



FEEDING BABY CHICKS.

The first two or three weeks is perhaps the most critical time in a chicken's life. If you can get the chicks safely over this period, then your problem is nearly solved. Then any feed which will give best results, which will tend to decrease the mortality, is not expensive even if you have to buy it and pay a good price. You cannot afford to let anything stand in the way of providing the best feed obtainable to feed your chicks for at least the first three weeks after hatching.

We have found that particularly every farmer and poultry raiser has a little different method of feeding. If you are getting good results, I should not advise you to change it. While the method mentioned here is perhaps not the best, yet it has proved to be simple and safe in most cases.

Provide a hover for the hen and chickens, or a comfortable brooder for the incubator hatched chicks. Cover the floor with clover chaff, fine cut straw or other litter free from mold or mustiness. Sprinkle a little fine grit over the floor and provide a fountain of pure water. Place the chicks in the brooder but do not feed them for 48 to 72 hours after they are hatched.

The first food we give is a little good grade commercial chick feed sprinkled in a clean place on the floor. This is fed morning, noon and night. As soon as they have learned to eat, we sprinkle this feed in the litter and let them have the fun of scratching for it. Between meals, about 10 o'clock in the morning and 2:30 in the afternoon, we sprinkle a little rolled, pinhead or steel cut oats on the floor. We provide all the sour milk or buttermilk we can get the chicks to drink from the first day until the stock is fully matured. We prefer this to feeding them beef scraps. We also cut up an onion occasionally and give to the youngsters. This furnishes them with green food and also seems to aid in keeping them healthy.

After the chicks are about ten days old, we begin to feed a dry mash mixture made as follows: Two parts bran, one corn meal, one shorts or middlings. We mix in a little bone meal and a little fine charcoal and also include half a pound of fine salt with every 100 pounds of this dry mash. This is kept in a hopper or box where the chickens can eat it any time they become hungry. The same dry mash is used until the chickens have fully matured.

If you cannot get sour milk or butter milk, it will be necessary to add one-half part of dry beef scraps to the dry mash mixture. After the chicks are from two to three weeks old, we gradually change their grain food from the commercial chick feed to a mixture of two parts wheat and one part cracked corn or kafir corn. After the chicks are a month old, their grain food is all fed from hoppers. Try this method of feeding if you wish, but don't give up your own if you are already succeeding with it. —T. E. Quisenberry, in American Agriculturist.

The following method for determining the age of eggs is said to be practiced in the markets of Paris. About six ounces of common cooking salt is put into a large glass, which is then filled with water. When the salt is in the solution an egg is dropped into the glass. If the egg is only one day old it immediately sinks to the bottom; if any older it does not reach the bottom of the glass. If

three days old, it sinks only just below the surface. From five days upward it floats; the older it is the more it protrudes out of the water.

It would be better to wash eggs sent to market than to send them in a dirty condition. But washed eggs have no keeping qualities. The water appears to dissolve the gelatinous substance which seals the pores of the shell, and air is thus admitted and soon starts decomposition. The better way to treat dirty eggs is to take a woolen rag only slightly moistened with water and gently rub off the dirt.

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