

POULTRY YARD

Vigilance Necessary Throughout the Summer

There comes a time during midsummer when the chicks have got past the newly hatched stage, and are putting on the feathers nicely, when the strain of watchfulness seems to relax, and the poultryman appears to feel that the need of special care is over. At this time the birds are allowed to look after themselves, and several evils are often the result before the effect is very noticeable. This is more especially found where the chicks are being confined to their own runways. It is also apparent where the freedom is given to all, and the large and small are permitted to run together. The consequence is that the big ones overrun the late hatched, eating all the feed, as well as usurping all the favorite spots generally.

This practice of running all tends to stunt the growth of the little fellows. It is a hard matter to get them to recover from such a set back, and attain the size and development they would, had no check been received. This, of course, applies more to poultry in a confined space than to the flock that has the run of the farm. On the farm, the hen can take her brood to new territory every day. The farther ahead she goes the better for her brood.

Pointing out the consequences should put the owner on their guard, and they should see to it that advice is not needed, nor unheeded in their case.

Then another thing that is often overlooked, is the fact that the chicks are rapidly getting larger, and the coop that was roomy for them a month ago is now badly crowded.

A peep into the overcrowded coops on a warm night will show the chicks with outstretched necks, and wide awake eyes, gasping for air. The weaker ones are crowded down to the floor in a roasting atmosphere. Such crowding soon puts the weaker chicks in such a state that they look a month younger than their fellows of the same age. Some morning these stunted ones will be found trampled into a shapeless mass, a victim of overcrowding.

These chicks were all right, and if given roomy night-quarters, would in all probability have reached a healthy maturity. Carelessness in attending to feed, pure water supply, shade, grit, etc., are other things that are often neglected in the midsummer season, and the effect quickly seen in the flock. Don't relax your vigilance now, it is too costly, neglecting the half grown chicks and then trying to build them up again.

Black Watch

Chewing Tobacco

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The big black plug.

2208

Value of Feeds for Poultry

Walter M. Wright, Renfrew County, Ont.

In our last week's issue, this subject was dealt with as regards wheat, oats, barley and rice. The following is a brief review of the value of some of the other feeds most commonly used in feeding poultry:

Corn: This grain is fed in many ways as whole, cracked, corn chop and in the mash as corn meal. Cracked corn can be fed to advantage in the litter where confined stock require exercise. Corn chop, which is much the same, only perhaps coarser and does not need to be sifted in order to prevent waste as the cracked corn is also fed in the litter. Little chicks relish the cracked corn and are well pleased to scratch and hunt for it. Corn is essentially a heating grain and should not be much used in hot weather, but is a splendid evening feed in the cold nights of winter.

Inoids. It gives a change and relish to the other foods and is much appreciated by confined stocks at all times.

Cabbage: As a green food one that gives a good supply of water and in comparison with other green foods is high in protein.

Green Bone: High in rotein, rich in fats and well supplied with mineral salts. Small quantities of this is equal to large quantities at first but latter may be fed by noppers. Meat meal is richer still and has three times the amount of albuminoids of that of bone, but much lower in mineral and fats. Dried fish tests high in albuminoids, fats and mineral salts, and is therefore a good food but its scarcity in most localities makes it prohibitive.

Milk: Spreads itself over all the good feeding qualities but has a large percentage of water, and also is almost entirely digestible, which



THE NATURAL WAY AT MODEL FARM, BROCKVILLE.

Each of these coops contain a hen with a flock of chicks. The chicks run free, the hen is confined. The enclosed end of coop has a floor and the slatted end is on the ground. Photographed at Model Farm, The White Wyandotte plant, W. Wright, Brockville.

It is fattening: not a fleshing grain, and has the color of yellow mixed birds. It is therefore valuable where the market demands a yellow tinted flesh. Be careful of this grain with two year old hens and particularly so if they be Plymouth Rock.

Buckwheat: This grain, if of first quality is a better grain than wheat but must be good to be of real value, and like wheat, requires only a little corn in either mash or whole form to make a satisfactory food.

Linseed: In the meal form, generally, is fed to exhibition birds and imports a gloss to the feathers and a vigor to the birds. It is a splendid conditioning food but its value for other purposes puts the price at such a figure that it is not profitable to feed generally.

Peas and Beans: When fed in the mash are very rich, valuable grains, high in albuminoids, but they tend to make the meat firm and perhaps stringy, hence seldom used. But with other grains they are both good and valuable.

Sunflower seeds: Is highly valuable, but its scarcity makes it uncommon in the feed bill. It is a rich, oily, heavy food and needs but little caution in feeding. Oats as a mash are well combined with it. There is no doubt that if it were a common grain it would be more frequently found on the chickens' bill of fare.

Rye: Not often used but a grain rich in fats and fair in albumen properties, is well combined with oats. While the grains form a necessarily large part of the rations there also appear such other foods as clover, green bone, etc.

Grass: Needs but little comment. Everyone is familiar with the attitude the fowls take to it in the spring and summer months and they have almost the same inclination for the dried grass in winter. It is highly nitrogenous and hence highly valuable.

Clover: Is now a much used green food. It is rich in salts and mineral and makes a good showing in album-

cannot be said of other foods. Skim milk lacks about one per cent. of the albumen found in the whole milk, also some of the fats but is a profitable form of food where it is cheap.

In conclusion, let us say, the stock requires a large amount of protein, fats and some mineral salts, etc., to keep up the repair of the body, all the remaining digested food goes either to make eggs or to be stored up in the form of fat for future emergencies, therefore if the food tends to supply albumens (the chief element of the egg) abundantly, should we not expect eggs, other things being equal, or if he be rich in fats should we not expect fat fowls?



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Getting Rid of Mites

I would like very much to see published in your valuable paper a plan to rid one's premises of hen mites.—An Old Subscriber, Huron Co. Ont.

The mite question is one of the most serious that confronts the poultryman. In some cases the myriads of chicken blood suckers seem to defy all attempts to keep them down. Burning sulphur has little or no effect, and some liquid application that comes in contact with the insects, appears to be the only sure means of extermination. The best means now adopted is to use whitewash made from freshly slaked lime, and in which about 5 pint of crude carbolic acid to the paint of whitewash has been mixed. Apply this hot, and use a spray pump if possible, forcing the solution into the cracks and corners, as far as can be done. In the absence of a spray pump, use the brush, and apply very freely, throwing the whitewash into the corners so as to fill them as near as possible.

This should be done early in spring, at house cleaning time, and if the mites appear, give a second treatment later. Another in the fall, should be sufficient for the year and insure the walls freedom from this pest.

