

HINTS ON POULTRY FEEDING PRACTICES IN EGYPT

H. El Melehy, '29

Feeding Practices As Related To Egg Production; Poultry Feeds Used In The Nile Valley

THE poultry industry in Egypt is quite old; but it has gone through many stages of development during the last ten or fifteen years. During that time extensive work has been carried on, which resulted in a better conception of the science of nutrition and its relation to poultry raising. The material presented is a summary of some of the publications and some of my own observations and knowledge of the conditions existing there.

The Mediterranean Class of poultry dominates in Egypt and vicinity. A few of the other classes are found; but in very limited numbers.

Nutrients and Nutrition

Nutrition is one of the most important items pertaining to the poultry industry. This science deals with the nourishment of the animal, digestion, absorption, and utilization in the animal body. From the definition one could see that it requires a clear knowledge of the feeding methods and the balancing of rations for the different classes of livestock.

Selecton is considered one of the essentials of success in poultry. Nutrition is just as important. A pedigreed bird will never be able to produce its kind if the original has had faulty feed. In feeding one must not go beyond the limits by giving the birds unbalanced feed which will result in excessive fattening, and therefore a poor egg-producer. A bird poorly fed is always weak and would not be profitable as an egg-producer. Thus one could see that success in poultry depends mainly upon the balancing of rations based on a sound judgment and firm foundation.

Most of the poultry raisers depend largely on corn as the chief grain ration. Corn might help the rate of flesh formation; but in itself corn is not a balanced ration, because it lacks in the quality of its protein. This does not mean discrimination against corn but just shows that the present feeding methods need much consideration with the average Egyptian farmer, because corn is a very good feed if fed with proper supplements.

The ration differs according to seasons, condition, and type of bird.

When the bird is about to molt, the ration is reduced, and this reduction is believed to help the bird in molting. As soon as the bird starts molting, it is given a concentrated feed such as boiled linseed to support the body during the molting stage. In case the bird is slow in producing feather, it is usually given sulphur in the mash.

Naturally the heavy production of eggs comes usually in the spring, not because of the clearness of the sky, and not because of the beauty of nature; but because of the abundance and the amount of grasses, weeds and green alfalfa during the spring. Great numbers of insects and worms are consumed by the birds during that time. Out of these, one can see a bird digging in the ground looking for small worms; and how happy the bird looks when it succeeds in finding something it likes. Thus meditate how the young chick runs after the smallest insects and gets the joy of finding it. This would show how profitable it would be to leave the flock out of those during the spring in order that the birds would get the best out of that animal protein matter. Furthermore if a farmer wants a continuous income from eggs he should make a continuous spring for his flock by leaving the birds out doors and providing green feed at all times. Also he should provide them with meat scraps, table waste, and bone meal. It is a serious fault to give birds only grain with no plant or animal protein.

The following are the different nutrients used among the average poultry raisers:

Wheat is a first class feed for poultry, but is very likely to produce excessive fattening in birds. Fine ground or rough ground (cracked wheat) has a good place in the baby chick ration. With fresh bone meal, meat scraps or ground peas, wheat constitutes a good ration for chicks a month old.

Corn is very common as a poultry feed. If feed alone it has an effect on the condition of the bird, producing excessive fattening. It serves best as a fall feed if supplemented with oats and some animal protein.

Some believe that boiled corn is more easily digestible and is not likely to cause excessive fattening.

Oats is a balanced ration if of the best quality. Due to its fibrous nature it is profitable for all stock. In feeding value ground and whole oats are not very much different, but it is believed that finely ground oats have a bad effect on baby chicks.

Bran serves as a good appetizer if ground finely. It is given in moderate amounts until the birds get started on it. It is usually put on boards covered with thin net wire to avoid wasting it.

Beans are given in the form of mashed bean, and care must be taken in using them. It is a good feed if supplemented with corn in the proportion of one to six.

Linseed meal is rich in protein and is used during the molting season.

Buttermilk may be used freely at all times. It increases the growth and size of the birds.

Alfalfa hay has a high protein content. It is very useful and when ground fine should be present in every ration. Green feeds such as turnips, cabbages, lettuce and corn leaves are used very often.

Barley is only used for poultry in rare cases.

Animal protein feeds are essential in the building up of the body. The offal from slaughter houses when boiled and cut up fine serves as a good source of protein for the bird. It is usually mixed in the mash. Bone meal is essential in the development of the frame work of the body and is a source of calcium which is necessary in the formation of the egg.

Stones, rough sand and oyster shell should be available at all times. The first two help the digestive process and the third one helps in the formation of the shell. The first two take the place of teeth in poultry and thus with the aid of the gizzard can grind the feed fine.

Salt should be added to the feed or water from which the birds drink. About one ounce to every hundred birds daily. It gives the birds appetite and prevents the habit of feather eating.

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were presented and the couple winning the \$10 prize given by Dean Thornber was announced. This was new feature of the dance, as the most appropriately dressed couple has never been rewarded in the past.

As a whole the dance was a success from the first "Rooster's Strut" to the final "Barnyard Shuffle," and much credit must be given to President Joe Downs and the Committee-men for the efficient way in which it was handled.

POLISH AND POULARD

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this state. In 1914 Polish yielded 168 pounds per acre on dry land at Prescott while nine other varieties averaged 195 pounds under the same conditions. The variety was a total failure the previous year but the same was true of nearly all the other varieties as well. While such yields do not show the true value of a variety, these and other trials leave little doubt of the poor yields to be expected of the Polish wheat.

Yields in other parts of the country indicate the inferiority of these two wheats. Both Polish and poulard were out-yielded from 50 to 100 percent at Dickinson, North Dakota, and at Newell, South Dakota, by both dur-

um and common wheats in tests extending over several years. One of the poulard varieties known as Titanic averaged 20.8 bushels per acre at Chico, California, while Pacific Bluestem and White Federation yielded 28.2 bushels and 43.4 bushels per acre respectively.

Another serious disadvantage of these wheats is their low value for bread making purposes. The gluten content of Polish is low and of poor quality. The same quantity of flour from a good, hard, red, spring wheat will produce a loaf twice the size of that produced from Polish wheat. Macaroni manufacturers will not use this wheat in the manufacture of their products.

Flour from poulard wheat is poorer in baking quality than that of any of the commercial wheats in this country. The accompanying photograph gives a fair idea of two loaves of bread, one made from Early Baart and the other from poulard. The latter makes a very small loaf of poor quality bread. Millers will not purchase poulard wheat for flour making because of its poor quality. The following table shows the results of milling and baking tests on poulard and Early Baart wheat grown at Yuma in 1916.

Variety	Absorption	Straight Flour	Weight of loaf	Volume of loaf	Crumb score	Texture score
Poulard	71.4%	69.3%	558 gms.	1403 cc.	80	72
Early Baart	65.0%	63.6%	534 gms.	2035 cc.	94	94

It will be noted that the poulard has a higher water absorption and also a higher straight flour yield than the Early Baart but this is more than offset by the color and texture of crumb and volume of loaf of the Early Baart. The differences in loaf volume are shown in the photograph. The wheat protein in the poulard was 12.13 percent as compared with 13.45 percent in the Early Baart. The dry gluten in the flour from the poulard was 9.47 percent as compared with 10.69 percent for the Early Baart. These figures indicate the lower food value of the former wheat.

The following conclusions taken from Farmers' Bulletin 1340, Polish and Poulard Wheats, show the low esteem in which these wheats are held: "There is no object in growing Polish other than as a curiosity"; "Poulard wheat is suitable only for stock feed, and as such it is not superior to other kinds of wheat"; "Farmers are advised against buying and growing varieties of Polish and poulard wheat, as only unsatisfactory re-

turns have been obtained from them in all parts of the United States." The lower average yields of the Polish and poulard wheats as compared with common wheats, the poor quality of the flour obtained and the susceptibility of both types to rusts should be sufficient to prevent their being grown in Arizona.

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Chick Feed Program
Kind of Feed

- Age, 1 to 2 days, nothing
- Age, 2 to 10 days, boiled eggs, bread crumbs three to four times a day in limited quantities
- Age, 11 to 60 days, cracked wheat, cracked rice, cracked corn, boiled bran, all in equal amounts. Butter-milk should be available.
- Age, 60 days on, Cracked wheat, cracked corn, cracked barley, boiled bran, in equal amounts. Milk and green feeds should be available at all times.

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