

Oregon Agricultural College

Extension Service

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Oregon Agricultural College, United States Department of Agriculture, and
State Department of Education, Cooperating

Extension Bulletin 225.

March, 1919

FEEDING BROODER CHICKS

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Take the chicks out of the incubators at from 24 to 36 hours after they are all hatched and thoroughly dry. Harden them off during this time by reducing the temperature to 98° or 100° and increasing the ventilation.

Do not feed any grain or mash food till the chicks are about 48 hours old.

First Day. Have the brooder, with $\frac{1}{2}$ inch of dry sand on the floor, heated to 100°. Put the chicks in the brooder in the afternoon a little before dark, giving them a drink of sour milk or buttermilk, but no water, and a little sharp grit or sand before putting them under the hover for the night. Be sure they all get a drink of milk and that they are all put under the hover where they will keep warm. Watch them carefully the first week to see that they DO NOT GET CHILLED. If sweet skim milk is available it may be used, if it is possible to have it always sweet; otherwise sour milk is preferable, as it is not advisable to change from one to the other.

Second to Seventh Days. The morning of the second day start feeding a grain mixture made up as follows: 7 lbs. cracked wheat, 2 lbs. steel-cut oats, and 1 lb. fine cracked corn. If steel-cut oats or corn is not available the amount of cracked wheat may be increased. If the separate grains are difficult to secure, a good grade of commercial chick grains may be used. Feed the grain five times daily, keeping the chicks a little hungry except at night when they should have all they will eat. If infertile eggs from the incubators are available, they may be soft boiled and mixed with bran to a crumbly mixture and fed once or twice a day in place of the grain, preferably about noon, giving as much as they will clean up in about 15 minutes. To start the chicks eating the grain, place a little on a wood or paper pie plate and tap it gently to attract

attention to it. Spread a little fine-cut straw on the sand the third day and start feeding some of the grain in it. As soon as they have learned to scratch for the grain, feed it all in the litter, increasing the depth of the straw gradually until it is three inches deep at the end of the first week. Beginning the fourth day, keep wheat bran before them at all times in a small hopper or shallow trough. If they eat too much bran, put it before them only after the grain is fed and keep it before them only a short time. Give them all the sour milk or buttermilk they will drink. Feed green feed, such as kale, lettuce, chick weed, alfalfa, or clover, cut fine, at least once daily. Keep fine grit and granulated bone before them at all times in hoppers.

Second Week. Gradually reduce the number of grain feeds until at the end of the second week only three feeds are given. Feed all of the grain in a litter three inches deep. Substitute for the bran a chick mash made up as follows: 3 lbs. bran, 2 lbs. shorts or middlings. Keep this before them in hoppers. Moist mash may be substituted for the noon grain feed, if desired.

After the Second Week. Continue feeding in this way—three feeds of grain a day and dry mash before them in hoppers. During the sixth week substitute coarse cracked corn for the fine cracked corn and steel-cut oats, and feed wheat for the cracked wheat, if it can be obtained. Also add 1 lb. of either ground oats or ground barley to the mash. At ten weeks start to use the regular scratch grains recommended for the laying hens.

Where milk is available no other drink is necessary for the first four weeks, but after that water may be given in addition.

If milk is not available, add 12% of meat scrap to the mash.

Feeding Chicks With Hens. This ration may be used for hen-hatched chicks also, with the exception that if the hen and chicks are on free range the feeding of grain in a litter will not be necessary. During the first week feed the hen whole corn.