

grasshoppers and in scratching up the soil for grubs or green sprouts. They get a little at a time of a great variety of foods.

In winter when confined to the houses, they can get only what is brought to them. It is necessary, therefore, to provide as wide a variety of foods as possible, and to feed in such a way as to make the birds take lots of exercise. Fowls need: (1) grain food, (2) vegetable food, (3) meat food, (4) minerals in the form of grit and shell, (5) plenty of clean water to drink.

It is in feeding the various grains that we are most successful in making the fowls take exercise. By keeping six inches or more of clean straw on the hen-house floor, and by scattering all the whole grain fed on this straw, the hens have to scratch and dig to find enough kernels to fill their crops.

Wheat is probably the best single grain food for poultry—but the birds need variety as much as people do.

If a handful of mixed oats and wheat, or oats and barley, for each bird, is scattered in the straw early in the morning, the fowls will be kept busy till noon digging it out of the litter.

At noon some vegetables, or some form of green food should be provided—sugar beets, cabbage, turnips, sprouted oats, or steeped alfalfa leaves may be given.

At 2 p.m., a little whole wheat fed in the litter will keep them going till nearly time to go to roost. If a wet mash is fed at all, evening is the best time to feed it. They should have full crops when going to roost, but should never be fed in such a way that they can fill up in a few minutes early in the day. For when a hen's crop is full she has nothing to do till next meal-time, and when not working she is putting on fat, and will soon stop laying. Meat in some form or cut green bone should be fed at least three times each week, when birds cannot have free range. The practice is to feed about one ounce per bird. (Allow one pound to each 16 birds, three times per week.) The meat question is about the most serious one that poultrymen have to solve. In brushy districts many feed rabbits. Some get the carcass of a cow or horse and grind or chop it up for the poultry. Some can get table scraps from hotels or bones from a butcher shop. Some can get milk and butter-milk. Some have to ship in beef scrap and green cut bone from the abattoirs. We have known a poultryman to feed badgers and coyotes to his fowls. This reversing of the usual custom, we believe, should be encouraged till all such animals have been done away with.

In selling fancy eggs it would be as well not to state just what meats the hens are using. Imagination goes a long way in such matters.

Of course, no decayed or tainted meat can be fed. It would be sure to flavor the eggs and more than that, will make the fowls sick and may perhaps poison them.

Oyster shell is required by laying hens to furnish lime for the shells of eggs. Other fowls will rarely eat any of it, if they have been provided with grit. Both grit and shell should be where the birds can get them as required.

Clean water should be where they can get to it at all times.

An egg is 65 per cent. water; even if other things are right, if you don't supply the water, the hen can't make the egg. In cold weather, water may have to be put in the dishes three or four times each day, because each fresh supply freezes so rapidly.

There is no great secret in getting winter eggs. When a pullet is fully matured, if conditions are right, she lays naturally, with no thought of paying for her board. All we can do is to supply right conditions—of housing to keep the birds in the best possible health, and of feeding, to supply all their needs in such a way as to make them exercise enough to keep their digestions right.

