

as one-half ounces per bird per day is heavy feeding. The green bone should always be in the very best condition. Sour milk is also an excellent animal food; it is one of the best poultry foods we have, and should be used more extensively. It is low in cost, and in addition to being a valuable egg producer it tends to keep the hens in good health. One of the most profitable ways in which sour milk may be used is in feeding it to laying hens.

While the birds are confined during the winter months some form of green food is absolutely necessary for best results. Give the birds mangels, turnips, or sprouted oats. Alfalfa or clover hay, if well cured, may be fed. Mangels are cheap and are easily grown, and the birds will consume large quantities of them. Sprouted oats also make an excellent form of green food. The method of sprouting is simple. Take the quantity of oats desired, soak them in lukewarm water for twenty-four hours, then spread them out on the floor of a fairly warm room, or place them in flat boxes so that the oats will spread out in a layer about one inch thick. Keep them moistened and stir them to prevent moulding. When they start to sprout do not disturb them, and when the sprouts are about three inches long the oats may be given to the birds. Some form of green food should be supplied the birds every day. In feeding mangels it is a good practice to drive a spike in the wall about sixteen inches above the floor, on which the mangels can be placed.

Oyster shells and grit should be kept before the birds at all times. Grit seems to aid digestion, and oyster shells supply the fowls with material from which they make egg shells. The egg shell is largely composed of lime, which is secured from oyster shells.

Clean water is also necessary. It is very important to see that the birds are never without water, for an insufficient supply often causes a serious decrease in egg production. Where sour milk is available it should be used, and it will largely take the place of water. It should be given in a thick condition.

Finally, it should be borne in mind always that apart from the kind and quality of foods given, the method of feeding has much to do with egg production. The laying hen must be kept as busy as possible. It is the busy hen that lays best. Exercise means eggs.