

The lumber often used in the construction of the poultry house is hemlock or yellow pine. The sides and the back of the house are made of a double layer of boards while the front is made of a single layer. A floor made of cement is the best and a board floor is better than an earth one. The mixture of cement for the foundation walls is made up of one part cement, three parts sand and five parts gravel. The mixture for the cement floor is made up of one part cement, two-and-one-half parts sand and five parts gravel.

The roof of the house may be made of shingles or roofing paper, the latter being the cheaper. If you wish to get plans and specifications of poultry houses write the Poultry Department, Macdonald College, Que.

### FEEDING

Laying fowl require to be fed regularly with a variety of feed. Some of the food should be fed so that the fowls have to scratch for it and for this reason it is thrown in straw which should be about six inches deep on the floor of the house. When the fowls scratch in the litter for the grain they are taking exercise and this is very important as it helps to keep them in good laying condition.

The ration for the laying stock during the winter season is given below:—Scratch feed; equal parts wheat and corn morning and evening. Mash feed: 10 parts bran, 6 parts oatmeal feed or crushed oats, 5 parts cornmeal, 5 parts middlings, 3 parts beef scraps and 1 part charcoal. This is fed dry in hoppers which are kept open in the afternoon. Also fed in limited quantities moistened with sour milk three to five times a week and preferably to pullets. Another good method is to feed bruised oats in hoppers instead of the above mash mixture and the latter is fed moistened regularly, though with care. The wet mash is fed about noon. Green feed: mangels or sprouted oats and well cured alfalfa hay are given regularly. Green bone at the rate of  $\frac{1}{2}$  oz. per bird per day may be given while the birds are confined. Grit and oyster shell are kept before the birds always. Sour milk, when available, and clean water are supplied ad libitum.

The ration for the laying stock during the summer season is given below: Scratch feed: 2 parts wheat, 1 part corn and 1 part oats fed morning and evening. Dry mash as for winter feeding is kept in hoppers. Green alfalfa supplied when green food is wanting. Grit, oyster shell, water and sour milk ad libitum.

In the morning the fowls are given a mixture of equal parts corn and wheat. Enough grain is thrown in the litter to keep the fowls busy during most of the morning. In the middle of the forenoon a supply of green food should be given. This could consist of sprouted oats or mangels or if either of these cannot be obtained, feed well cured alfalfa or clover hay. At noon give the fowls a light feeding of slightly moistened mash such as is mentioned above, allowing a quantity of mash about the size of a walnut to each fowl. Be very sure not to overfeed on the moistened mash and keep the troughs sweet and clean. In the afternoon, before roosting time, give the fowls another feeding of the mixture of corn and wheat, to which a few oats may be added.



The Macdonald house is 20 by 20 feet and accomodates 100 hens. Plans and specifications of this house will be supplied free upon request.

In addition a supply of the mash is kept before the fowls at all times in self-feeding hoppers. Also, oyster shell and grit are kept in hoppers where the fowls can help themselves at any time.

Clean water should be provided every day and sour skim milk should also be supplied in pans when it can be obtained.

No mention has been made of any definite amounts of grain or other foods to give. The reason for this is because it is impossible to say how much the fowls require from one day to another. They consume more one day than another and the quantity of any particular food required depends upon the method of feeding. The best feeder is one who observes the fowls very closely and is able to feed according to their daily needs.