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## WHITE LEGHORNS

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# POULTRY

### THE FEED PROBLEM.

C. S. Gorline.

The yearly problem of what to feed and how to feed it is again before us. Birds that have had the liberty of a good range are now denied the luxury of growing green food and a plentiful insect diet. During the late fall and winter, domestic birds, like wild ones, are compelled to substitute the green and insect food for one composed principally of grain, and here is where the trouble begins—first for the poultryman, and last but not least, for the poultry. The trouble of the first is the expense of the grain and the loss incurred if that grain diet fails to be offset by a generous egg yield while the price is high, and the trouble begins with the poultry if the grain fed

fails to furnish the required chemical elements to keep the birds in good health and functional activity. First, it must build up and sustain the organic system; second, it must furnish heat to keep up the body warmth and third and most important, strength and energy for cell building, or body making. The average Western poultryman has practically but four grains to choose from, namely, corn, wheat, oats and barley, which are wholesaling in this market at this time at the following prices: Cracked corn, \$1.80; wheat, \$1.85, rolled oats, \$1.70 and rolled barley \$1.50 per cwt. At a glance, it will be seen that barley is the cheapest grain in price, but how about the feed value. Reference to the U. S. government bulletin on the value of feed stuffs shows as follows:

Grain	Protein	Carbohydrates	Fats	Nutritive ratio	Potential energy
Corn .....	10.4 per ct.	70.3 per ct.	5 per ct.	1:7.9	106
Wheat .....	11.9 per ct.	71.9 per ct.	2.1 per ct.	1:6.3	102
Oats .....	11.8 per ct.	59.7 per ct.	5 per ct.	1:6.1	96
Barley .....	12.4 per ct.	69.8 per ct.	1.8 per ct.	1:6	100

From this analysis, we learn that barley has a higher per centage of protein with a less per centage of carbonaceous and fatty matter than any one of the others. Now, it is well known to experienced feeders for winter egg production, that a food rich in fat making elements is fed to advantage only in limited quantity, while a food that is rich in protein will produce best results.

There is one exception to this, however, that should be here noticed, and that is in feeding oats. It will be seen from the above analysis that oats has a greater per centage of fats than wheat or barley and less energy. This is a fallacy that will be readily admitted by every experienced feeder, for while oats has theoretically but 96 calories; in practice it has about 400; it will make a horse run and play, it will make a cock crow and it will make a hen scratch and sing and it is the scratching, singing hen that will produce eggs, but there is the objection of price and the fact that fowls have to be taught to eat it; it must be fed to them in mash and mixed with other ground grain while the birds are growing. Otherwise, they will eat barely enough to sustain life, even though it is rolled or

cracked. This is not true of rolled barley. Both old and young chicks like it, and as a feed basis, it is almost as good as oats, and if alternated with wheat, the two will form an almost perfect grain food that will be found good summer and winter. In the corn producing belt, where corn may be had at a much less price, it may, if cracked, be alternated with either barley or oats in cold weather, but in mild or warm weather it is too heating and contains too high per centage of fats. It is not advisable to feed whole corn at any time, but when birds are on a range, there is less objection to using the whole corn. We are aware that in the corn producing belt, whole corn is fed by many poultry raisers to the exclusion of all other grains, but that is doubtless on account of its cheapness and convenience without reference to its food value.

Second in importance to grain feed is the meat food. To such as possess a bone grinder and the strength and patience to convert green bone to a pulp, the green cut bone will prove the cheapest and best food where market eggs only are sought. Where fertility is sought, well cooked lean meat will prove the cheaper in the