

Heavy laying strains will naturally lay more eggs when fed right than will hens of poor laying qualities; yet a great deal can be accomplished even with what might be considered a poor laying strain by giving the right kind of feed and feeding it in the right way.

REQUIREMENTS IN WINTER FEEDING.

Most poultry breeders are but little concerned about summer egg production; they get these anyway. To secure winter eggs is the problem.

The class of food fed, and the way of feeding it must be changed to meet the season's demands. Hens pick up many insects as well as other animal food in the summer. These they cannot get in the winter. This animal food must be supplied in some form in winter feeding. Green food may also be picked up by the hens in summer, but not in the winter. They must also have this. There are always four parts to a laying feed:

- (a) The Grain;
- (b) Green Food;
- (c) Animal Food; and
- (d) Mineral Food.

Decision as to what to feed laying hens will depend somewhat on what food is available, and also upon the price.

GRAIN FEEDS.

The ordinary farm grains can be fed in such a way as to make almost an ideal ration, in so far as the cereal portion of the ration is concerned. **Wheat**, of course, is one of the best grains for laying hens, but for the time being war conditions have made its price prohibitive. **Oats** are an excellent feed, but they give best results if fed in the crushed or rolled form. By running them through a roller chopper, they can be crushed sufficiently to break or bruise them, and still have the hulls hanging to the kernels. The exposed white portion of the kernel makes an attractive feed, and the hens like it very much. These crushed oats should be fed in a hopper so that the hens may eat them whenever they wish, without wasting them. By feeding these as a dry mash, the birds eat hull and all, and nothing is wasted. The hulls seem to have a mechanical action in the digestive tract in helping to grind up the feed. **Barley** can be fed to good advantage as a scratch feed, thrown in litter or straw on the floor. Boiling will improve it considerably. **Whole oats** and **barley** can be fed in equal parts as a scratch feed morning and night. **Corn** is one of the best winter grains, and where grain has to be bought it is well to use this and feed it along with the oats and barley, using two parts of corn to one of each of oats and barley. Cracking the corn will make it more attractive.

All hard grain should be thrown in deep litter on the floor to make the hens work for it. This will give them exercise and help to keep them in healthy working condition. No hard and fast rules as to the amount of hard grain to feed can be laid