

RATIONS FOR CHICKS UP TO FULL MATURITY

The Ration: Mixture No. 1.—Rolled oats, eight pounds; breadcrumbs, eight pounds; sifted beef scrap, two pounds; bonemeal, a pound.

Mixture No. 2.—Wheat (cracked), two pounds; cracked milo or corn (fine), two pounds; pinhead oatmeal, a pound; millet, a pound.

Mixture No. 3.—Wheat bran, three pounds; milo, Kafir or meal, three pounds; wheat, middlings, shorts, three pounds; beef scraps (sifted, best grade), three pounds.

Mixture No. 4.—Wheat (whole) two pounds; Kafir, milo or corn, two pounds; hulled oats, one pound.

Mixture No. 5.—Kafir, milo or corn, three pounds; wheat, two pounds.

The Method.—One to five days, mixture No. 1 moistened slightly with sour



Much of the loss in raising chicks in brooders can be obviated by keeping the floor of the brooders and brooder houses covered with an inch of clean sand. Cut corn stover or cut straw should be used on the sand for scratch litter. Such material as clover or timothy chaff or buckwheat hulls is objectionable in the brooder house. The chicks pick up the particles of the fuzzy stuff and are not able to pass them through the crop. The brooder coop shown is common in Rhode Island.

skimmilk, fed five times a day; mixture No. 2 in shallow tray containing a little of No. 3 (dry) always before chicks; shredded green food and fine grit and charcoal scattered over food.

Five Days to Two Weeks Old.—No. 2 in light litter twice a day, No. 3 moistened with sour skimmilk, fed three times a day; No. 3 always available.

Two to Six Weeks.—As above, except that moist mash is given twice a day.

Four to Six Weeks or Until Chicks Are on Range.—Reduce meals of moist mash to one a day, mixture No. 4 in litter twice a day, dry mash always available.

Six Weeks to Maturity.—No. 3 and No. 5 hopper fed; one meal a day of moist mash if it is desired to hasten developments.

Directions.—Provide fine grit, charcoal, shell and bone from the start. Give grass range or plenty of green food; fresh water. Feed only sweet, wholesome seeds. Avoid damp and soiled litter. Disinfect brooder frequently. Provide shade, fresh air and protection from the sun.—Kansas Farmer.

CLEANING THE BROODER.

Important That All Filth Be Removed and Utensils Scalded.

Cleanliness is an essential in good brooding methods. Each night after the chicks have "retired" we wash and scald thoroughly all dishes connected with their food and drink, writes a correspondent of the Orange Judd Farmer. For the first two weeks we clean the brooder only when necessary, because the chicks stay out for short periods only and seem frightened when too much disturbed. We aim to keep the litter of fine chaff reasonably clean and wholesome. Since cleaning is essential, it is done thoroughly. The soiled litter is brushed out carefully. The floor of the brooder is then cleaned with a whisk broom and kerosene, and the fresh litter is dusted with lice powder.

When the chicks have passed their second week and are reasonably safe from their "baby" ills, their care often becomes monotonous, and it is easy to let neglect creep in. This is where we appreciate good hovers. It is such a simple thing each morning while the chicks are enjoying their first exercise to hang the burlap covers for an hour's sunning and airing and to set the frames against the side of the house and thoroughly clean the floor where they stood, leaving all sweet, clean and dry. No cumbersome brooder boxes to move or to accumulate filth and vermin means a great saving in work.

POULTRY GOSSIP.

- Onion tops and tender dandelion leaves, chopped and fed to incubator chicks when confined where they cannot get green grass, will be eaten by them with a relish.
- If chicks have bowel trouble try putting common ball bluing in the drinking water. It will not injure the chicks and has cured many after all other remedies failed.
- The mild weather we are now enjoying is life to both chicks and fowls.
- The fall egg crop will depend largely upon the number of April hatched pullets.
- At the present market price it is more profitable to turn the eggs into chickens than to retail the eggs.

SOWING OATS.

Oats grow best when sown with a drill in a fine and firm seed bed about two or three inches deep. Fall plowed land is to be preferred. Seeding should be done early.

Oats follow a cultivated crop in a rotation. Fall plowing is best. If the situation demands spring plowing the earlier it is done the better. Following spring plowing the soil must be worked back so as to unite the furrow slice and the "pan." A good seed bed can be made on clean land where corn was grown last year by two diskings and a harrowing with a slant tooth harrow.

Drilling gives a more even stand than broadcast sowing and covers the seed to a more nearly uniform depth. Less seed also is required in drilling. The seed should be covered usually about one and a half inches deep. The rate of seeding should be two bushels to the acre under average soil conditions or two and a half bushels on heavy soils.

Every two or three years oat seed should be treated for smut to hold the disease in check. This year is a good time to begin. A formaldehyde solution will probably save your field several bushels an acre.

A germination test is always advisable, but especially so this year, for tests are showing up poorly. Rigid grading with a fanning mill will also help to get a high test.—C. P. Bull, University Farm, St. Paul.

PLANTING HARDY STOCK.

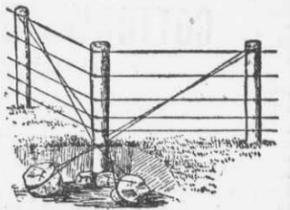
Work on Small Fruit and Trees Should Begin in Early Spring.

Asparagus, rhubarb, strawberries, raspberries, blackberries, currants and all the small fruits, hardy roses and shrubs, hardy perennial plants, lilies, iris and all fruit and ornamental trees can be planted as soon as the ground can be worked in the spring.

In planting trees and shrubs make the holes larger in circumference and deeper than necessary. Loosen up the soil to a good depth and pulverize it. Mix well rotted manure with the soil in the bottom of the hole and cover this lightly with soil, as no manure should touch the roots. Trim off broken roots with a sharp knife, making a clean cut. Spread out the roots carefully in a natural manner and fill in the soil, tamping it firmly as the filling process advances. Water thoroughly before the hole is filled, using several pails of water. Most trees and shrubs should be pruned back well before planting. Trees properly set out will mature much earlier and make finer specimens than trees carelessly planted. Gardeners doing the work will bear close watching. Not every gardener is a careful worker and, although he may know better, may take advantage of his employer and slight the work.

Bracing Corner Posts.

Whoever has had anything to do with wire fencing knows he is up against it constantly when he comes to the corner posts. Try as hard as one will, that corner post will sag and turn in in course of time. You can brace it with rails in the ground or pile stones in at the front of the post.



yet when wet weather comes and frosts pulls and tugs the post will yield and gradually slacken up.

The accompanying sketch shows one way of bracing these corner posts. While stones have been used for bracing at the front and they give good service, the use of two other larger stones farther from the base and attached by wire to the other posts adjacent to the corner post will materially assist in lightening the burdens the corner post must bear. Further description of how this is done is not necessary, since the sketch shows this very plainly.—American Agriculturist.

Ruined by Rust.

[W. E. Edmondson, Colorado station.] It is a proved fact that machinery, where exposed to moisture, rusts out very rapidly. In fact, rust does more damage to the exposed machinery than the work which the implement is called upon to do.

This is a needless waste, however, because rust can practically be overcome by taking the proper care of the machine when not in use.

Farmers could get more than twice as much wear out of most implements if they were housed properly. This alone will not suffice in some climates. A very good way to keep the rust from attacking parts exposed to moisture is to coat all the iron with a very cheap oil. This oil should be thick and heavy, so that when applied to the iron it will not run off.

This coating of oil will keep all of the moisture away from the iron and will prevent rust from starting.

POULTRY and EGGS

BROILERS FOR MARKET.

Separate the Chicks Chosen For This Purpose and Feed Well.

Broilers are young chickens weighing from three-fourths to two pounds, the latter weight being the most common size, says the Farm Journal. The production of broilers as a special business has been tried without success on many poultry farms in the northeastern part of this country. Broilers, however, are raised successfully and at a good profit both on poultry farms and also where only a few fowls are kept, the broilers being the cockerels, which are a byproduct in the raising of pullets for egg production.

The general purpose breeds of fowls, such as the Plymouth Rocks, Wyandottes, Rhode Island Reds and Orpingtons, produce chickens making the best broilers. These chickens should weigh from two to two and a half pounds (live weight) at eleven to thirteen weeks of age. The Leghorns are not so well adapted for broilers, as their chickens are smaller, but they make fair broilers, weighing from one to two pounds. All Leghorn cockerels, except those saved for breeding stock, should be sold as broilers, as they are not well adapted for market after passing beyond this size.

The cockerels should be separated from the pullets as soon as the sex can be readily distinguished, the most promising chickens being saved for breeding stock. The sex is usually told by the development of the head points, tail and general male characteristics in the cockerels, and this re-



White chickens make the most attractive and easily dressed broilers, as their pinfeathers are not so apparent when the chickens are prepared for market. Chickens of the general purpose breeds make good market poultry after they pass the broiler size, but many of these, especially those hatched early, are marketed to best advantage as broilers on account of the high price paid. The chicks shown are White Wyandottes.

quires some skill and practice. The chickens selected as broilers may be forced more rapidly than those saved for breeding stock. Quick growth can be produced by dividing them into flocks of fifty or less and confining them to small pens for fourteen to eighteen days before they are marketed. Feed in the morning and at noon a wet mash of six pounds of cornmeal, four pounds of low grade wheat flour and two pounds of bran or middlings, mixed with skimmilk or buttermilk to the consistency of oatmeal porridge. If no milk is available add one pound of beef scrap to the mash and give some green feed daily, using only enough water to make a crumbly mash. In addition to either of these mash feeds, give all the cracked corn that the chickens will eat for the evening feed.

Higher prices are paid for the early broilers, those hatched in March and April, than for those hatched in the late spring and early summer. Pullets hatched early also make the best fall and winter layers and are the most profitable to raise. Broilers are marketed both alive and dressed.

Mature Hens Best Breeders.

While it is undoubtedly true that pullets will lay more eggs than hens, still the hens are more valuable in the breeding pen, for the progeny of hens are sure to be larger and harder than that from pullets. Another consideration that must be taken into account is that eggs for hatching can be used from record laying hens and thus perpetuate the egg laying qualities of such hens. Pullets, of course, have no record till they complete their first season's work.

Losing Young Chicks.

Complaints already are heard about losing chicks, and yet nearly all the loss could have been prevented, for the trouble has come because the chicks were fed too soon after being hatched. The yolk of the egg, which is imbibed by the chick a short time before it is hatched, provides sufficient nourishment for its sustenance for at least two days, and any food given it before that time is a detriment.

Hoppers Save Time.

A poultry feed hopper capable of holding a large quantity of feed is a great labor saver. By allowing the birds access to its contents a satisfactory growth is obtained and an opportunity is given them to balance the grain rations fed.

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