

Re: Duck laying question leathery shells (newbie)

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- *From:* "mulroys" <xuewspam@xxxxxxxxxxx>
  - *Date:* Tue, 25 Jul 2006 07:06:06 -0700
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"Jill" <news@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx> wrote in message  
[news:44c5c0cd\\$0\\$979\\$ed2619ec@xx](mailto:news:44c5c0cd$0$979$ed2619ec@xx)

"mulroys" <xuewspam@xxxxxxxxxxx> wrote in message  
[news:zOOdnTSz4-LKAVjZnZ2dnUVZ\\_r2dnZ2d@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx](mailto:news:zOOdnTSz4-LKAVjZnZ2dnUVZ_r2dnZ2d@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx)

I've got a pekin duck who is just starting to lay. She layed two decent eggs, about the size of a grade-AA large, with a good, hard shell. She also layed three enormous eggs, but the shells were leathery. One even had this bizarre stem!

She gets all vegetarian, un-medicated, game bird crumbles, (29% protein) oyster shell, and kitchen scraps. -Along with what she can forage in the yard.

We live in the upper Willamette valley of Oregon.  
What gives?

That is a HUGE amount of protein  
Its what is normally given to the young game birds not laying game birds and absolutely not to laying ducks  
Bring her down to 16 - 18 per cent protein and a proper laying bird fomula like that for laying chickens  
A game bird crumble will not have the right mineral balance for the start of lay.

Also young birds will make mistakes as they get started so expect a few oddities at the start and end of lay

too high a protein level can cause all sorts of problems - like slipped tendons, angel wing, physiological problems, too fast a growth rate, kidney problems etc

If you still have a lot of this food left then get some wheat -- NOT CORN -- and dilute the crumble down to only about 20% of the diet; add 20% of the layers and then 60% of the wheat. Give her separate sources of

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soluble calcium and insoluble calcium.

Does she have any duck mates?

Yes, she has a drake. We bought them together as hatchlings.

Last night, she layed a normal egg, but one of them broke it.