

#### Vitamin Requirements of Turkeys

In a preliminary trial, a ration similar to those used in vitamin studies with chicks, is being fed to turkeys. A 25-percent protein starting ration was fed during the first 12 weeks. It was composed of ground yellow corn, soybean oil meal, minerals, vitamin A, and vitamin D, supplemented with TWO—ADD—POUL. BLUE BOOK... four vitamins—riboflavin, choline, niacin, and pantoic acid. At 12 weeks the protein content was reduced to approximately 16 percent by adding 100 pounds of ground yellow corn to 100 pounds of the starting mash. To date (24 weeks of age), the rate of growth on this ration compares favorably to that on a starting and growing ration of similar protein content, with the starting ration containing 10 percent of meat and bone scraps and 5 percent of dried milk and the growing ration containing 5 percent of meat and bone scraps. Additional trials will be necessary to determine whether all of the four vitamins which were added are essential and also to determine the optimum amounts of those which are needed.

#### Methods of Feeding

In several previous experiments starting rations containing 25 to 26 percent protein have been fed during the first 12 weeks. After 12 weeks almost growing rations containing approximately 16 percent protein have

been fed. Satisfactory growth and development have been obtained with growing rations containing as much as 64 percent of ground yellow corn.

A trial is now underway to compare the efficiency of this method of feeding to the common practice of changing to a combination of mash and grain at 8 weeks of age. One lot received a 25 percent protein starting ration during the first 12 weeks and since then has received a 16 percent protein, all-mash growing ration containing 60 percent of ground yellow corn. Another lot received the same starting ration to 8 weeks and since then has been fed a 20 percent protein mash with corn and oats fed free-choice. Males and females in each lot are in separate pens so that all the conclusions of the trial records will be available for each sex on the relative rate of growth and feed efficiency for the two methods of feeding.

#### Turkey Bulletin Available

Purdue Agricultural Experiment Station Bulletin 517, "Starting and Growing Rations for Turkeys", is now available. It reports the results of experiments with different levels of dried milk in both starting and growing rations and also a comparison of high and low protein growing rations. This bulletin may be obtained from the Poultry Department, Purdue University or from your County Agricultural Agent.

Figure 1. Male from lot receiving low protein starting ration—12 weeks of age—weight, 4.5 pounds. Shows white plumage, with new feathers on neck coming in normal color. A few weeks later all of plumage was normal color.

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