

FREELTON FAIR

October 4th and 5th

Under the auspices of the

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Agricultural Societies

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FEED LAYING PULLETS

They Need Extra Food to Keep
Laying.

Wheat and Corn Preferred by Poul-
try—Give Them Plenty of Green
Feed—Beet Growers Can Make
Good Syrup.

(Contributed by Ontario Department of
Agriculture, Toronto.)

A pullet requires more feed than
a hen, if it is intended that the
pullet shall produce eggs. A bird
to lay well must have a surplus of
feed over and above body mainten-
ance. The excess of feed above body
maintenance goes either towards
growth, fat, or egg production. Why
the pullet requires more feed than
the hen is because her growth is
usually not complete when she be-
gins laying.

Poultry prefer wheat and corn to
almost any other grain, but a lot
depends on what they were fed when
growing. Certain feeds they never
have seen they do not relish, usual-
ly, when first fed. Hence one per-
son's hens eat oats or barley much
better than their neighbor's. The
available grain feeds on the farm
are corn, buckwheat, barley, and
oats. Good wheat cannot be used.
The non-milling wheat, such as that
which is sprouted, or very small, may
be used up to twenty-five per cent.
of the ration.

Poultry feeds are divided into
two classes: one, whole or cracked
grains, commonly called scratch
feed; and the other, ground grains,
commonly called mash.

Scratch feeds are generally fed
night and morning, and are scat-
tered in straw in order to induce the
birds to scratch or take exercise. A
mixture of two or more kinds of
grain usually gives better results
than one single grain, largely be-
cause individual birds' appetites vary
from day to day. A good mixture for
the winter month might contain as
much as fifty per cent. good corn,
either whole or cracked; if corn
could not be had, and the birds
were accustomed to eating buck-
wheat, the buckwheat would answer
nearly as well, or one could use
twenty-five per cent. buckwheat and
twenty-five per cent. corn. To the
corn or buckwheat could be added
twenty-five per cent. of barley, ten
per cent. of wheat screenings, and
fifteen per cent. of good oats. If
one was obliged to do so, almost any
of the grains could be fed alone
with the exception of oats. There
is too much hull or husk on oats
to use entirely as a single feed.

At present for a mash feed we
are using the standard hog feed. If
the ground grains are to be fed moist
or mixed with cooked household
refuse then the mixture should be
one that will mix to a crumbly state,
but if fed dry in an open hopper the
above is not so important.

The mash feed is the one where
the animal meals are generally
given. The amounts vary from ten
to twenty per cent. of the mixture.
The animal meals used are com-
monly high grade tankage and beef
scrap. Where one has plenty of
skimmilk or buttermilk the other
animal feeds are unnecessary. Some
use green cut bone; cooked refuse
meat, such as livers, lights, beef
heads, etc.

A very good mash can be made
of one part each by measure of
shorts, barley meal, and ground
oats. Corn meal could be used in
the place of the barley or with it.
If one is short of green food or
roots, it would be well to add one
part of bran. Perhaps the simplest
mash to feed from an open hopper
is rolled or crushed oats. We have
used this, when the birds had milk
to drink, for a number of years with
excellent results.

Laying hens require plenty of
green feed. This green, succulent
feed, is very important. Too much
grain and no green food at times
is very dangerous. Cabbage is one
of the best green feeds. Roots are
very good, but clover leaves should
be within reach as well as the roots.
Sprouted oats are used to a large
extent on poultry farms. When the
birds get accustomed to a green and
succulent food it is generally wise to
give them all they will eat. A pen
of fifteen pullets will eat a fair-sized
head of cabbage almost every day,
or one hundred hens will eat a peck
of sprouted oats day after day.

Keep your pen sweet and clean,
but not drafty. Give the hens plenty
to eat and some variety to the feeds.
If you are regular in feeding and
kind in your manner, the hens usu-
ally respond with very fair egg
production.

Grit and shell should always be
within easy access.—W. R. Graham,
O. A. College, Guelph.

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future welfare of Canada, buy a Vic-
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