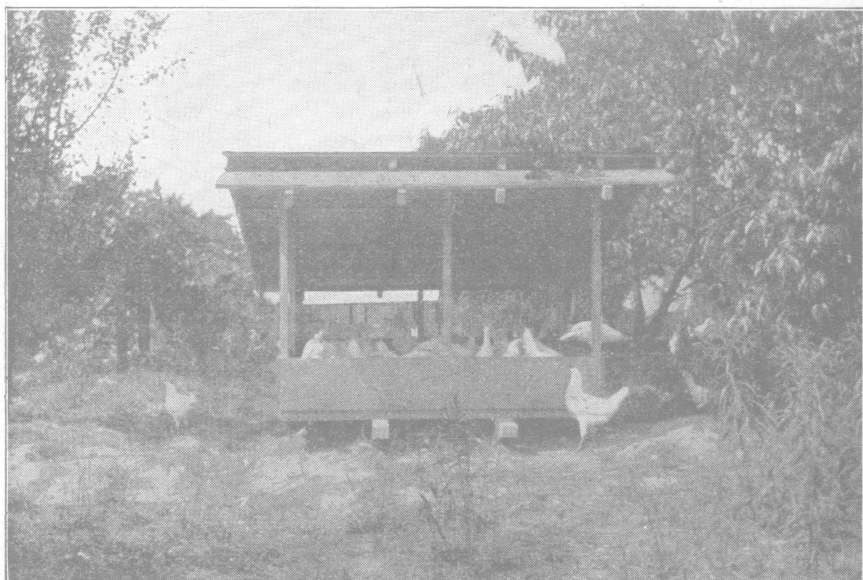


# Summer Care of the Young Stock

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**T**HIS bulletin is based on the supposition that the chicks have had proper care for the first six or eight weeks, and as a result are off to a good start. However, no chicks ever reach a condition at six or eight weeks of age where they can go on thru to a good finish without proper care during the summer. The big job now is to bring them on thru the summer in the best possible manner ready for a winter of heavy production.



A LABOR SAVING MASH HOPPER FOR PULLETS ON RANGE

Since profits in the poultry business depend more on good egg production than on any other factor, the question of good pullets is paramount. A pullet must lay a relatively large number of eggs in the fall and winter if she is to be profitable, and if she is to return more profit than the hen which she is supplanting in the laying house. A half grown pullet, runty and underdeveloped, is a liability and had better never be grown than put in the laying house for a winter producer.

## Separate the Sexes

The first thing that should be done is the separation of the cockerels from the pullets. This should be done at from six to eight-weeks of age. There are several reasons for this.

- (1) The pullets are the most valuable crop and should be given every opportunity to develop properly, which they will not do if the cockerels are left with them;
- (2) The cockerels will be ready for the broiler market sooner by putting them by themselves and fattening them for a short period; ordinarily the broiler market declines as the season progresses, hence the advisability of getting the broilers on the market as soon as possible;
- (3) The brooder house at this stage is becoming very crowded and, since it will not properly house all the chicks, there is the necessity for removing some of them.

*Selecting the Breeders.*—When the cockerels are separated the likely looking breeders should be selected, if outside breeding males are not to be obtained. Select the rapid developing, short-legged, deep-bodied, smooth, broad-backed cockerels that show indications of vigor in their heads and in general appearance. These breeders may be left with the pullets if not too numerous.

*Fattening the Market Broilers.* The cockerels for market should be put in a pen or in fattening crates and fed for two or three weeks, depending on their condition. The following rations are recommended:

No. 1	No. 2	No. 3
Ground corn, 7 parts	Ground corn, 3 parts	Ground corn, 3 parts
Middlings, 3 parts	Ground oats, 1 part	Standard wheat midd-
Bran, 1 part	Ground wheat, 1 part	ings, 1 part

To this mixture add skimmilk or buttermilk so as to make a batter the consistency of pancake batter. The mixture should pour readily from a pail. This ordinarily requires about 60 percent milk by weight. An addition of 10 percent tankage, meat scrap, or soybean meal will yield even greater gains. The broilers should have access to this mixture for 20 minutes twice each day.

### Range

A good range is one of the most important requisites in rearing vigorous pullets. The growth of the flock is always better, there is less disease, and the labor is not so great because of less need for carrying green feed. An alfalfa range is ideal, but a good sod of clover or bluegrass is satisfactory. It is advisable to move the brooder house every season or even during the same season if disease is present, or the range becomes depleted. All houses used for brooding purposes should be built on skids with a board floor, so that they may easily be moved.

Where necessary to cultivate the range, it should be divided into two lots, with one lot growing a crop while the other is being ranged. The old range should be limed whenever the house is moved or when reseeded. Chicks respond to a fresh range, where there is an abundance of green feed, in a way not obtainable in any other manner. Farmers who have a new range each season experience very little trouble with disease, particularly coccidiosis.

### Shade

Some kind of shade should be provided during the hot weather. Low-branching shrubs are most desirable, and seem to be preferred by the birds. Where there is no natural shade the brooder house should be blocked up off the ground far enough to furnish shade. Old sacks or branches are sometimes utilized in making artificial shade.

### Summer Housing

If the brooder house is not crowded to start with, it should properly house the pullets after the cockerels are removed at from six to eight

weeks. The house should be well ventilated, and all windows removed during the hot weather. The rear of the house should be kept open in summer in order to provide sufficient air for the continually increasing needs of the birds. If this is not done the pullets will most surely hunt some cool place to roost. There is no reason why chicks should not roost in the trees in the summer unless there is danger of stealing, or unless it will result in damage to the trees.

The house should be light and easily cleaned. Spraying once a month with some good coal-tar disinfectant is advisable, and where there is trouble with mites the roosts should be painted with thick oil. Old engine oil is satisfactory. It is a good plan thoroly to oil the roosts when they are first put in.

Clean litter should be put in the house as often as needed, this depending on how large the house is and the number of birds. The dirty litter should then be hauled away from the pullet range. Spraying should immediately follow cleaning. Roosts should be placed in the house at an early date. Early roosting helps to prevent crowding and smothering, allows better ventilation, and prevents overheating.

### Feeding

A complete and balanced ration is needed if a rapid and proper growth is to be obtained. Pullets do not lay until they are mature or very nearly so. They cannot lay a large number of eggs unless they are brought thru in the best of condition. Fall eggs are high in price, hence the necessity for rapid growth as well as good condition. Improper feed results in underdeveloped pullets which it has been definitely proven are incapable of producing as many eggs as well developed pullets.

Milk should still be provided in abundance if at all available. It furnishes the most satisfactory form of protein, gives quicker growth, and means less disease. Many poultrymen give nothing to drink but milk during the growing season, with the very best of results. Others think that during the hot weather, water should also be supplied. All agree, however, that some milk should always be available.

Green feed is indispensable for the best results, and should be provided in some form. If not available on the range, it should by all means be provided otherwise in large amounts. Almost any kind that is relished by the birds is satisfactory.

#### *Complete Rations*

Grain		Mash	
Cracked Corn .....	300 lbs.	Bran .....	100 lbs.
Wheat .....	100 lbs.	Middlings .....	100 lbs.
or		Cornmeal.....	200 lbs.
Cracked corn.....	200 lbs.	Meat scraps or tankage.....	100 lbs.
Wheat .....	200 lbs.		

*Milk.*—Where milk is available the meat scraps or tankage may be reduced in accordance with the amount of milk given.

*Green Feed.*—All the birds will consume.

*Oyster Shells and Grit.*—Available at all times.

#### *How to Feed*

*Mash* should be available at all times. Some kind of a hopper should be provided that can be set outdoors under the trees, that is large enough to take care of the number of pullets on the range, and is protected from the rain so

that it will not have to be taken in every time it rains. Mash which becomes wet and moldy is dangerous.

The mash hopper shown on first page is being used with splendid results. This is 6×8 feet, with a 12-inch board around to hold the mash in. The roof should be low enough to keep the rain out. The grain can be mixed with the mash and fed in this same hopper if desired. A hopper of this size will hold in the neighborhood of 500 pounds of mash, and reduces the labor of filling hoppers so often.

*The grain* can either be fed in hoppers or hand fed. When hand fed, it necessitates a trip twice a day to the range, which is advisable; and if hand feeding accomplishes this, which would otherwise not be done, it is a good thing. Both hand feeding and hopper feeding of grain are used with equally good results.

Late in the season, if the grain or mash consumption needs to be increased or decreased to get the pullets in the proper condition, it can be accomplished best by regulating the amount of grain fed, since the birds prefer grain to mash. Either can be withheld, if necessary.

### Drink

Something to drink should be available at all times. Some prefer nothing but milk, others both milk and water. During hot weather an enormous amount is consumed by the birds. Where water is given, it is often possible to locate the brooder house on desirable ground near a spring or creek. This cuts down the labor of carrying water and always furnishes a fresh supply. Where water must be hauled, a convenient method is to use a large barrel which is so arranged that there is a continual drip into a vessel of some sort.

### Troubles

Many of the chick troubles are due to improper feeding earlier in the brooding season, which results in chicks very susceptible to most chick troubles. Poor housing conditions and poor range are also responsible for many of the troubles. There are, however, some things that occur even in well cared for flocks which must be properly handled.

*Coccidiosis.*—This disease often causes tremendous losses at from two to eight weeks of age, and is due to a coccidia present in the intestines. It is very prevalent where the range is poor. The best known treatment is to move the brooder house to a good fresh range, where there is an abundance of green feed and a good sod; then feed heavily of milk.

*Worms.*—Intestinal worms are becoming a bigger problem in Ohio every year. Young stock so infested do not grow properly, are usually very thin, and either die or never reach a sufficient stage of development ever to be profitable. The presence of worms can be detected for a certainty only by a post-mortem examination of the intestines. There are two general kinds, large and small, the small ones being found only in the caecum or "blind guts." The treatment is to keep tobacco dust in the dry mash at the rate of 2 percent, and give an occasional dose of Epsom salts at the rate of ½ pound per 100 chicks. The most satisfactory method of prevention is to raise the chicks on fresh ground, not contaminated.

*Rosebugs.*—About June, these bugs are present in large numbers on rose bushes and grapevines. They are very poisonous to young chicks, and large numbers are lost each season from this cause. The only remedy is to rear the chicks away from such plants at the season when the bugs are present. Chicks well grown in size are not killed by these bugs.