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STARTING THE LAYERS ON THE WINTER EGG CAMPAIGN

Keep the Late Moulting Hens, Which Are the Profit Makers of the Flock—A High Protein Ration Needed to Make Quick Growth of Feathers.

Hens that devote too much attention early in the season to the fall styles in feathers are not the kind that please the flock owner. It costs too much to support them and they demand too long a vacation period. But the hen that wears her old clothes until autumn has almost passed is the best of the flock, for she has kept on laying since the previous fall or winter. So now when you see a bird that looks shabbier than the others, do not conclude that she is of the no-account kind and that her smartly dressed sisters are the ones to keep.

Late Moulters Take Short Vacation
Of course some of the hens that molted earlier, say in August and September, are profitable enough to keep, but the cream of the flock is made up of hens that do not change their feathers until October or November. Their molting will require only a few weeks and they will probably be laying again by the 1st of January. The poor ones, the early-molting loafers, will not begin until about this time, even though they have been resting since the middle of the summer. It takes one about two months and the other twice that long to get back into production.

The poultry keeper who has an eye for business will not neglect this worn looking late layer, for she is the best profit maker he has. She needs a highly nutritious ration if she is to be in the best condition to start on another year of high production. When she quits laying and starts to molt she has as much need for a ration strong in protein as she has when she is shelling out the eggs, as feathers are highly nitrogenous in their make-up. They use the materials supplied by beef scrap, gluten feed, and oil meal. The oil meal is very effective in keeping the feathers in a healthy, glossy condition.

Hens that lay eggs late in the fall and in the winter are really producing an out-of-season crop, for it is normal for the hen to lay for a time in the spring and early summer and then rest for the remainder of the year. Profitable hens are really those that have the capacity to force their egg-making machinery, but they must have the right sort of feed with which to do it. That means feeding well-balanced rations designed for the particular class, and sometimes for the particular breed. A balanced ration is a combination of feeds which furnish just the necessary amount of nutrients to produce the highest and most economical egg yields. The amount of feed needed to produce a dozen eggs varies with the kind of birds. According to experiments conducted by the United States Department of Agriculture general-purpose pullets produced a dozen eggs from 6.7 pounds of feed, and Leghorn pullets laid the same number from 4.8 pounds.

Simple mixtures are usually the most desirable. As the fall advances and the days grow shorter the birds should be encouraged to put away as much feed as possible during the day so that their bodies will have plenty to work on for all of the 24 hours. A good handful of scratch grain for each bird at night will fill the crop. It is not desirable that the hens be made to work very hard for this feed. Be sure that the hens go to roost with a full crop.

In making up rations it is necessary to adhere to standards within certain limits, but some feeds may be substituted for others, as barley, wheat, and oats for corn. However, meat scrap and other animal-protein feeds can not be replaced by high-vegetable protein feeds. All changes should be made gradually, as sudden changes may decrease egg production.

A great many poultrymen and livestock feeders now believe that if the animal has a free choice it will select the ration that is most suitable. At the Government farm at Beltsville, Md., the following mash was made up by keeping account of the amounts of the different feeds a laying flock consumed:

Samples of Balanced Rations

- Mash—**
16 pounds corn meal.
6 1-2 pounds meat scrap.
1 pound bran.
1 pound middlings.
Scratch mixture—
1 pound cracked corn.
1 pound wheat.
1 pound oats.

Here is a simple ration that has given very good results with Leghorns, but that has proved too fattening for Rocks and Wyandotts. Meat scrap, it will be seen, makes up over 25 per cent of the mash.

- Mash—**
3 pounds corn meal.
1 pound meat scrap.
Scratch mixture—
2 pounds cracked corn.
1 pound oats.

For birds that are made too fat by the preceding ration, the following, containing only 16 per cent of meat scrap but having considerable protein in other feeds, has been found a good one.

- Mash—**
1 pound corn meal.
1 pound bran.
3-4 pound meat scrap.
1 pound middlings.
1 pound ground oats.
Scratch mixture—
2 pounds cracked corn.
1 pound wheat.
1 pound oats.
1 pound barley.

Poultrymen resort to every possible means to get their hens to eat a great deal of feed, especially in the winter when the days are short. One way is to cut the morning scratch feed to about half. The hungry bird then goes to the mash trough and gorges on the dry mash. Then to increase the consumption of mash some of it is fed wet at noon and the hens will eat it when they would take no more of it dry.

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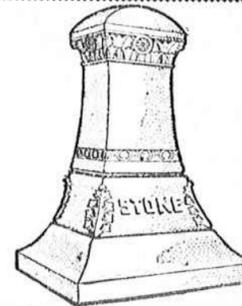
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GOOD ROADS

Columbia, Nov. 8.—The South Carolina Good Roads Association Saturday received application for membership from the Columbia Builders Exchange. "We desire," says a letter from Virgil C. Dibble, secretary of the exchange enclosing membership check "by becoming a member of the South Carolina Good Roads Association as an organization to evidence our lively interest in the attainment of the vitally important object you have in view. We thus add to whatever individual memberships the builders of Columbia may hold with you the membership of their exchange as the body through which they give effect to their support of movements for the good of this city and this state."

Application for membership was also received Saturday from William C. Farber, chairman of the good roads committee of Lexington county. "It is with pleasure that I enclose my check for membership," wrote Mr. Farber. "I appreciate what this good work means as about nine years ago I formed the good roads committee of Lexington county to look after the road between Columbia and Batesburg. My best wishes are with you and if at anytime I can be of any service to you, just call on me."

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HOT COCOA FOR COLD DAYS
IS FOOD AS WELL AS DRINK

In cold weather it is good for the younger children to have a hot drink before starting for school in the morning. Cocoa made with milk is both a food and a beverage, and most children enjoy it for breakfast. The United States Department of Agriculture recommends cocoa as a suitable addition to the hot school lunch. When it is not possible for the children to obtain it at school the mother may serve it when the children get home in the afternoon, as part of the evening meal. Few adults will refuse an appetizing cup of cocoa for lunch or

BETTER DEAD

Life is a burden when the body is racked with pain. Everything worries and the victim becomes despondent and downhearted. To bring back the sunshine take



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supper, when dropping in to call, or when returning late at night from a cold trip.

Make cocoa with whole or skim milk if possible. Allow 2 level teaspoonfuls of cocoa and about 2 level teaspoonfuls of sugar to each half pint of milk. While bringing the milk to the scalding point mix the cocoa and sugar to a paste with a little cold milk or water. Add to the hot milk, bring to the boiling point, and boil for about a minute. To prevent scum from rising, beat briskly with an egg beater. Some persons like the addition of a few drops of vanilla. Whipped cream or a marshmallow may be floated on top of each cup.

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