

POULTRY

BALANCED RATION NEEDED FOR HENS

Students of hen science believe that an ordinary bird should be able to produce a thousand eggs if we knew how to give her a fair chance.

She is a wonderful machine, with the embryo of more than a thousand eggs in her make-up, but so many things combine to prevent her from doing her best that she generally falls away short of such production during her few years of life.

If you like to count eggs before they are laid, you may figure the matter out to suit yourself—so many pounds of grain, meat, lime, fat, fiber and water to each dozen eggs—and there you are.

All would be well, and you could begin at once to count your eggs, if it were not for the fact that "something always happens" to prevent the regular machine-like production desired.

Certainly we must be careful to supply the needed ration so that fat, protein, nitrogen, fiber, ash or mineral and water will be fed. This is necessary, because no eggs can be produced if one of these elements is lacking.

The fowls must be kept in condition or they will not "shell out." This is one of the most difficult parts in our whole plan of egg production.

The grains are high in nitrogen and protein. Meat scrap, bone and meat meal are high in fat and protein. When the flock is out on the range, young and old pick up what they instinctively seek as needful.

Some of the prepared feeds are mixed so that just about the right proportion of each needed element is in the ration. Sometimes the birds do not seem to like the ration as mixed for them, so the plans of the scientists do not work out.

Molting Period Is Good Index of Value of Hen

Hens that are in the midst of molting do not, as a rule, lay. The time of the year when molting takes place is, therefore, a reliable index of the value of the hen to the flock for the reason that a hen molting in wrong season, when she should be laying, can deprive the flock of more profit than would be the case had she molted early enough to be laying at the peak of high prices.

The "early molter" is not, however, a good layer, as a rule. Molting usually starts with the neck, then the body and finally the tail and the wings. It takes, usually, three months for the molting process to be fully completed. While it would seem that the early molters would be the best winter layers, actual experiments have proved that such is not the case.

These texts held by various experiment stations have brought out the fact that egg production controls the molt rather than the molt controlling the egg production. So long as laying is continued the molting will be postponed. And it is quite universally conceded that the late molter is the best layer. In fact, it seems to be a standard rule on commercial farms now and in the experiment stations to discard the hens which have completed the molt in late September and are in full feather and to hold those molting in October and November.

Soy Bean Meal for Hens Is Most Excellent Feed

A number of feeding tests at various experiment stations have shown the value of soy-bean oil meal as a poultry feed. From these tests it was concluded that soy-bean oil meal could replace rolled oats in chick feeding. Poultrymen in the Pacific coast states have used soy-bean oil meal for several years and consider it a most excellent feed for growth and egg production.

Another series of experiments showed that soy-bean oil meal when fed with a suitable mineral mixture is a better supplement to corn meal than scraps and is nearly as good as condensed buttermilk when fed to chickens for short-time intensive feeding periods.

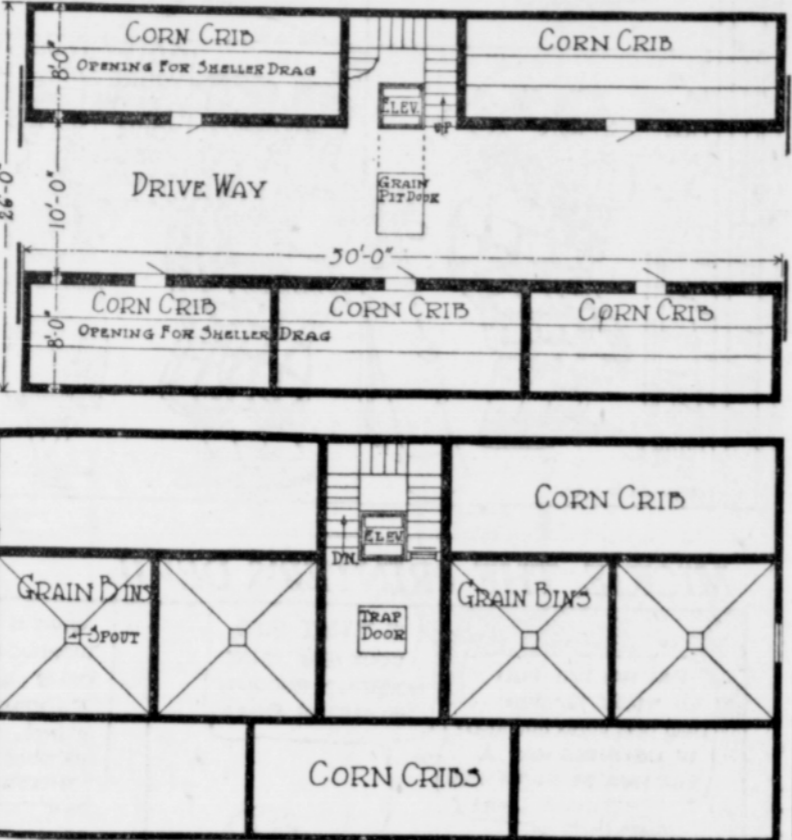
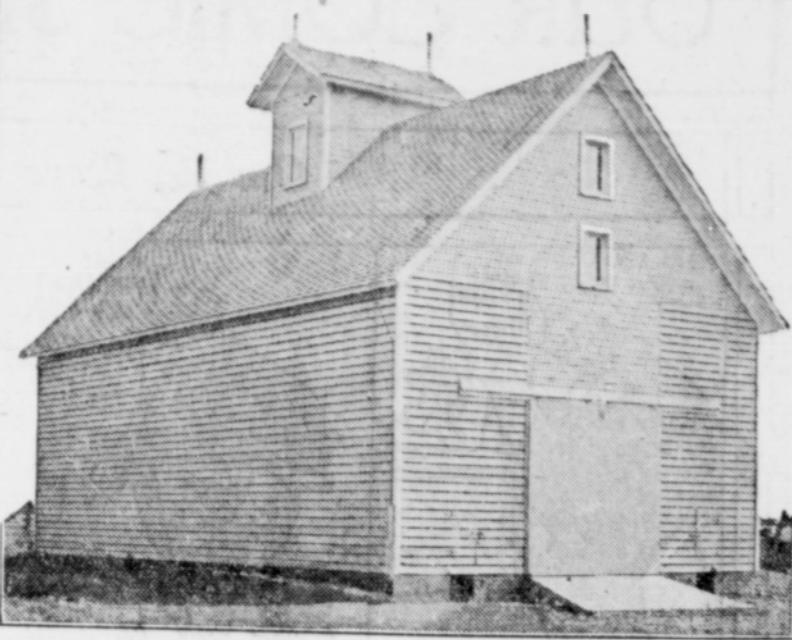
Way to Make Hens Sick

Feeding moldy cornmeal is rather a sure way of making hens sick. Spoiled feed will ruin either young chicks or ducklings in a short time. Always sort carefully any corn containing moldy or decayed ears and discard all that are not fit for food. Dogs can disgorge material that proves harmful to them but when a hen or chick eats spoiled grain or decayed meat it must pass through the entire digestive system and often it kills the bird.

Feed Value of Chess

There are no feeding tables giving the food analysis of chess. But it is safe to say that it has a fair feeding value. Many times it has been fed with satisfactory results. It is best to grind it and mix it with other grain. Chickens are shy about eating any new grain. If you bring your chicks up on wheat, and then suddenly change to corn, they will at first refuse to eat the corn, but in a short time they learn to eat the corn readily.

Modern Corn Crib That Provides Protection From Rats and Weather



By WILLIAM A. RADFORD

Mr. William A. Radford will answer questions and give advice FREE OF COST on all problems pertaining to the subject of building work on the farm. On account of his wide experience as editor, author and manufacturer, he is, without doubt, the highest authority on the subject. Address all inquiries to William A. Radford, No. 1827 Prairie Avenue, Chicago, Ill., and only enclose two-cent stamp for reply.

Corn, no matter how good at shucking time, rapidly loses its value unless it is housed where it will be safe from rats and the ravages of weather. Those farmers who have a good modern crib and granary have no reason to fear that the corn they store will not be as good in May as it was when it was stored away. It has lost none of its feeding value and the same quantity that was stored is available for sale or feeding when spring comes.

The modern corn crib, such as shown in the illustration, is designed to house corn and grain so that it will be protected until such a time as it

is marketed. This building is set on a concrete foundation and has a concrete floor. There are no rats under the floor and if there should be, the animals have no chance to get at the stored grain. The building itself is of frame construction, the sides being of crib siding, each piece of lumber set far enough apart to permit a good circulation of air to prevent heating or molding, and still close enough to one another to keep out rain and snow.

The building is 26 feet wide and 50 feet long. A ten-foot driveway runs through the center and on each side are double cribs. Overhead there are four grain bins, over the driveway. The cupola permits a power elevator, with adjustable spout so that the ear corn can be spouted to either of the cribs, or the grain into the bins.

This is the sort of building that pays dividends on the investment year after year in cutting the labor cost of handling the crops and in keeping them in the best possible condition until the markets are favorable.

Kitchen Rack Is Place for the Odd Implements

Little additions or improvements in the kitchen are a good thing to keep in mind.

Take a rack, for instance. It can be made in a short hour, yet it will be used every day. Those long, ungainly forks and spoons, the egg beater and potato masher never seem to mix well with the cutlery in the kitchen cabinet drawer. Their proper place is on this rack.

Three pieces are required, each a scant inch thick. Two 5 inches long, 2 inches wide; the other 2 inches wide, 16 inches (or a foot) long. The pieces are dressed down and the short blocks fastened with screws through the back to the long piece. These are then fastened to the wall with screws and a number of galvanized nails in a row along the front of the horizontal piece.

This should be placed over the sink drain board high enough to be out of the way, or wherever it will be the handiest.

Painted Cellar Walls Will Stop the Dust

"Where does the dust come from?" wailed a young housewife. "I clean and clean—but look!"—she brushed some fine gray dust from the table. "From the cellar," her mother replied. "It sifts through the floor."

"But the floor is tight," daughter objected.

"This doesn't look like it. If you'll have your cellar ceiled with wallboard and painted you'll find that your house will be much easier to take care of. Dust can't sift through wallboard, and if it is painted it can't sift through the cracks."

"Your cellar ought to be painted anyway," mother continued. "It's dark as pitch down there. Use battleship gray on the walls and ceiling. You'll be surprised how much cleaner and brighter it will be."

"I should have known that," daughter replied ruefully. "The cellar at home was always painted and we never had any trouble with ash dust."

Painting Over Oatmeal Paper Gives Good Results

Painting over oatmeal paper with flat paint is frequently done and usually with very good results. Of course, a job of this kind is not as good as where the paper is removed, but if the owner desires to leave the paper on and paint over it, a very good effect may be obtained. We suggest that you first sandpaper the seams wherever they are lapped a trifle and then give the walls a coat of white lead paint. The thinners should be equal quantities linseed oil and turpentine. Size this priming coat with a thin glue size. Some painters prefer to size the paper in order to save paint because oatmeal paper will take a lot of paint by absorption. We hardly think this is the proper way because glue size sometimes loosens the paper and causes it to blister. The finishing coats can be applied either glossy or flat as desired.

Roof Having Shingles of Copper Lasts Long

Copper has a peculiar advantage over other metals used for roofing in that it contains in itself all the requirements of decoration. Left alone, it gradually weathers to a soft green tone; or it can be oiled and left to mellow to that dull bronze color which is seen only in copper.

In the form of shingles it can be specially treated to obtain varied and beautiful effects in harmonious colors which range through autumn reds, russet brown, olive greens, verde antique and emerald blues, blue greens and even a rich peacock blue.

Fireplace Very Effective

A high carved stone fireplace is strikingly effective in a large room. A pleasing contrast is obtained by using black iron furnishings, the severity of which is relieved by brass trimmings—brass balls on the andirons and fire set, brass knobs and handles on the screen and brass handle and rim on the coal bucket.

FARM STOCK

BRIGHT PROSPECTS FOR BEEF CATTLE

(Prepared by the United States Department of Agriculture)

Higher prices for beef cattle are in prospect within the next 18 months for both the feeders and range producers, according to the report on the outlook for beef cattle made by the Department of Agriculture. An upward trend is probable over the next two or three years, the department says. The numbers of breeding stock, of cattle on feed, and of young stock seem to be materially lower than for several years so that reduction in the market movement is expected.

While no considerable reduction in the number of stock held by range men was made for some time after the break of 1920, the number of steers has been reduced during the last three or four years accompanied by a less rapid reduction in the number of cows. The increasing number of cows and heifers now being slaughtered indicates further reductions in breeding stock still being made. It does not appear, therefore, that the number of cows is sufficient to long maintain the present high rate of slaughter, the report shows.

All indications are for smaller supplies of cattle on the markets during the next few months also, the department states. The movement of all cattle so far during 1926 has been less than for the same periods last year, and the best information from the range states indicates a considerably lighter run of grass cattle during the next three months than a year ago.

In the Southwest there are lighter supplies of cattle available than a year ago. As the 1926 calf crop was good, the number of calves to be offered from the Southwest this fall will compare favorably with the past three years, however. Good range conditions and an improved situation have placed the Southwestern cattlemen in a position so they would not be forced to sell on an unfavorable market.

The number of cattle in certain areas of the northern Great Plains region, which have recently suffered from drought, has been so reduced already that light movement may be expected next year, the report states, and there is a possibility of the cattlemen in that area becoming active buyers with changing conditions. The full extent of the reductions which have taken place should be apparent by the autumn of 1927 and by that time improved conditions might prompt restocking of the ranges which would still further reduce market supplies.

No competition from foreign supplies of beef or cattle which would affect the situation are seen. Present indications are that consumptive demand for beef during the next 12 months will continue good, although no better and possibly somewhat below that of the past year. Increasing competition from hogs, especially during 1927, will also have some influence on beef prices.

The situation in regard to the probable demand for feeder cattle this fall is uncertain. The margin between the present price of fed cattle and feeder cattle is exceptionally narrow, and the present prospects are for a corn crop considerably smaller than last year, but there will be a heavy carry-over of old corn and the number of hogs is still low.

Prospects for a fair supply of corn, only a slight increase in the number of hogs to be fed, and a decrease in cattle available for feeding will tend to maintain the price of feeders on a level slightly higher than that which prevailed in the fall of 1925, according to the report. Lighter-weight cattle in the feedlots will enable feeders to distribute market supplies over a longer period and in accordance with the movement of prices. Together with the reduced supplies, this may result in higher prices of fed cattle during the winter and spring of 1927 than a year earlier. Heavy-fed cattle will top the market next year if feeders swing too heavily to light cattle this fall and winter. On the fall of 1927 range cattle prices probably will show a marked effect of the impending shortage and average higher than for several years past.

Live Stock Notes

A plentiful water supply is as necessary as any other item of food in the ration of either cow or pig.

Failure to dock and castrate ram lambs costs sheep raisers millions of dollars every year.

Many cattle feeders value silage for fattening older cattle, but have doubted its value for calves.

Red clover and alfalfa are the very best of pasture for hogs and they are ready for very early use. Rye is still earlier, but has less grazing value.

If one wishes to grow hogs of the best size and quality, some special preparation must be made for doing the work.

With well-bred sows to farrow next spring, if large and well developed pigs are expected, the sows must be fed on such foods as will make a well balanced ration.

COATS WITH HATS TO MATCH; TIERED AND PLAITED SKIRTS



Pretty Outfit for a Schoolgirl.

FOR the children there is a treat in store, namely, chinchilla coats with hats to match. Of course the mothers are going to voice their approval of this fashion, for of all cloakings none is more dependable and good looking, than is chinchilla.

The new chinchilla coats are amusingly mannish in cut and detail, until it comes to the lining, which is as joyously gay as youth could possibly wish it.

What prettier or more practical for the schoolgirl than a matching chinchilla coat and hat like the one in the picture? This particular model happens to be lined with the new suede-finished woolen fabric, but bright flannel is just as suitable. One is making a fashionable selection in either navy, or French blue lined with vivid red, or cinnamon, jungle green, channel red or garnet with a chosen contrasting lining.

There isn't much trimming needed on the hat, possibly a suede strap-band and buckle or a wee cocarde of

not an "ea." Looks as if French stylists are tiering skirts more enthusiastically than ever, and with an ingenuity which baffles description. In fact everything that will possibly admit of the tiering process in the fashioning of the new autumn and winter costumes is being tiered, even to sleeves, as this picture so interestingly portrays.

For swagger style the much bettered frock as shown to the left has no competer. It presents the ultra-smart idea for the coming season. Mark the clever circular treatment of the tiers which elaborate the skirt and take note of the fact that the sleeves are also tiered below the elbow. Both velvet and satin dresses are being interpreted in this tierful manner.

In fact, the velvet-tiered frock is a favorite theme among dress designers. Sometimes the tiers are placed row and row, overlapping in conventional line which simulates an appearance of wide tucks. Again, and this is a



Two Modes From Paris.

grograin ribbon. It, too, boasts a cheerful lining self-colored to that of the coat, but preferably of satin.

Some of the handsome chinchilla coats are enriched with nutria collars. The same is true of the plaid woolen coats for girls—they are mostly fur-collared. Likewise they have hats of same material, for the ensemble of coat and hat is being greatly emphasized in Junior apparel.

Another charming outfit for the young girl for "dress up" occasions is the plaid plaited skirt either taffeta or woolen, with which is worn a velvet coat topped with a soft beret hat to match. Some of these short coats are double breasted, others are styled with novelty belts of gold or silver kid or gay suede which is artfully detailed with metal decorations.

Children's suede-cloth coats acquire skirt fullness with godets or plaits, also below-the-elbow fullness is gathered into tiny fur wristbands, matching the collar.

Tiers are popular in Paris, at least in fashion's realm where they spell it with an "le" and

very popular idea, each tier is scalloped. Very modish is the velvet skirt formed of scalloped tiers, the same worn with a gorgeously gay plaid blouse, or perhaps one of exotic print or metal splendor. The texture and weight of the new velvets admit gracefully of the tiered manipulation, being exceedingly supple, and one might almost say sheer, so exquisitely delicate are they to the touch—and velvet is the rage!

As to plaits, they never grow weary in well doing, and if some of us expected them to be relegated to the past, present-day fashions prove conclusively the fallacy of such a thought. While all-around plaited skirts are worn, the really smart note is to mass the plaitings to the front. However the woman of fashion is given her preference for an entirely box-plaited skirt with which she wears a blouse which shows a bit of shirring at the front.

JULIA BOTTOMLEY.
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