













# FARM TOPICS

## CHICKS SELECT FEEDING NEEDS

**'Cafeteria Method' Is Found Very Satisfactory.**  
By G. T. KLEIN  
(Extension Poultryman, Massachusetts State College, Amherst.)  
Cafeterias for chickens may sound a little queer to the average poultryman, but it is one of the newest feeding methods now in vogue. By the new system, Biddie has her choice of feeds and believe it or not, she can make a much more intelligent choice of what she needs than can some poultrymen.

In three separate feeders there are whole oats, whole or cracked corn, and laying mash. Biddie's appetite may vary from time to time, but during the year her diet will consist of 41 per cent corn, 30 per cent oats, and 29 per cent laying mash. The ration has been balanced at 12.9 per cent protein over a year's period, although individual birds vary from 11 to 15 per cent.

It is very important that every bird in the poultry flock has a chance to eat grain or mash at any time, and hoppers must be large enough to take care of all of the flock. Hopper requirements are 20 linear feet, feeding from both sides, for every 100 birds, or about five inches of feeding space per bird.

Feed consumption is increased by adding fresh mash frequently, running the hand or fingers through the mash often, and placing the hoppers in well-lighted positions. Hens like to see what they're eating as well as humans.

Although whole wheat is not used extensively in this cafeteria feeding system, it is a good practice to throw some into the litter as a scratch feed. This helps to keep the litter in a dry fluffy condition.

Because of the small quantity of mash used in this system of feeding, the vitamin D carrier must be increased in the mash.

There has been no tendency for a flock well bred for production to become too fat on this system of feeding. The large proportion of grain that is used makes this system economical and also cuts down labor requirements. Cannibalism has not been too excessive since it is held in check by the large quantities of oats that are fed and the scattering of wheat in the litter.

## Good Fence Should Last Seven to Twelve Years

Good wire, properly strung between strong, well-braced posts, should make a farm fence last from 7 to 12 years, says H. M. Ellis, extension agricultural engineer of N. C. State college. There should be a good coating of galvanizing or zinc on the wire to protect it against the elements, he says.

"Some copper in the wire will add still more years of service to the fence," Ellis stated. "The copper content should not run less than 0.2 of 1 per cent, which is usually spoken of as '20 point' copper. The quality of the wire is the main consideration in building fences; it isn't good economy to buy cheap wire."

Ellis also says that for a good, long-lasting fence the quality of the posts and the workmanship in erecting the fence must be of the best. The posts must be big enough, properly spaced, well planted, and well braced. If durable wood is not available, soft timber may be treated with creosote or otherwise to make the posts last as long as the wire.

"It is wise," the specialist declared, "to build your fence on paper before you start cutting posts and buying wire. Farmers spend much money every year maintaining fences that are not essential.

## Grinding Roughage Not Very Advisable

Farmers are fooling themselves and not their cattle when they grind up corn fodder and stemmy hay so fine the animals are unable to separate the good material from the bad, according to R. R. Snapp, professor of beef cattle husbandry at the University of Illinois college of agriculture.  
"It is true that a given amount of ground fodder will go somewhat further than it would if it were fed whole. However, the unpalatable roughage tend to dilute good feed, making for less palatability and digestibility for the ration as a whole," Snapp explained.

## Controlling Lice

Lice can be controlled on calves and heifers without recourse to dips and other "wet" preparations. Excellent results can be obtained with a mixture of one part sodium flouride and two parts of ordinary flour.  
This is dusted lightly over the backs of the animals from a perforated can and worked into the base of the hair with the fingers. One application is usually adequate. Sodium flouride is poisonous and should be handled carefully.

# Fun for the Whole Family

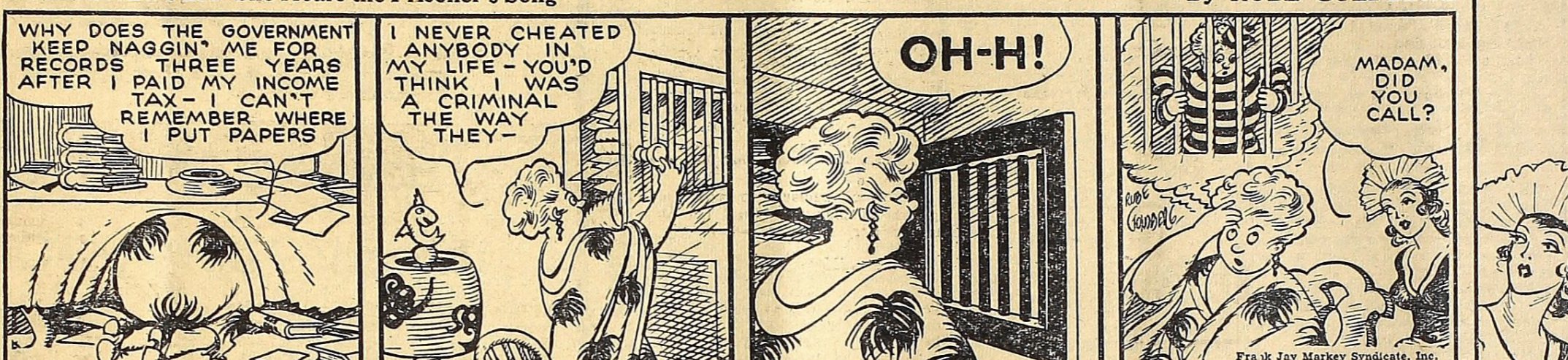
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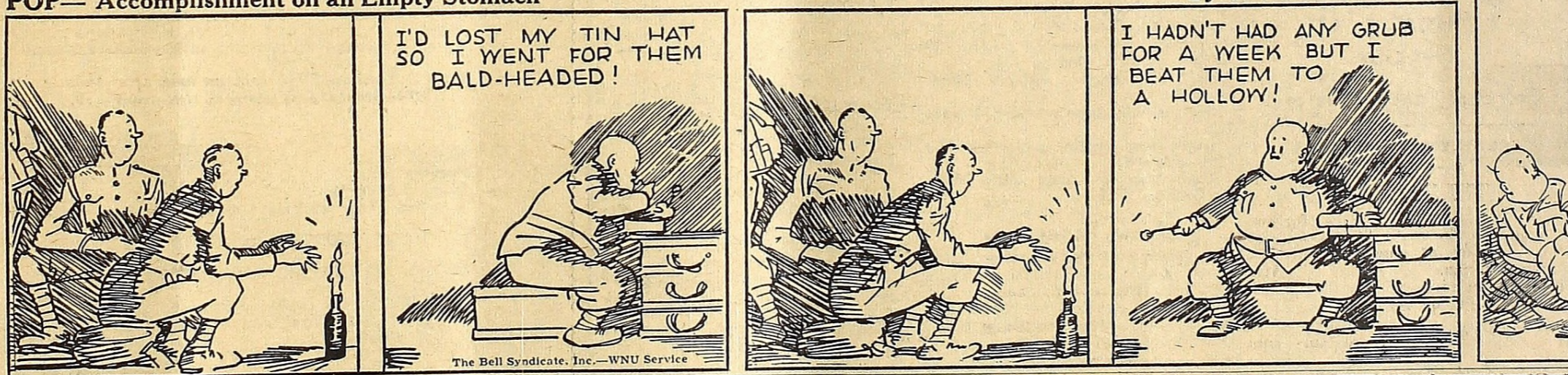
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### Mouthfuls

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GAME IS BROUGHT TO AN END BY SUDDEN ROAR FROM FATHER TO STOP BEING A MONKEY, WHICH CAUSES HIM TO SPILL

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