

METHOD OF FEEDING THE WINTER LAYING STOCK AT THE O. A. C.

We try to simplify our methods and use only the common foods, and at the present time are using as whole grains, wheat, corn and buckwheat. These grains are fed in equal parts both morning and evening. The morning feed is fed the previous evening after the hens have gone to roost, by sowing it on the litter, and then turning the litter over; the straw is now on top and the grain below, and when the hens get up in the morning, they start to dig out the grain, and are kept busy all forenoon. At noon we feed mangels, cabbage or clover hay. The night feed consists of the whole grain fed in troughs, and what the birds do not eat is taken up. Rolled oats are kept constantly before the hens in hoppers. Buttermilk only is given as drink.

METHOD OF FEEDING THE SUMMER LAYING STOCK AT THE O. A. C.

At the present time our plan of feeding is to scatter whole grain in the litter both morning and evening. The grains used are wheat, barley, oats, and occasionally buckwheat and corn. Green food is supplied in the form of grass, etc., in the runs. Sour milk is given as drink.

DRY FEEDING.

The tendency at the present time is to feed dry grain, and to use no wet mash foods. It has been claimed by some writers that mash foods, while tending to force growth, and possibly egg production, do not tend to produce good eggs for hatching purposes; that is to say, the mash is more or less of a forcing food. In the production of eggs, the number produced is probably as large if not larger where mashes are used, but the hatching power of the eggs in some instances is not as high. During the past two or three years we have not fed any wet mashes to our breeding birds, and have fed in place some sprouted grain, but mostly rolled oats in hoppers. As far as we can see at the present time the sprouting does not improve the feeding qualities of grain very much, with the one exception of oats. The palatability of oats is increased considerably. We have made the oats equally palatable by having them rolled or flattened, that is the hull and all.

FEEDING WHEN WET MASHES ARE USED.

The general method of feeding is to give a mash of mixed ground grains moistened with water or milk, in the morning; a little whole grain scattered in the straw covering the floor, at noon; and all the whole grain they will eat at night. This latter meal is usually fed in the straw. Some poultry men adopt the plan of not feeding the mash until evening,