

# A Weekly Page of Poultry Hints to You

Here Is a Department Full of Bright Ideas for Readers of the Home and Farm Magazine Section.

When facts bump up against theories, the truth will usually out. Our agricultural colleges are constantly bumping theories hard with experience—won facts. In this connection an expert at Oregon Agricultural college here discusses animal vs. vegetable protein for poultry.

There are a great many perplexing problems in poultry feeding. They are made more perplexing to the average poultry raiser by the exploiting of various and sundry feeds, the merits of which are based wholly on theoretical assumptions. We have been insisting for a number of years upon one point more than any other in poultry feeding, and that is that the hen is a "meat eater." The knowledge of this fact has been of great importance in poultry feeding, both for egg production and flesh production. Increased production of eggs has been the result in no small degree of the feeding of animal foods. About every year someone advocates or advertises a substitute for animal food. Last year a great many letters came to us asking if soy bean meal would take the place of meat foods. It had been extensively advertised as a substitute. Various other foods of vegetable origin have at one time or another been advertised to take the place of animal food.

It is well known that for heavy egg production or for the growth of chicks, there must be a considerable proportion of protein in the foods; that is, the ordinary grain foods such as wheat and corn do not contain enough of the protein elements. It is also known that meat foods such as commercial beef scrap, cut bones or any kind of meat foods with a large proportion of the lean meat, are very rich in protein. Commercial beef scrap contains about 50 per cent protein. That is, about half the weight of the beef scrap is protein, while wheat and corn contain some 10 to 12 per cent protein.

**Inaccurate Claims Made.**  
It was first a question whether a sufficient amount of protein in the ration, irrespective of its source, was not all that was necessary, or whether such foods as beans, peas, linseed meal, gluten meal or cotton seed meal, that are rich in protein, would not give as good results as the protein found in the meat foods. Many to this day claim that this is all that is necessary in face of the fact that it has been thoroughly demonstrated by experiment that animal foods must be fed to poultry in order to get good results whether in egg yield or meat production. A number of experiment stations during the last ten or twelve years have conducted careful experiments on this point and the results have invariably shown that vegetable proteins will not take the place of animal proteins.

The latest experiment on this point was made at the New Jersey Station, the results of which have just been published. In this experiment it was found that animal food was necessary not only for the growing chick and for the broiler but for the laying fowl. A poultry food, Hen-o-ta, which has been extensively advertised during the last few years as a complete ration for fowls, but which contains no animal food, was made the subject of a comparison in New Jersey experiments, with a result wholly unfavorable to the claims made for this food.

**Theory vs. Fact.**  
Not only was it claimed for this food that no animal food was required and that it contained enough protein from other sources, which was all that was required, but the claim was also made that the phosphorus or bone-making material was as efficient when obtained from inorganic or mineral sources, such as phosphate rock, as the same constituents obtained from animal sources, such as ground bone. The experiments showed very clearly that "phosphoric acid from an organic source (animal bone) is much more efficient than phosphoric acid from an inorganic source (phosphate rock or Hen-o-ta).

## Record Sheets For Eggs Needed to Know Results

Trap Nests Also Required by Poultry Raiser Who Wants to Be Able to Set Off One Hen Against Another—O. A. C. Specimen Sheet Shown Here.

HOUSE No. 9 HATCHED April 29, 1912. FOWL No. C. 521

PEN No. VARIETY

DATE	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	TOTALS		
SEPT.																																		
OCT.																																		
NOV.																																		14
DEC.																																		23
JAN.																																		23
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NOV.																																		9
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THE POULTRY raiser who wants to know accurately what his hens are doing requires trap nests and a record. The best type of record is entered up every day immediately the band on the hen's leg is examined, so that her number can be determined. As the hen is released from the trap nest she is credited with her egg. It will be remembered, made the record of laying 303 eggs in one year. At Corvallis, a weekly record sheet is maintained at the poultry house. These sheets are entered up on annual records such as the one above.

### Fright and Worry Affect Laying

IT MAY BE news to many farmers, or even poultrymen, to know that hens "hold up" their eggs just the same as a Jersey cow will hold up her milk when she gets a bit stubborn or excited; but it is so. Just let a farmer chase the hens from the cornfield or garden, set the dog on them, or throw clods and yell at them, and watch the result. Where the evening gathering showed a dozen or fifteen eggs, not more than seven or possibly six will be found, and the poor hen is accused of "stealing her nest out" somewhere. It takes three days of care to get the eggs record back to normal.

Do not allow visitors to enter the laying house nor their children to prowl about the nests. If strange dogs are bent upon investigating the henyard their hide is worth something, but give the hens quiet peace at all costs. Often successive or severe fright will result in dead germs, and then the egg is utterly useless for setting.

### Necessity of Spraying.

In the State of Iowa, during this last summer, orchard spraying demonstrations were carried on in five different counties. The number of sprays varied from one to four times. As a rule very good results were obtained from three sprays. The meetings held at picking time demonstrated to the farmers present the necessity of spraying.

Don't ship live poultry in undersized crates. It is cruel, poor business policy and unlawful.

As to why the animal food or the mineral material from animal sources are more valuable in poultry feeding than the same constituents obtained from other sources, is not known, but the fact has been sufficiently demonstrated by practical experiment. Theoretical assumptions will not take the place of actual demonstrations. Successful poultry feeders who have won their success by using animal foods will not be influenced by claims such as have been put out for the articles mentioned, and charged their rations to their financial loss.

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