

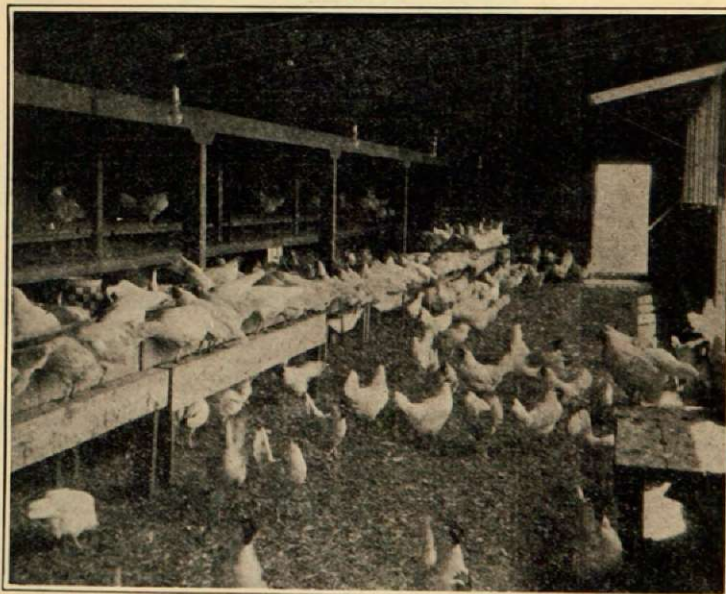
STATE AGRICULT'L COLLEGE
FORT COLLINS, COLO.

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FEEDING POULTRY FROM CHICK TO HEN



COLORADO AGRICULTURAL COLLEGE
FORT COLLINS

EXTENSION SERVICE

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COLORADO AGRICULTURAL COLLEGE AND THE UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF
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Some poultry raisers find it more convenient to feed commercial or ready-mixed feeds. This method of feeding is gaining favor with an increasing number of poultrymen. However, there are many who still prefer to mix rations after their own formulas and it is with this in mind that a number of suitable mixtures are presented in this bulletin.

FEEDING POULTRY FROM CHICK TO HEN

BY O. C. UFFORD

Chas. N. Keen



Fig. 1.—The successful poultryman has come to realize that it pays to feed a well-balanced ration if he expects to secure economical results.

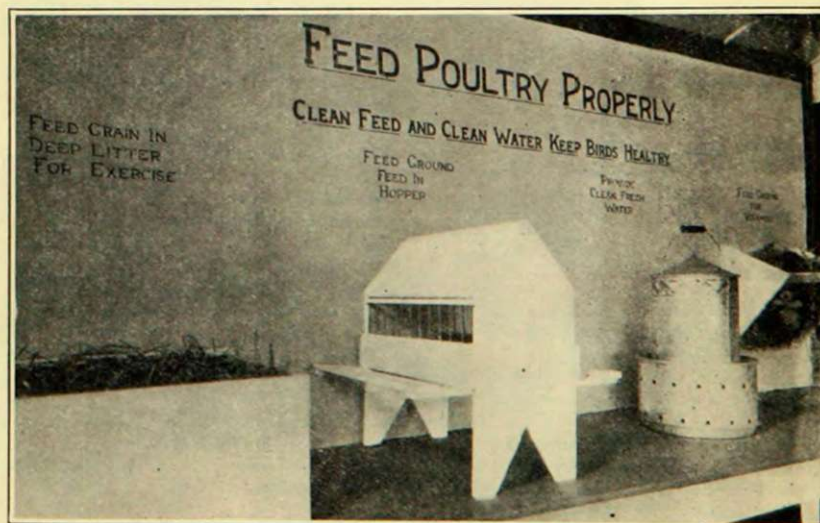


Fig. 2.—Clean feeds fed in a clean way pay dividends.

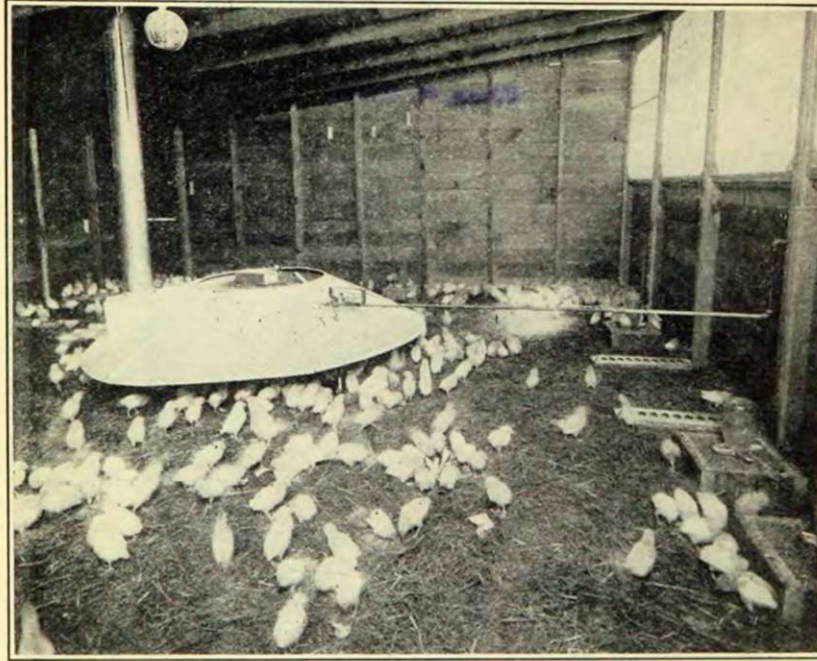


Fig. 3.—Give the baby chick a good start by feeding a balanced ration.

Rations for Starting Baby Chicks—(First 2 weeks)

Ration No. 1 Grain Mixture

Fine cracked corn50 Lbs.
Fine cracked wheat50 "

Mash Mixture

Fine yellow cornmeal20 Lbs.
Ground oatmeal50 "
Bran15 "
Shorts15 "

Plenty of sour skim milk or buttermilk to drink.

Ground wheat may be substituted for the bran and shorts.

Ration No. 2 Grain Mixture

Fine cracked corn40 Lbs.
Cracked wheat30 "
Steel-cut oats30 "

Mash Mixture

Fine yellow cornmeal30 Lbs.
Bran20 "
Shorts20 "
Ground oatmeal10 "
Meat scrap or meat meal .. 5 "
Dried buttermilk10 "
Alfalfa leaf meal 5 "
Bone meal 4 "
Fine salt 1 "

When sour milk is available reduce dried buttermilk to 5 percent.

Ration No. 3

Grain Mixture

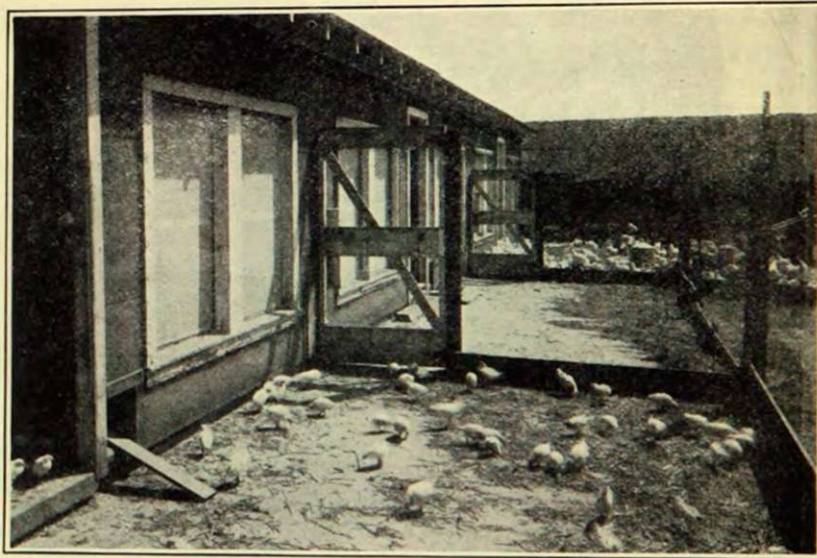
Cracked wheat50 Lbs.
Cracked kafir30 "
Cracked milo20 "
Millet or Hershey10 "

Mash Mixture

Ground wheat50 Lbs.
Ground oatmeal50 "

Plenty of sour milk to drink.

When desired use 2 pints of a reliable grade of cod liver oil to 100 pounds of mash or at the rate of 2 percent by weight of ground feed used. If one will make use of the Colorado sunshine, cod liver oil will not be necessary.



Sanitation plays an important part in the feeding of growing chicks. Fig. 4 shows a cement run in front of the brooder house.

Rations for Growing Chicks—(After 2 weeks of age)

Ration No. 1	
Grain Mixture	
Cracked corn	50 Lbs.
Wheat	50 "
Mash Mixture	
Cornmeal	35 Lbs.
Bran	25 "
Shorts	25 "
Meat meal	10 "
Bone meal	4 "
Fine salt	1 "

Ground wheat may be substituted for the bran and shorts.

Ration No. 2	
Grain Mixture	
Cracked corn	50 Lbs.
Wheat	50 "
or	
Cracked corn	35 "
Wheat	35 "
Kafir	10 "
Milo	10 "
Millet or Hershey	10 "
Mash Mixture	
Cornmeal	30 Lbs.
Bran	20 "
Shorts	20 "
Fine ground oats or barley	10 "
Dried buttermilk	5 "
Alfalfa leaf meal	5 "
Meat meal	5 "
Bone meal	4 "
Fine salt	1 "

All-Mash Rations for Starting and Growing Chicks

Ration No. 1

Ground yellow corn	85	Lbs.
Bran	25	"
Shorts	25	"
Meat meal	5	"
Alfalfa leaf meal	5	"
Steamed bone meal	4	"
Salt	1	"

Plenty of sour skimmilk or buttermilk to drink.

Ration No. 2

Ground yellow corn	80	Lbs.
Bran	50	"
Shorts	50	"
Meat meal	5	"
Dried buttermilk	5	"
Alfalfa leaf meal	5	"
Steamed bone meal	4	"
Salt	1	"

Ground wheat may be substituted for bran and shorts.

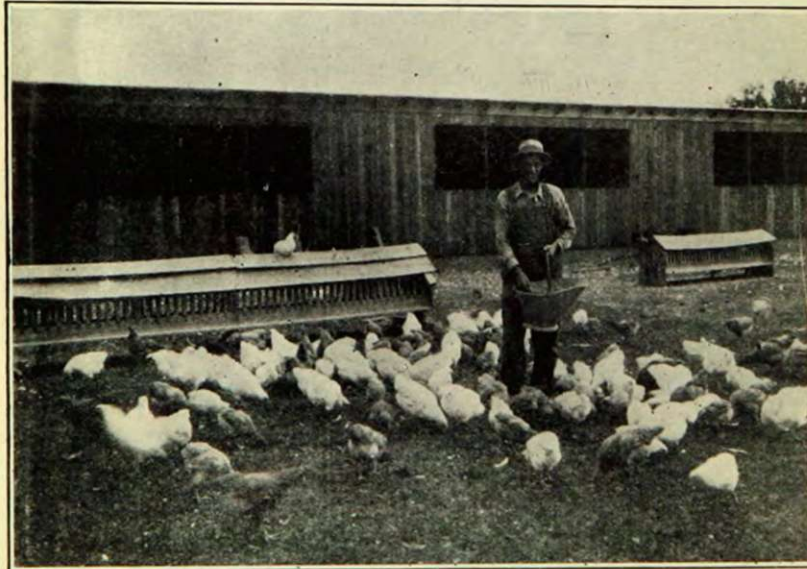


Fig. 5

Rations for Finishing Pullets

Pullets should not come into production until they have reached full body growth and bone development.

The growing mash will sometimes develop the egg organs before pullets have reached their full growth. When this occurs the comb and wattles begin to redden and increase in size at from 3 to 4 months of age because of too much meat or milk in the ration. One can hold the pullets back and get them to put on more weight by substituting the following for their regular ration:

Grain Mixture

Corn or wheat fed only in the evening.

Mash Mixture

Ground wheat	40 Lbs.
Cornmeal	35 "
Bone meal	4 "
Ground oats or barley.....	10 "
Salt	1 "

Up to 5 percent meat meal may be included in the mixture.

The pullet that goes into the laying house with good body development and in good flesh is less likely to go into a fall moult. Keep the pullets on this ration until they are in good flesh and condition, then gradually bring them on to a full laying ration.

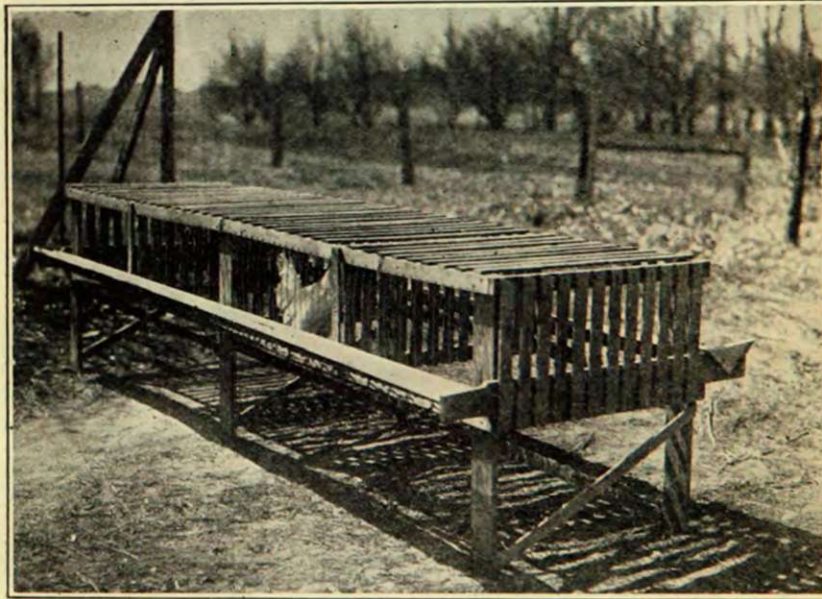


Fig. 6.—A suitable fattening crate.

Rations for Fattening**Ration No. 1**

Fine cornmeal	60 Lbs.
Wheat, shorts or middlings	20 "
Fine ground oats	20 "

Mix 1 part of the above mixture with 2 parts liquid buttermilk.

Ration No. 2

Cornmeal	60 Lbs.
Shorts	10 "
Fine ground oats	20 "
Meat meal	10 "

Mix 1 part of the above mixture with 2 parts water.

To fatten birds, place them in a fattening coop and feed a light feed 2 or 3 times daily for the first day or two gradually bringing them on to a full feed, giving them all they will consume in 15 to 20 minutes of feeding. Do not leave feed before

them longer than this. No water or other feeds will be necessary if the ration is mixed as prescribed above.

The fattening process is continued for 7 to 14 days on full feed, depending upon the appetite and condition of the birds.

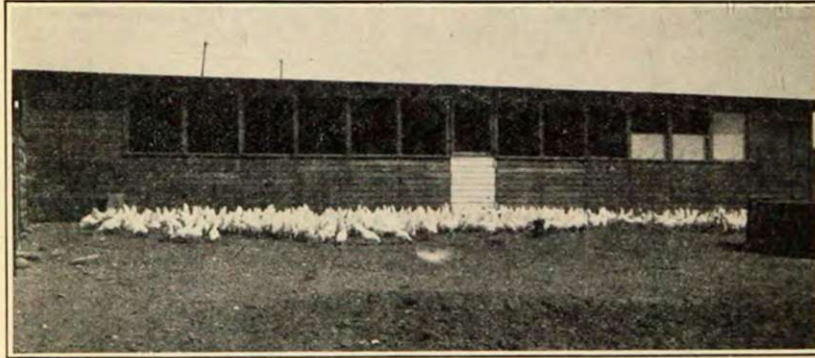


Fig. 7

Rations for Laying Hens

Ration No. 1		Ration No. 2	
Grain Mixture		Grain Mixture	
	Summer	Winter	
Cracked or			Corn
whole corn .....	.50 Lbs.	60 Lbs.	Wheat
Wheat .....	.50 "	40 "	Barley
			Oats
Mash Mixture		Mash Mixture	
Fine cornmeal	20 Lbs.	Cornmeal	25 Lbs.
Bran	20 "	Bran	10 "
Shorts	20 "	Shorts	10 "
Ground oats or barley	20 "	Ground oats	10 "
Meat Meal	20 "	Ground barley	10 "
		Alfalfa leaf meal	5 "
		Meat meal	15 "
		Dried buttermilk	5 "
		Bone meal	2 "
		Salt	1 "
		Fine ground oyster shell ..	2 "
Some other suitable grain mixtures when such feeds are available			
Barley .....	.30 Lbs.	Kafir .....	.10 Lbs.
Wheat .....	.50 "	Milo .....	.10 "
Oats .....	.20 "	Millet or Hershey .....	.10 "
		Corn .....	.20 "
		Wheat .....	.50 "

Feeding the Breeding Flock

Aside from feeding a balanced ration similar to those given for laying hens, the breeding flock should have plenty of exercise, sunshine and green feed in order to produce a high percentage of hatchable eggs and livable chicks.

Feeding for Quality Eggs

Feeding has a great deal to do with the quality of the egg that is marketed.

When fresh green feed is available in abundance, hens will eat it in preference to grain and mash with the result that the eggs that are produced will have heavy dark-colored yolks and will not stand up in quality when shipped long distances to eastern markets. Such eggs are known as "grass eggs." The contents soon break down and become watery.

Marketing organizations that are shipping quality eggs recommend feeding a ration that will produce the light-colored yolk and an egg that will be firm in quality when shipped long distances. The following rations are recommended when a green range is not used.

Grain Mixture

Corn	40 Lbs.
Wheat	60 "

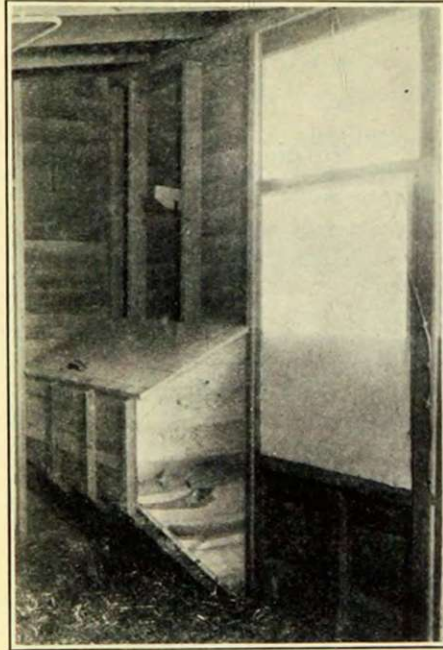
Mash Mixture

Cornmeal (yellow)	20 Lbs.
Ground barley or ground oats	15 "
Wheat middlings	15 "
Wheat bran	20 "
Meat meal	15 "
Dried buttermilk	5 "
Alfalfa leaf meal	5 "
Steam bone meal	4 "
Fine ground oyster shell	2 "
Salt	1 "

The following mash mixture is one used by the Intermountain Poultry Producers Co-operative Assn. of Grand Junction, Colorado:

Mash Mixture

Yellow cornmeal	300 Lbs.
White cornmeal	200 "
Ground barley	100 "
Alfalfa	150 "
Meat scraps	400 "
Red Dog flour	100 "
Bran	650 "
Bone meal	40 "
Calcite	40 "
Salt	20 "



When the poultry raiser does not have a feed house in which to store feed, a **hopper** may be used for grain and mash such as shown in Fig. 8. This hopper holds several hundred pounds of feed and can be conveniently located in the laying house.

Fig. 8

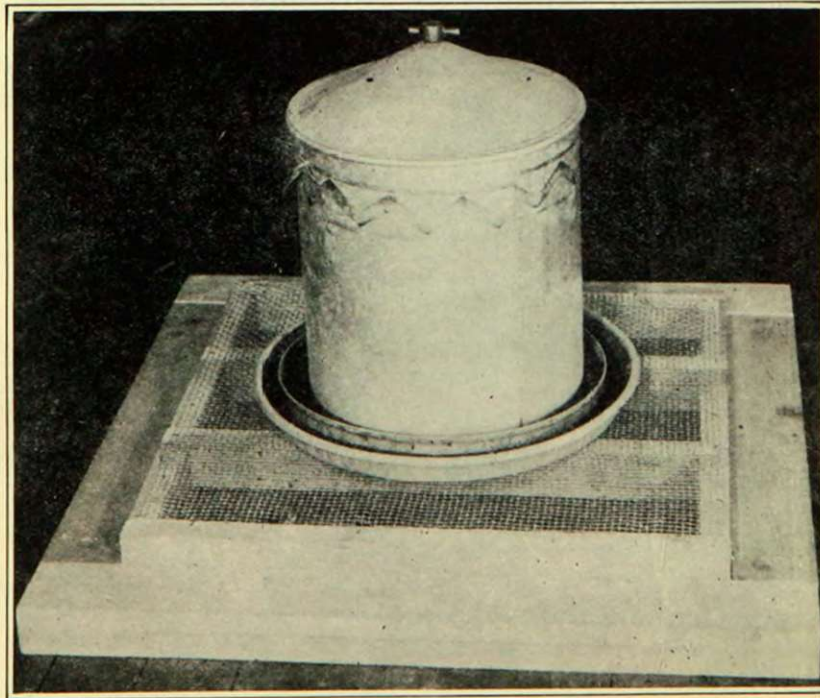


Fig. 9.—A sanitary drinking fountain and stand for baby chicks.

Water is a very important part of a ration. Two-thirds of the egg and chicken's body is composed of water. Therefore, a supply should always be available. There are a number of suitable types of waterers on the market with heater attachments that enable the flock always to have water during cold weather.

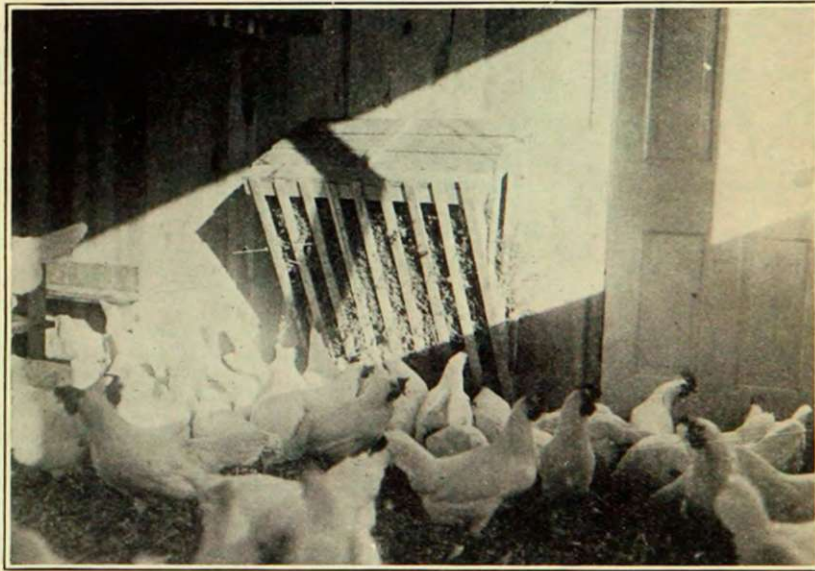
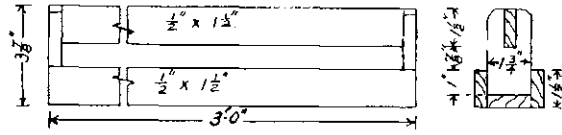
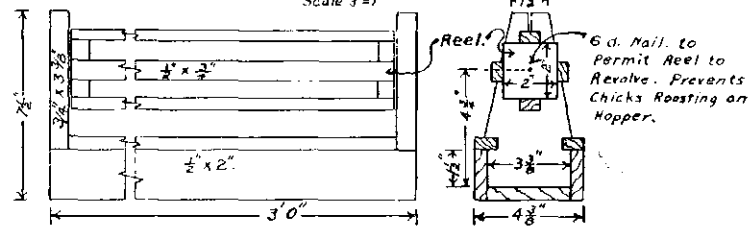


Fig. 10.—An alfalfa rack.

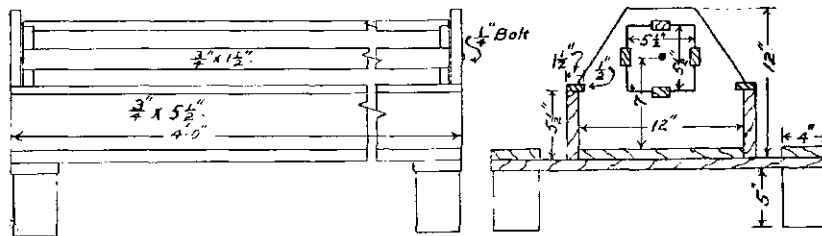
Green feed is always an important part of the chickens' ration. Healthier birds and more eggs result when it is fed.



The Chick Starting Hopper
Scale 3"=1'



Hopper for Growing Chicks.
Scale 3"=1'



Hopper for Half-grown and Mature Birds.

The value of a mash hopper is determined by whether or not it wastes feed. The feeder that can be filled each day with fresh mash has come into favor over the one that holds a large supply.