

have some in the litter, but not so much that they can get a crop full without scratching for it. In the prairie provinces there is considerable shrunken wheat available. Shrunken wheat if it is dry is as good a poultry food as wheat fit for milling purposes. Care must be taken that it is not damp or otherwise spoiled. Shrunken wheat alone, if there is no other grain, will answer for the grain feed. For the mash, use bran, middlings or chopped oats. Elevator screenings, free from black seeds, make a good feed for either grain mash. If alfalfa or clover can be had, by all means give the leaves to the hens.

In central Canada, Ontario and Quebec grain is scarce and it is likely some will have to be purchased. If there is feed wheat from the West available, it should be used. Cracked corn may be purchased and other farm grains which may be on hand or purchased locally, such as barley and buckwheat, might be used. Bran can be used in mash feed and the good crop of clover in Ontario and Quebec will do much to cut down the cost of the ration. The clover may be fed dry or steamed and used in a mash.

In the maritime provinces where grain is usually purchased for the poultry the same advice may be given as that for central Canada, not forgetting the clover

and milk. If small potatoes can be had for poultry feed they may be boiled and fed in the mash.

In every case, grit and shell should be before the layers at all times. In some localities the grit can be secured from the local gravel pit and in other cases sufficient lime can be secured to do without the commercial shell. If neither of these is available they should be procured and as much given to the birds as they will eat.

It does not pay to stint the layers. If they do not get the feed they will not lay the eggs.

MAKE HEN EXERCISE IF YOU'D HAVE EGGS

Activity is the life of the laying hen. As her activity decreases, so does her egg production. The hen that stands around all day, and scarcely has enough energy to eat food placed before her, is never a laying hen.

The amount of forced exercise necessary will vary with the breed. The Leghorn, conceded to be the highest egg producer, and most active bird, will take a great deal of exercise. The Brahma is an example of the other extreme, and must always have a strong incentive to exercise. The vigor and productivity of the free-range hen as compared to one yard-confined is largely accounted for by her active life.

During the winter months exercise can best be managed by feeding all the whole grain in a litter ten to twelve inches deep. This will not involve a waste, for if hens are left a little hungry they will scratch long after the last kernel has been found.

Laying hens should never be fed in such quantities as to satisfy their appetite. Whole grain should be fed very sparingly in the morning, and heavily at night. This not only keeps the birds more active, through the day, but a heavy feed of grain at night keeps their bodies warmer.

Straw, hay, alfalfa chaff, leaves and cut corn stover, all make good litters. Shavings and sawdust are not best because they tend to pack, and also hold dampness. Regardless of the kind of litter used, it should be renewed frequently and never allowed to become badly contaminated with droppings.

Exercise can be further encouraged by suspending a head of cabbage, or a few roots, above the reach of the hens. At butchering time a part of the offal, or a raw bone hung in a similar way, will keep hungry hens on the jump most of the time.—C. S. Anderson, Colorado Agricultural College.

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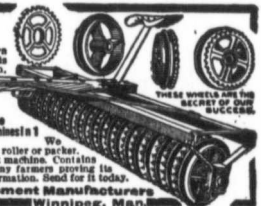
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Handling Young Chicks

Chicks need no food from two to three days after hatching. They should be kept warm. During the first week the temperature should not fall below 95 degrees Fahr. and during the second week it should be held up to 90 degrees Fahr. When they crowd under the hover of the brooder it is a sign that they are cold. Fifty chicks is enough for one brooder. When too many are put together they sometimes pile on top of each other and some smother. When the chicks are 48 to 60 hours old feed them equal parts of bread crumbs and oat meal to which add a little chick grit. Feed 4 or 5 times a day and only what they will eat up in a few minutes. After the third day feed a good quality of chick feed. Sprinkle it in the litter which should be made up of a thin layer of short cut alfalfa or

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