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WEEKLY POULTRY LESSON

Under the Authoritative Direction of Prof. F. C. Eloff Dominion Poultry Husbandman

With Specialized Information Contributed by G. W. Miller Author of Coldbelt Poultry Course.

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FEEDS AND FEEDING

Feed is given to fowls for exactly the same reason that coal or wood is fed to locomotives—to make them go. And in many respects, when feed is eaten by a hen it is subjected to the same process as when coal or wood is burned in a fire-box.

All feeds have not the same effect on a hen. One will create warmth, motion and growth in varying degree and quite different from that of other feeds.

For this reason the feeding of a living fowl is much more involved than the firing of an engine. Feeds are much more complex in their elements than fuel. Any kind of fuel that will burn will produce heat under an engine, but every kind of feed will not make a hen lay. It is necessary to understand this, and the food value of the different food-stuffs in order to keep poultry for the greatest profit.

A fowl requires a variety of feed. While it is true that the whole grains, and the milled by-products from the same, form the greater part of a bird's ration, it is absolutely essential that it have also green feed, animal feed, mineral feed, drink, and grit.

All feeds are composed of four principle elements, so the chemists tell us, and these are known as proteins, carbohydrates, fats and ash.

The proteins are the part of feed that produce growth, but the efficiency of protein depends on the source from which it is derived.

Carbohydrates produce energy, keeping the fowl's body warm and furnish the energy needed in moving.

Fats are similar in their effects to carbohydrates, but have two-and-a-quarter times as much energy value. They serve as the fuel reserve of the body. All surplus of protein or carbohydrates eaten by a fowl are turned to fats and stored for future use.

Ash furnishes the mineral needed to make bone for the body structure, to keep it in repair, and shell material for eggs.

Different grain contain these elements in varying degrees and quality. It is therefore necessary to know something of this in order to feed hens to the best advantage.

Wheat. Wheat comes the most nearly to making a perfect poultry feed, and is highly relished by all classes of poultry. Shrunken wheat, when caused by drought or frost, is of higher feeding value than plump wheat.

Bran has very little food value in itself. Its chief value is to give bulk to the ration, and keep the action of the digestive juices. It is quite laxative and should not be fed alone but always in combination.

Middlings or shorts make an excellent addition to poultry rations, and are especially good in fattening for market. They check looseness of the bowels, and should be used when bran or cornmeal is used for mash.

Low grade flour is also good as a part of a mash compound. It is similar to middlings in its value and action.

Corn. Corn is an excellent poultry food, and when it can be had at a reasonable price should be fed in at least equal proportion as wheat. It is high in fats and heat producing qualities, and is

the most easily digested of all the grains. Because whole corn may be eaten so rapidly, the custom for feeding it cracked has become quite general. There is no difference in food value between yellow and white corn, except that yellow corn gives color to the fat of birds, and to the yolk of the egg.

Cornmeal should be a part of all mashes for poultry. It is very liable to heat in hot weather, and if it swells mouldy or sour it should not be fed.

Gluten meal is a by-product of corn from glucose and starch factories. It is very high in protein and fats, but when skim milk and meat scraps can be obtained its use is not advisable as a poultry feed.

Oats. Oats would be a first-class poultry feed were it not for the large amount of husk, which varies from 20 to 40 per cent. of the whole grain. Not more than two per cent. of this fibre can be digested by fowls. But when they are ground, husk and all, they are an ideal feed for a dry mash and are relished very much by fowls—possibly more than any other ingredient that can be used. When used as a scratch feed, oats should not compose more than one-third of the mixture.

Rolled oats and steel cut oats are excellent as grain for baby chicks, and are exceptionally good in fattening fowls for market.

Buckwheat. Buckwheat is a most excellent poultry feed. Hens unaccustomed to it are slow in eating it, but if fed without other grains a few days they learn to eat it and to relish it very much. It is fattening, so is better for winter than summer feeding.

Sunflower Seed. This seed is easily grown and the plants make excellent summer shade for poultry. It is a very good addition to the grain feed, especially during the molting season. It is said to add brilliance to the plumage.

Questions based on this Week's Lesson.

1. Have all feed the same nutritive value for poultry?
2. Why does a fowl require a variety of feeds?
3. What is the function of fats as chemically found in feedstuffs?

Answers to Questions of Last Week's Lesson.

1. Weight is considerably increased, sometimes as much as 20 per cent. Thus a five pound bird can by ten days' special feeding be made to weigh six pounds. But the greater advantage is the improvement in the quality of the flesh. Thin layers of fat are distributed throughout the lean, making the meat juicy and of very fine flavor.

2. Pen, or flock fattening. This is best for young broilers of less than three pounds. Crate fattening for young stock that is nearing maturity, and cramping when the very finest quality is desired.

3. The heavier breeds respond most profitably to special feeding. Persons desiring poultry meat in large quantity and fine quality should keep Plymouth Rocks, Wyandottes or similar breeds.

4. Birds, being fattened, should be kept in close confinement, denied range, and fed at regular intervals of short duration all they will eat of a mixture made to the consistency of thin batter or gruel.

Canada Self-Sufficient as to Coal Supply; Transportation the Big Problem

There is no fuel problem in Canada. There never will be, for the simple reason that within the boundaries of three of the provinces of the Dominion, in fact, within the boundaries of one of them, lies a sufficient reserve of fuel to meet all of Canada's needs for many generations.

The problem is, and always has been, one of transportation and distribution. Solve this problem, and there will be no excuse for empty coal bins in any home in Canada. Alberta and Nova Scotia coal brought to where it is most needed at a price within the reach of the ordinary man's pocketbook, will make it unnecessary to send over to the United States something like a hundred million dollars every year for fuel.

The province of Alberta, it is generally acknowledged, holds the key to the fuel situation in Canada, because of the unique position it occupies in possessing more coal reserves than any other one country in the world, save the United States. Nature bestowed upon this far western province not only great stretches of wheatlands upon which to raise foodstuffs for less fortunate portions of the globe, but also stored away

in the basement under those wheatlands, enough reserves of coal to feed the furnaces of the world for several centuries. Some of this coal is now being brought to the surface in instalments that total annually about 6,000,000 tons, but the dent made in Alberta's coal pile thus far is but as a shovelful of earth from the side of a mountain. Saskatchewan has been frantically wheelbarrow to the Alberta coal bin for its annual supply of fuel for many years, and just recently Manitoba has signed Alberta's order book for a large yearly supply, thus displacing nearly all of the coal formerly imported from the United States for domestic purposes.

According to the latest estimates available from authorities, Alberta has an actual reserve of coal totaling 386,360 million tons, and an estimated probable reserve of 623,679 million tons, or a grand total of 1,010,039 million tons.

These coal reserves comprise just 14 per cent. of the entire world's reserves. They are many times larger than those of all the other provinces of Canada put together, being just 87 per cent. of Canada's coal reserves. Even in the British Empire of the globe, but also stored away

COMPARATIVE CHART OF ALBERTA'S COAL RESERVES

| Region | Reserves (Million Tons) |
|----------------------|-------------------------|
| ALBERTA (IN HER OWN) | 1,010,039 |
| NORTH AMERICA | 507,342.6 |
| BRITISH EMPIRE | 150,636 |
| CANADA | 123,426.9 |

for it has 72 per cent. of all the coal that is known to exist in all the countries coming under the Union Jack.

There are about 350 mines in operation in the province, employing about 12,000 men. These mines produce approximately 5,000,000 tons a year. At this rate of mining it would take more than 180,000 years to exhaust the supply. If the production were increased 100 times, there would still be enough for 18 centuries.

Coal reserves of the various provinces of Canada are placed as follows:

| Province | Million tons |
|-----------------------|--------------|
| Nova Scotia | 3,719 |
| New Brunswick | 151 |
| Ontario | 25 |
| Manitoba | 150 |
| Saskatchewan | 60,000 |
| Alberta | 1,075,227 |
| British Columbia | 76,625 |
| Yukon | 4,940 |
| Northwest Territories | 10,800 |

Alberta mines could meet the demands of Ontario for domestic fuel without any addition to the plants of the present mines, and such an increased production would give employment to twice the number of men now being employed.

With wide diversity in quality of coal, the type of mines in Alberta also varies widely, from the humble shaft in a farmer's colliery, to the most modern type of mine that can be found. In many places the coal is so near the surface that the soil is merely stripped off, the coal seams blasted, and the coal dug and loaded in one operation by great steam shovels. Where farmers are fortunate enough to live along the courses of the rivers or have handy collieries where coal outcrops, all they have to do for their winter's supply is to throw a pick and shovel into the wagon and go out and dig it out of the side of the bank. Many of the prairie mines have shafts of but 100 or 150 feet deep. These mines are generally dry from gas, large, cool, easily-worked, electrically-lighted mines that furnish the bulk of Alberta's famous domestic fuel. Such mines are found in the Lethbridge and Drumheller and Edmonton districts. In the mountain districts where harder coal is taken out, the shafts penetrate far into the hillsides. Here, too, are found mines of a very modern type, with electric light and power systems, electric motors underground to handle coal, electric cutting machinery, and all the modern equipment that goes with such a mine.

In the mountain ranges and along the foothills are mines producing bituminous and anthracite coal, and here also are stored vast untouched anthracite fields, among them being the famous Hoppe leases much discussed during the recent session of parliament, and said to be worth millions.

The greater portion of the prairie lands of Alberta is underlaid with the high grade domestic fuel that supplies the markets of Alberta, Saskatchewan and Manitoba. Efforts are now being made to secure such a reduction in freight rates in central Canada and, with the added demand, to effect such economies in mining, as to enable Alberta coal to supply the markets of Ontario and Quebec.

At the Presbyterian manse in Prescott, on Saturday Mrs. Caroline Sarah Johnson, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Harry Billings, Brockville and Ernest Angus Alberry, son of Alex. Alberry, Brockville, were married. The couple will reside in Brockville.



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In nearly every neighborhood in every town and city in this country there are women who have been helped by Lydia E. Pinkham's Vegetable Compound in the treatment of ailments peculiar to their sex, and they take pleasure in passing the good word along to other women. Therefore, if you are troubled in this way, why not give Lydia E. Pinkham's Vegetable Compound a fair trial. This famous remedy, the medicinal ingredients of which are derived from roots and herbs, has for forty years proved its value in such cases. Women everywhere bear willing testimony to the wonderful virtue of Lydia E. Pinkham's Vegetable Compound.

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