A cheaper method of feeding your chickens

continued…

ment for proper egg shell formation. While this simple processing eliminates drying the ingredients, storing the feed was resolved by freezing. Prepared feed were weighed in daily consumption rate of 4 lbs per 10 chickens and stored in a freezer.

A meat grinder was used to grind the feed ingredients

Through this simple trial, a simple means of feeding laying chickens was found suitable, relatively cheap and readily available. Under small island farming systems, the prospect of producing fresh eggs for consumption and extra income has significantly improved.

Conclusion:

Source of protein is the most important factor in making a suitable local feed for laying chickens. Tilapia is abundant in many mangroves and aquatic areas in Yap. It is considered the major aquatic invasive pest. There is no immediate and feasible method of control or eradication. However tilapia can be useful by providing an excellent source of protein. A mixture of fresh copra, cooked land crabs and tilapia was proven a good feeding regime. This is a major contribution towards improving local production of fresh eggs.

Feed ready to be stored in a freezer

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Utilization of the Invasive Tilapia Species as a low-cost protein feed to improve egg production

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A Local Feed for Egg-Laying Chickens

Introduction:
A major challenge in poultry farming is to find a cheaper, readily available but suitable feed that ensures egg and meat production. For egg production, the problem of chicken feed could be resolved by utilizing local feeding materials in a simple and low cost production system. Three farmers conducted feeding trials and were able to use a local feed mixture to produce fresh eggs. The simple feed mixture consisted of copra, tilapia, and land crabs. Ideally the use of tilapia an invasive alien species in feeding chickens indirectly contribute to controlling heavy infestations in mangrove systems in Yap Islands.

Results and Discussion:
In comparing the local feed mixture with commercial laying feed, egg production for 8 months was recorded and analyzed. On average each chicken fed with the local feed mixture produced 15 dozen eggs while each commercially-fed chicken produced 17 dozen eggs. Considering the high cost of commercial feed, the farmers found a higher return using the local feed mixture.

A locally available, constant and cheap source of protein is the limiting factor in developing an appropriate feed for poultry. It was found that infestations of tilapia in mangroves are very high, however safe methods to capture them needs to be studied. Pumping water from small pools during low tide proved relatively effective in collecting tilapia.

A simple and cheap chicken house

The most important equipment in processing the feed ingredients is a meat grinder. Land crabs and tilapia are boiled first before grinding them. Protein requirement for egg production is recommended at 18%. Thus mixing 23% tilapia, 22% land crab, and 55% copra will produce the desirable protein content. The use of land crabs was intended to provide the needed calcium require-