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ALFALFA Fattening Poultry For Market

(The Journal of Agriculture and Horticulture.)

The common practice in poultry packing houses is to feed each lot 21 days or less. The market or trade supplied and the results secured by the feeding period. Many milk-fed chickens are fed for 21 days, but results secured in feeding indicate that a more profitable gain can be secured in a shorter feeding period, provided the same price per pound can be secured for the finished product.

Methods of Fattening. MILK Fattening.

Practically all of the special feeding in this country involves the use of milk, thus producing "milk-fed" chickens. These have been exported to some extent. Milk, while the least expensive, seems to be the most essential constituent of the ration, and when a feeder can get milk in some he generally does not attempt to fatten poultry commercially. The profit depends on various factors, many of which are local, and must be worked out by each individual. Among the factors are the supply and cost of the chickens, which depends largely on the competition of other buyers; the shipping facilities; the cost of the essential feeds; the availability and cost of efficient labor; the market, and the price which the packer can secure for his finished product.

Various Methods in Vogue.

The English feeder does not consider that the bird has been properly fattened until it has been finished with a crammer. In this country, the large feeders have used crammer machines in the United States, but have not found them adapted to their conditions. There are two factors which may help to account for this attitude: First, very few feeders in this country have been able to operate crammer machines successfully and keep the birds contented; and, second, the trade has not been educated to the increased value of a machine-fed bird. However, in use where there is a special market for birds which have been crammed.

Rations.

Many of the large poultry feeders after trying various feeds and rations have found that a very simple ration, made up of only two or three grains, is best suited to economical gains under their conditions. Considering the large number of birds which they

feed each year and the extent of their experimentation in feeding it would appear that these simple rations must be of special merit for their conditions.

Most rations are recommended for a feeding period of 14 to 15 days. Birds fed only for a short time may be forced in highly concentrated feeds, whereas birds fed longer may need a ration containing a greater variety and less concentrated. While this may be true, many of the poultry packers feed the same ration to their chickens regardless of the length of the feeding period. The fact that it is easier to feed only one mixture may help to explain this condition, or it may be possible that the ration is not too heavy or concentrated even for the longer feeding periods.

Grain Mixtures.

In selecting a ration the feeder must be influenced to some extent by the market price and supply of grains. Certain grains which are used for fattening are particularly adapted to local sections, and are not widely distributed at reasonable prices on the general market. Among such grains are finely ground buckwheat, cornmeal, low-grade flour, oatmeal, and in some places barley meal.

There are many other rations which have been used with good results, and which may be specially suited to certain localities on account of the relative prices of grains. Grit is generally used in good rations, and which may be especially suited to certain localities on account of the relative prices of grains. Grit is generally used in good rations, and which may be especially suited to certain localities on account of the relative prices of grains.

Feather Picking Resulting From Excessive Grain Feeding.

Birds often become very restless on forced feeding of a highly concentrated ration, and commence feather eating and picking each other, often continuing until they have eaten a considerable portion of the flesh of live chicken. Probably an overheated condition of the blood, caused by consuming a large proportion of highly heated feeds such as corn meal, during the hot weather will lead to habits of this kind. In such cases it may be advisable to reduce the proportion of corn meal and lighten the ration by adding some green feed, such as clover or alfalfa meal, and a small amount of oil meal or blood meal. Salt, sulphur, or powdered borax, lightly sprinkled into the mash, have been suggested as remedies for this overheated condition of the blood. Salt is quite frequently used, but sulphur and borax, if fed in any appreciable quantity, appear to slightly reduce the appetite of the birds, although the difference is not marked. It is rather difficult to prove what effect these substances have in lessening the chance of the birds developing these bad habits; in any event these remedies are probably not used extensively.

Milk or Buttermilk Essential in All Rations.

Milk is used entirely in mixing the various rations used in fattening, and is considered an essential ingredient, both in this country and in Europe. In some good results may be secured without it, milk has such a beneficial effect on the birds that it is hard to get good results without using it. In some instances poultry shippers stopped feeding chickens when their supply of milk gave out. Buttermilk and skim-milk are generally used, but particular notice being taken as to whether the milk is sweet or sour; though it is usually fed sour. Sour milk does not result in any loss of the birds in better condition.

The Use of Tallow.

Beef tallow is used by many feeders, but has been discarded by others, who claim that it produces a poorer quality of flesh. When only a very small amount is fed the difference is not noticeable; but, considering the cost of the tallow and the possible poorer quality of flesh produced, it hardly seems to be an economical feed, although this depends largely on individual conditions, especially on the market to which the packer or shipper is catering. Tallow is often recommended to be fed during the last few days of the feeding period, but under ordinary commercial conditions it is hardly practicable to mix the feed separately and use it according to the number of days which the birds have been in the feeders. The tallow may be shaved directly into the feeding trough, but this method does not seem as practicable as to mix the melted tallow into the feed.

ber of days which the birds have been in the feeders. The tallow may be shaved directly into the feeding trough, but this method does not seem as practicable as to mix the melted tallow into the feed.

Mixing the Feed.

The feed may be mixed with a rake or in a machine, some feeders preferring to mix with the rake regardless of the amount which has to be mixed. The feed can be mixed fairly quickly with a rake by a skillful feeder, but most feeders prefer to let a machine do the mixing where a large number of birds are fed. Some kind of power is necessary to run the mixer. When mixed by an iron rake the milk is run or poured into a large mixing tank and the grain added gradually, constantly stirring the mixture with the rake to prevent the formation of lumps, and to mix the different grains thoroughly. The feeder generally dumps in 100 pounds at a time, and mixing is continued until the mixture is of an even consistency. It is very necessary to have the feed free from lumps. Tallow may be kept in an open bucket, and gradually added to the feed in a melted state, after the milk and grain have been mixed. The tallow should be heated before it is used for the melted tallow, to prevent the liquid from congealing on the sides of the bucket. The tallow is stirred thoroughly into the mixed feed.

Consistency of the Feed.

The feed is mixed to the consistency of thick cream, or so that it will drip from the end of a wooden spoon. In very hot weather it is advisable to mix the feed thinner than in cooler weather, and results appear to indicate that the feed should be mixed with one or two thicker feeds makes the best feeding plan, although opinions differ on this point. The thicker feeds seem to satisfy the thicker appetites before they have consumed as much feed as they would if the mixture were thinner. This matter has to be left largely to the judgment of the feeder, but it should be observed carefully. As the length of the feeding period is necessary to use quite a large proportion of milk in the feed. The percentage of the milk used seems to depend on the kind of grains in the mixture, on the weather, and on the feeder. It varies from 55 to 70 per cent, and an average of 60 per cent, or a trifle higher seems to give very good results.

The successful feeding of poultry depends largely on the ability of the chickens on feed. Birds should be fed lightly for the first two or three feeds gradually increasing the amount until they receive all they will eat up clean. The feed is poured into the troughs by the feeder, who walks rapidly through the aisles feeding the batteries, feeding a large number of birds in a short time. The condition of the birds when they go into the batteries has considerable influence on how soon to feed the birds the maximum amount. Ordinarily the birds are rather hungry when they go into the batteries, especially if they have been shipped in by express, or come off the range, and they can be fed a feed from the first feed. If they have fed in their crops when put into the batteries it is usual to feed very lightly for two or three weeks until they are quite hungry and have become accustomed to their new surroundings. Observations made on a considerable number of birds fed under certain conditions, and at a short time after they were put into the batteries showed that this practice was a good one under certain conditions, and that in many instances it was not advisable to feed a light ration as long as is ordinarily advised to fattening chickens. The main object in feeding should be to keep the birds' appetites keen and at the same time make them eat as much feed as they can assimilate.

Number of Times to Feed Daily.

Birds are fed from two to five times a day, but the more common practice is to feed either two or three times a day. A skilful feeder can get good results feeding twice daily and many prefer this method, but excellent results are secured by feeding three times a day, or even by those who are not experienced feeders. An inexperienced person is apt to get better results by feeding three times a day rather than twice. Regular feedings is necessary, and if the birds are fed twice daily the intervals between the feeding times should be as nearly equal as possible. In this case it is well to feed at 6.30 a.m., and 3 p.m. If the birds are fed three times, feed at 6.30 a.m., 12 p.m., and 4 p.m. The feeding hours must be regulated somewhat by the seasons of the year, by the hours which the men are employed. By feeding a small amount often, the birds can be made to eat larger quantities and their appetites kept keener. Each feeder must decide for himself whether there is enough to be gained by feeding often to pay for the extra labor involved.

When Run Down

in physical condition it is usually because the action of the organs of digestion has become irregular or defective. Then there is need for a safe and speedy medicine to relieve the ills which occasionally depress even the brightest and strongest. The one remedy you may take and feel safe with is

BEECHAM'S PILLS

(The Largest Sale of Any Medicine in the World) The first dose gives speedy relief in sick-headache, biliousness, constipation, lack of appetite, heartburn, dyspepsia, and lasting improvement follows the timely use of this favorite and reliable home remedy. You will become healthier and stronger, and more cheerful if you let Beecham's Pills

Pick You Up

Directions with every box point the way to health and are especially valuable to women. Prepared only by Thomas Beecham, St. Helens, England. Sold everywhere in Canada and U. S. America. In boxes, 25 cents.

Advertisement for \$50 Gold Prize. Includes text: 'WHAT IS THIS PROVERB?' 'THE BEST' and 'BRITISH WATCH CO., Dept. 31 Montreal, Canada'

Advertisement for Labatt's Lager. Includes text: 'Are You aware that Labatt's Lager aids digestion?' 'PURE and PALATABLE JOHN LABATT, LIMITED London, Canada'

Advertisement for King George's Navy Plug. Includes text: 'King George's Navy Plug CHEWING TOBACCO' '10c' 'ROCK CITY TOBACCO Co., Manufacturers, QUEBEC'

Advertisement for A Cure for Drunkenness. Includes text: 'A CURE FOR DRUNKENNESS WITHIN THE REACH OF ALL' 'That Alcoholism is a disease is now recognized by Science. No man in his senses brings disgrace and ruin on himself and family through choice. Alcure stops the craving for drink, builds up the system, steadies the nerves. It is guaranteed to cure or fair trial. Alcure No. 1 can be given secretly by any wife or mother wanting to restore a dear one to health and usefulness. Alcure No. 2 is the voluntary treatment. Can be had at our store, only \$1.00 per box. Ask for our free booklet about Alcure. E. Clinton Brown, druggist, St. John, N. B.'

Advertisement for Selecting Fruit For Exhibition. Includes text: 'Selecting Fruit For Exhibition' 'The Journal of Agriculture and Horticulture.' 'Although the crop of apples is light one this year, many people will be able to find plenty to make an exhibit as usual at the fall fairs and exhibitions. Too much care cannot be given to the selecting of fruit, for very often it is the person who carefully selects the specimens of fruit which are successful in winning the prizes. A few suggestions in the selections of exhibition fruit will not be out of place at this time. The apple is the chief fruit of this province and what is said about it will apply to other fruits with some modifications. First, no fruit with serious blemishes, such as worm-holes, scab, bruises, etc., should ever be shown as exhibition fruit, and if any blemished fruits are shown a judge should disqualify them or at least put them down to 2nd or 3rd place. A good rule to follow is that no apple that will not come within the No. 1 grade under strict interpretation of the Fruit Marks Act, should be exhibited. The apples on each plate, usually five in number, should be very uniform in regard to size, color and form. The apples on each plate should be on this point; even if the apples are not quite so large or so well colored the exhibit will be better than a plate of well-colored apples of different sizes. Great care should be taken in handling the fruit to prevent bruises and other blemishes. The apples should be sure to show up later on exhibition. The stem should not be broken or pulled out and the apple should not be polished or shined. Apples entirely free from blemishes of any kind, of good size and color for the variety, and one's chances of winning first place are good. An apple that is overly large for the variety is not a desirable one for exhibition so it is necessary to take into consideration the general type and size of the different varieties. In selecting for collections the same rules apply to the individual varieties as to the collection—that is, uniformity, freedom from blemishes, size, color and form. In selecting the best of the less valuable varieties, the collection taken into consideration and the best varieties will count higher than the less valuable varieties. In the collection it is important to cover the season fairly well, that is from summer apples to the winter apples, thus giving a continuous supply. It would be well to have a fair representation of green and red apples as well as dessert and cooking apples to cover the season so that the collection is evenly balanced. In plums and grapes as much of the bloom as possible should be left on and for this reason they should be handled particularly carefully. If a person has good fruit and selects the specimens for exhibition purposes with due regard to all the above points, examining each fruit closely, he is assured of a fair success in winning prizes. Too often a person with good fruit fails owing to the lack of attention to the above points. T. G. BUNTING. "Thank heaven, these bills are got rid of," said Mrs. Bilkins, fervently, as he tore up a bundle of statements of accounts dated May 1. "All paid, eh?" said Mrs. Bilkins. "Oh, no," said Bilkins. "The duplicates dated June 1 have come in, and I don't have to keep these any longer!"