

pose it is necessary to supply cereal, animal, vegetable and mineral feeds.

Cereal or grain feeds should form the principal part of the ration, and for best results a certain proportion should be ground.

For ground feed, "buckwheat screenings" may be used to advantage, also mixtures containing bran, cornmeal, ground oats or other similar grains.

Vegetable or green feed is absolutely necessary to keep the flock in thrifty condition. For this purpose, sprouted oats is one of the very best. It not only supplies succulence, but grain feed as well. Mangels, turnips, cabbage, small potatoes or other similar waste products may all be used to advantage.

Animal or meat feed is a form of food that poultry keepers frequently neglect supplying. It is not possible for a hen to produce eggs profitably on an all-grain ration. Sour milk is usually available on farms and no animal feed will give better results, as it not only supplies the necessary feed, but it also keeps the birds in good tone. If milk is not available, beef scrap, blood flour, green cut bone or similar feeds must be supplied to take the place of the grubs and insects which the birds get on range.

Mineral feed—Lime for the egg shells and mineral salts for the growth of bone must be supplied. Small quantities may be obtained from such feeds as clovers, but it is necessary to feed oyster shells or something similar to supply lime in sufficient quantities for a heavy egg production.

Sample Ration

Morning—A light feed of mixed grains scattered in a deep litter.

Noon—Green feed, mangels, vegetable parings or sprouted oats.

Night—Full feed of scratch grains.

The scratch grains should be a mixture such as lower grade wheat, oats and corn—barley, oats and corn—barley, oats and buckwheat—or whatever grains are cheapest at the time. So far this season, oats have been the cheapest grain food, so it is advisable to use them to as great an extent as possible.

The present indications are that corn will be greatly reduced in price. When this happens it should be used extensively, as, supplemented with a high protein feed such as sour milk or beef scrap, it is one of the most valuable of feeds.

Besides the foregoing, a hopper of dry mash, such as ground buckwheat screenings three parts, blood flour or beef scrap one part, is kept constantly before the flock, also hoppers of oyster shell and beef scrap. If sour milk is available, the beef scrap may be omitted or green cut bone may be sup-

plied in place of either. A good time to supply this is at the noon feed, when a mash made from the kitchen scraps in which is mixed the green cut bone, at the rate of about one-half ounce per bird and dried off with the meal mixture, may be fed.

Because feed is high in price, don't stint the flock. It takes a certain amount of feed merely for maintenance. It is only the feed over and above this amount that can be used for production, therefore feed and water liberally.

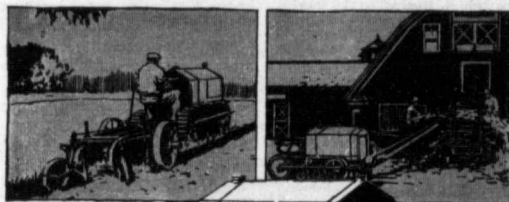
EARLY PULLETS vs. OLD HENS FOR EGGS

For profitable early winter egg production the early hatched pullet is three times better than the late pullet, four times better than the yearling hen, and thirty times better than the "aged" hen.

Early pullets are best for winter eggs. This has been demonstrated many times. The poultry division, Experimental Farm, has collected figures for several years, and when the three months (November, December and January) only are taken into consideration the relative profitability of the four ages is as noted above. If the six winter months were considered, the contrast would not be so striking, for the hens and the late pullets were just beginning to lay when the experiment closed. However, if eggs alone are to be considered, we cannot afford to feed birds until towards spring before they produce. Even if desired for breeding, it is a question if, with the high price of feed, we had not better rely upon the well matured pullet for hatching eggs next spring rather than feed hens that will not produce or only at a loss. Certainly there is no excuse whatever for keeping in our poultry houses late pullets whose eggs cost more than they are worth and birds that are absolutely useless as breeders.

These figures show that early pullets (hatched before May 1st) produced eggs at a cost for feed of 18.3 cents. The late pullets (hatched after May 15th) at a cost of 56 cents. The year-old hens at a cost of 78.2 cents, and for every dozen eggs laid by the hens in the aged class, the cost of feed was \$5.73.

Again these facts should be emphasized (1) that for profitable egg production birds should lay before February. (2) Early well matured pullets are the only birds that may be expected to do this. (3) Late pullets, as a rule, will not pay to keep. (4) For eggs, hens are not profitable. (5) If we have a good flock of early pullets, for the time being depend upon them for breeding. (6) It is a national loss to keep birds that eat a dollar's worth of feed to produce 50 cents worth of eggs.



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