rd, Mrs. Arkison, set of dishes.—F. C. Elford, Macdonald College, Que.

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