POULTRY

SAVE LEGUME HAY FOR WINTER FEED

Save about six pounds of good legume hay for every bird in your poultry flock for use this winter.

For legume hay, especially if it is leafy and of good quality, makes an excellent winter substitute for the succulent green food hens like so well during the summer. Feeding trials at the Ohio agricultural experiment station, Wooster, have demonstrated the truth of this, according to the experimenters, D. C. Kennard and R. M. Bethke.

Alfalfa, red clover, and soy bean hays appear to be about equally valuable. Regardless of the kind, it is necessary that the hay be made of the immature plant, so as to carry a large proportion of leafy material, especially valuable for chickens.

The hay must be carefully cured without getting wet, the scientists suggest, so that it will hold its bright green color. This insures retention of its valuable water-soluble constituents. Usually the second or third cutting of alfalfa and clover is best. Soy bean hay is best cut when the seeds are just beginning to form in the pods.

Perhaps the best way to feed hay to poultry is to cut it in half-inch lengths. It can then be put into a wire-netting basket feeder and kept before the birds all the time. Uncut hay may be put into feeding racks made of plaster lath placed vertically 2 inches apart. Still another way is to tie the hay in a bundle and suspend it from the ceiling so as to be 5 or 6 inches from the floor.

Examine Bands on Wings and Legs of Chickens

Don't forget the pedigreed stock these days. They are your best chicks. Examine the legbands and wingbands to see that they are not cutting into the flesh and that none of the bands have worked loose and are likely to be lost.

Some breeders use legbands for the first few weeks of the chicks' lives and later transfer these bands to the wings. If this practice is followed on your farm, see that this rebanding time has not gone too long and that the bands are not cutting into the shanks. If it is not convenient to change these bands to the wings just now, loosen them enough so the legs will not be injured and the bands will not drop off.

Other breeders put the bands right in the wings when the chicks are hatched. Catch up these chicks and look over the condition of these wings and bands. They may have been pinched too tightly at the start or for some reason may be partly torn out. Many of these bands may have to be loosened and some may have to be tightened. Make a practice of examining the condition of the bands every three weeks.

Poultry Facts

Much disease can be kept out of the poultry flock by burying or burning the dead birds.

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Burn or bury dead chickens. Every decaying carcass is an incubator breeding germs and disease.

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One means of getting the pullets to lay in the winter is to give them plenty of water and proper food in the fall.

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A combination of dried buttermilk and meat scraps is usually depended upon to furnish the animal protein portion of mash mixture.

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Wheat bran is largely used in all chick mashes. It is bulky but fairly digestible and has a laxative tendency which is beneficial. It is fairly high in protein.

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In New York the Pacific Coast extra white eggs sell for more than the New Jersey and nearby extra whites. A good reputation is worth money.

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Birds that should be culled are sure to show a loss in the future and the sooner they are sold, the greater will be the returns, in proportion to costs.

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It is better to keep a small flock of birds that pay their way than to keep a large flock in which there are a lot of drones that eat up the profit made by good birds.

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With corn at $1 per bushel and wheat at $1.25, poultry raisers can afford to feed more than the usual amount of wheat in place of corn.

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Rolled oats or oatmeal are extensively used in chick feeding, and they are excellent for this purpose. When used as a complete ration they are apt to cause gas.

QUALITY SERVICE RELIABILITY

SUNSHINE POULTRY FARM

Box 8

DENTON, MARYLAND

Delivery Prices For Oct., Nov., Dec.

Barred Rocks (per hundred)	$14	$15	$16
R. I. Reds (per hundred)	$14	$15	$16

SPECIAL OFFER TO POULTRYMEN

On all orders of a thousand chicks placed before January 1st, for delivery up to July 1st, we will give free one Royal Brooder Stove. Twenty per cent of purchase price to accompany order. Brooder to be shipped at once. On all five hundred chick orders, the same as the above date, a credit of twelve dollars will be given on the purchase price of a stove.

Our breeding stock is range reared, culled for vigor, stamina and sturdiness; matings accurately made to produce steady layers. All stock is disease free.

Satisfaction guaranteed. Write for free catalog. Prices quoted on any sized order. References: Peoples Bank, Denton, Md.

POULTRY

IMPORTANT JOBS IN CHICKEN YARD

There are three jobs with the farm poultry that need to be done early, the earlier, the better.

Right now is the time to cull the hens, dip both hens and pullets to destroy their lice and transfer the pullets to the laying house.

Culling is a simple job.

To see a culling demonstration, it appears to consist of a lot of fuss and frills, but the amateur will do a pretty efficient job if he culls out at this time of year the hens that have yellow shanks and beaks and that already have their new feathers for winter.

The yellow shanks and beaks indicate that the hens are not laying while the new feathers generally indicate that they will not lay—until spring.

While the weather is still warm is the time to dip all the chickens.

Don't think your hens have no lice—all hens have them and don't wait until it is so cold you will have to dust them.

Dusting is all right if one has a gas mask and plenty of time.

Sodium fluoride is the stuff to use in the dip.

Each year, many excellent early-hatched pullets are thrown into a molt because the owner delays too long getting them transferred to the laying house.

When pullets get to laying, it doesn't take much of a fright to throw them into a molt.

Pullets that have been roosting in the trees often molt when they are transferred to the laying house.

Big Advantage to Have Youngsters Roost Early

Early roosting does not cause crooked breast bones, as was formerly thought by many. This is caused by poor bone development due to a deficiency in those elements that are necessary for strong bones. A proper mineral supply, plenty of direct sunshine, or the use of cod liver oil will prevent this condition.

It is to the poultry keeper's advantage to get young stock to roost as early as possible, for if they do not get this habit, it is difficult to teach them when they are put in the laying house. The use of small roosts in the brooder house when chicks are only four or five weeks old will help to start this habit early. These roosts can be hinged to the walls of the brooder house about a foot from the floor. They may be raised during the day to give the chicks full benefit of the floor space, and lowered to the floor in the evening. By having these roosts on all sides of the house, there will be sufficient room for the chicks to spread out and they will all be equi-distant from the brooder stove, providing the stove is in the center of the house.

Coccidiosis Symptoms

Weakness, ruffled feathers, drowsiness, and sometimes bloody droppings, are outward symptoms of coccidiosis. Perform a post-mortem and examine the intestines. If the blind pouches are enlarged and filled with a firm cheesy material, that is an additional symptom of coccidiosis. Some feeding experiments have proven that a diet of nothing but buttermilk may be helpful in controlling this disease. A practical method is to kill all badly diseased chicks.

Soft-Shelled Eggs

Soft-shelled eggs may be prevented first by seeing the hens get plenty of minerals. This is accomplished by having both oyster shells and cracked rock known as hens' grit in front of the hens constantly and by feeding a dry mash which contains about 20 per cent beef scraps. In case you are using milk in place of beef scraps, add about 5 per cent of what the packers call raw bone meal. This will keep indefinitely if kept covered up.

Poultry Notes

Laying hens need water and neglect to provide it may seriously reduce the egg yield.

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Much disease can be kept out of the poultry flock by burying or burning the dead birds.

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In mixing a ration the physical effect of a feed must be considered as well as the chemical nutrients.

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Poultry yards are necessary on the farm, if the flock is to be properly cared for. Disease prevention and control are impossible if the hens range all over the farm.

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Ground oats may be used for growing stock or laying hens when fed in limited quantities.

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A straw loft in the poultry house is an advantage to the flock owner. The straw loft helps to keep the house cool during summer and warm during winter.

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Too much salt is a poison for hens, but they need a little just as humans do. A pound to 100 pounds of mash improves their appetite and aids digestion.

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Let the chickens on the farm rough it and rustle for themselves and they will give little in return.

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The hens should exercise and have plenty of green food. If they are fed properly and not overfed, you will have no trouble with soft-shelled eggs.

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Bran mixed with meat scraps fed dry in hoppers, oats scattered in a litter of straw, corn fed on the cob and anything in the shape of green stuff, such as beets, cabbage, pumpkins, etc., should be fed to hens.

Do not provide perches with sharp edges. Bumblefoot and other ailments can often be traced to this cause.

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Do not elevate the rosts too high. Bruising of the birds' feet in alighting from the perches causes serious trouble.

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Fowl cholera is a very hard disease to control, due to the nature of the disease, outbreaks often occurring when least expected.

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If the brooder houses are thoroughly scrubbed with boiling lye water they will be free from germs when stored away for the winter.

BABY CHICKS

Barred Rocks, R. I. Reds, White Wyandottes and White Leghorns. Bred from pure bred, free range birds. Our breeders are under State Supervision, having been culled and inspected by competent men. Four hatches each week. During October and November with each 500 chicks we will give 50 Lbs. of Chick Starter Free. With 1000 chicks we will give 100 Lbs. of Chick Starter Free. We use and recommend this Chick Starter. Prices on request.

KOSTER POULTRY FARM
Laurel, Del, R. F. D.

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