

For the Poultry Weekly.

FEEDING HENS.

And Other Things Concerning Biddy and Her Brood.

MR. Safford's practical article on feeding fowl in a recent number was alone worth the subscription to your paper.

But to Canadians the use of corn is, as a general thing, impossible owing to the cost. Corn is not a staple crop with us as it is in the States and the bulk of that grain used here is imported and a heavy duty is levied. This means that Mrs Biddy cannot have corn, for high priced food is not to her owner's liking. With the object of drawing out others, and I would like the readers of the Weekly to express their opinions more freely, I will state

HOW I FEED MY HENS

and if, the versatile editor or anyone can suggest any improvement no one will be more happy to adopt it than myself. This is my first letter on "hins" and I am not putting myself forward as an authority, merely giving my plans.

In the summer I feed a crumbly mass of shorts and bran in the morning, seasoned with with a sprinkling of sak. At noon and night I give oats and wheat on alternate days with lots of green food.

In winter the morning meal is always hot and consists of shorts and bran as staples, mixed with potatoes or any vegetable which comes handy, and seasoned with common black pepper. At noon during the early cold weather I feed corn on the cob or buckwheat, and an hour before dusk wheat scattered in the straw on the floor. The corn is what I grow in the garden and the supply lasts usually two months. My garden peas, of which I grow considerable, are never picked clean, the straw I use for litter occasionally and the hens take exercise in finding and opening the dried pods. I give them raw turnips to peck at, sometimes a pumpkin or beet, and occasionally dangle a cabbage or sheaf of oats just within their reach. I endeavor to keep them busy one way or another and I never yet had a hen too fat to lay, and in my four years of poultry keeping have lost but three from sickness.

Fed in this way, with everything except garden stuff to purchase, a flock of twenty hens costs me just five cents a day.

FEEDING CHICKS.

This has been written on frequently but while I am writing I may tell you how I do it with good results. I never feed boiled eggs to young chicks. Bread and milk is their dose until

three days old, then dry oatmeal and afterwards cracked wheat, with all the milk they can drink. Boiled rice is given if symptoms of diarrhoea show themselves, but not otherwise. Of sixty-nine chicks hatched in May and June 66 are living, three furnishing nourishment for a predatory cat.

FEEDING MOLTING HENS.

Hens when molting require food rich in nitrogen. I give mine the common white beans boiled, once a day, and if as sometimes happens they will not at first eat them, I withhold the next meal. Sunflower seed is good but my hens are usually over their molt by the time this is available, but they get all I can beg or raise just the same. Beans are, I believe, rich in nitrogen and form a healthy stimulant to egg production in winter. Root, of Gleanings, will bear me out in this, for it was on his suggestion that I first used them.

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Ye "versatile" (?) editor is not able to improve on the above plan. We can only affirm as to the nourishing quality of beans as alluded to. We often boil them till they thicken the water, and a good bone added makes cheap and nourishing stock to mix it with. Let us hear more of such good treatment for poultry. No wonder the birds live and thrive. They know what it is to have a good time and don't want to go to "Davy Jones" and miss it.

* When The Fancier Gets a New Breed

Of fowls, how prone he is to shut the birds up in a small house, or yard, and let all the rest of his flock run at large to enjoy the free air, sunlight and liberty that any fowls need for their well-being!

The opposite course is precisely what should be adopted. Confine the common fowls, if you keep any, and allow the new-comers the freedom of the farm or poultry run. You will then have less cause of complaint about the non-hatching of the valuable eggs of the "new breed."

If you stive the birds up, and deprive them of just what, more than likely, they have enjoyed hitherto all their lives, can it be wondered at that your model fowls' eggs don't hatch, or that you cannot get any chicks from the new variety, do what you will? We think not.

Send in on a postal the names of the poultry-men in your vicinity, show them a copy of the WEEKLY and get them to subscribe.