

Published based on [How To Feed Your Chooks](#)

How To Feed Your Chooks

Use good feed for higher yields of eggs (and meat)

If you want good harvests in terms of meat or eggs then it's important to examine the food you are providing your hens. Here are some of the food varieties or types of feed you may consider mixing up for production impact and effect:

Choice between mash and pellets

The use of layer mash may have standard for many years, but you need to make sure that mash or pellets provides your hens with the essential nutrition for their health. Conventional feed is packed in bags weighing between 20 kg and 25 kg and may cost you between \$10 and \$15, depending on quality and your choice for those that have organic ingredients, if that's what you want. Most livestock supply stores and pet shops, have ample stocks of layer feed.

The list of ingredients and content percentages of protein, ash, fiber, oils, and vitamins figures prominently in most high-quality feed available in the market. Certain feeds contain add-ons such as grit or oyster shell, a good source of calcium. If no calcium is added, you should consider adding it in the hens' diet.

Beware, chooks have a tendency to be greedy, hens eat a lot, and you should be able determine how much they consume in a regular meal, and don't feed them more.

[caption id="" align="alignright" width="300" caption="Image via Wikipedia"]



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Galvanized bins are the ideal storage facility for feeds, which needs to be used up within three months from the date they are bought and stocked in.

Grit

Utmost consideration should be given in supplying or adding grit in the feed or providing your hens the direct access to a source. Stored in the fowl's gizzard, grit is needed for the normal functioning of the hens' digestive system. It helps them grind and breakdown the food they eat every day.

Corn isn't required

Using corn maize as part of the hens' diet may be considered optional, especially when have bought a mash that already provides a complete nutritional combination. You may include it in the feed as a once-in-a-while treat, for which hens often go for it like mad eaters.

High protein in chick crumble

Although the high-protein diet of chick crumb is usually given to chicks, there are periods in a hen's life when this should be considerably added. When your hens are molting, or if the pen grounds can no longer provide natural worms and other protein-rich creatures during winter and long frosty weather, chick crumbs are recommended to keep the birds tip-top healthy.

Consider variety in diet

The best way to bring variety in your hens' diet is to provide treats every once in a while. This means that the frequency depends on occasion (when in your judgment their lays are commendable) and the time of the year. During summer and late spring, when grubs and green leaves are abundant, you may grant a few treats. Hens run the risk of becoming overweight, off laid, and out of condition if you spoil them with too much treats. When you offer them treats, dish them out late in the day after they had their routine fill of mash to ensure that they have ingested the essential nutrients already.

Chook Treats

Among the suggested, practical treats you may give are:

Green, leafy vegetables, such as spinach, broccoli, kale, and lettuce, which help give good color to the yolk

Sweet corn can be chopped off into chunks from corn cob, popped onto a skewer, and then driven into the ground. A tricky treat such as this keeps your hens preoccupied for hours and prevents them from getting bored by their end-of-day routines.

Fruits, such as grapes and oranges, may as well do down with your own supply

Pasta (noodle leftovers) and rice

Bread (white should be avoided)

Potatoes (must always be cooked) and other root vegetables

Cake

Cheese

Porridge (particularly good in winter on those bitterly cold days)

Peanuts can be another good treat during winter. You may blitz your own consumable peanuts up in the blender, add a little butter, and dish them like a special blend

Live worms, which can be bought online

Warning: Avoid meat and fish scraps as treats because they raise the risk of salmonella in the eggs.

Water

Up to 200ml of water per day is required for a hen, but this quantity on supply should be increased during the hotter periods of the year. Moreover, hens almost always need access to clean, fresh water. Dehydration easily kicks in and metabolism and affect their lays within a couple of hours they lacked water. Whenever possible, add a splash of poultry tonic to keep the hens in good mood and administer other treatments through water.

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