

sci.agriculture.poultry: Re: Just starting out – grit

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Previously, Krys Francis <krys@llestfarmpoultry.co.uk> wrote

>In message <[Qg\\$g4+BkvU3AFwjg@the-samurai-in-autumn.kitschcamppalace.org](mailto:Qg$g4+BkvU3AFwjg@the-samurai-in-autumn.kitschcamppalace.org)

>>Is mixed grit a problem when feeding layers pellets? We're only
>>getting 4 hens, and they're having a fairly wide area to play around.
>
>Our local farmer's co-op stocks both hen & chick sized flint grit, I
>don't suppose that the flint grit with soft calcium will do any harm as
>long as it's being fed to layers & not to growers.

They are going to be fed layers, but we've read a paper by David Bland that says that it is actually dangerous to the chicken to give them too much calcium beyond what is in the layers as it upsets the calcium/phosphorus balance giving them poor shells, leg weaknesses and partial paralysis.

>They should pick out what they need. Personally I'd not bother with the
>oyster shell, a sack of calcified seaweed is probably better value & it
>contains a good proportion of calcium & phosphorus as well as other
>minerals.

The feed already has the calcium in it – we're not trying to give them more. We're just not getting any choice of whether to give them more or not locally – all the grit that's stocked locally has oyster shell in it whether we want it or not.

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Stephen M Baines

Now with an extra 200m2...

<http://www.kitschcamppalace.org.uk/garden/400Lots/index.html>