

stand close confinement as well as the utility breeds, nor will they make as economic gains. The lighter breeds are too small to fatten as roasters, and will very seldom show enough gains to warrant taking time to fatten them.

What and How to Feed

Place twelve cockerels in each crate—four in each compartment, first dusting them thoroughly with some reliable insect powder. They should not be fed anything for the first twenty-four hours after they are crated, in order that all the whole grain in their crops may be digested first. The best grains for fattening purposes are oats and corn. All the grain fed should be in the finest state possible in order to aid digestion and assimilation.

One of the simplest fattening rations can be made by taking two parts of oats, one of wheat, and one of barley, grinding them up as fine as possible, and sifting out the hulls. To this is added buttermilk or sour milk sufficient to make it of the consistency to pour nicely. Another good fattening ration may be made by using two parts of oat feed, one part cornmeal, and one part low grade flour, mixed with milk the same as the above ration.

When feeding chicken in a fattening crate care must be taken not to feed too heavy in the beginning. An ounce of the dry mash per bird per meal is sufficient for a start. Feed this quantity twice a day for two days, then increase at the rate of three ounces to each crate of chickens at each feeding meal, until the birds are on a full ration, which is usually about twenty-five to thirty ounces to the crate twice a day. These weights refer to the mash before it is mixed with milk. It will require almost half as much again of milk to make the feed the proper consistency, depending of course on the thickness of the milk.

Never leave any feed in the trough longer than thirty minutes. Give them grit or coarse sand to eat once a week. They should be fattened for three or four weeks, depending on the condition they were in before being put in crates. The heaviest gains are usually made the second week. After that the gains, in proportion to the amount of food consumed, become less and less; it seldom pays to fatten them after the fourth week.