

A REPORT ON ★ ★ ★ ★ BOOST FEEDING!

I COULD have sent a report on "boost" feeding with "Ace" Vitamin but it would not have been complete because I killed the first pair when 30 days old. The same parents then sat another round with a 100 per cent foundation of "Golden Boost". This gave me a chance to correct a mistake with the feeding of the first round. Here is my report.

I mixed the "boost" according to the instruction and added raw egg to the mix. The parents were fed on a diet of 50 per cent "Boost" five days before mating. Then I gave them 100 per cent of "Boost" for the egg-forming.

Result—I noticed that the eggs were larger! Further, the shell texture was better than ever before, with a shape I describe as perfect. They were then fed 50-50 of beans and boost. After sitting 14 days they were fed 100 per cent "boost", right up until time of weaning the youngsters.

The eggs hatched a bigger baby, no doubt because the egg after the boost-feeding was larger. Then I noticed the youngsters were getting more milk (soft food) from the parents, no doubt because they were making more. The youngsters' crops were nearly bursting, full all of the time, in fact, the supply of soft food seemed endless.

At weaning time I examined the plumage and the texture was perfect. Bone structure—likewise, perfect. I found only one fault, the abdomen appeared to be too large. At the same time, no fancier alive would believe that those particular parents had bred them.

After weaning I started to add beans to the diet of "boost" and the youngsters began to hunch up on their perches. They showed loose feather. Then I fed them boost again and the feathers tightened immediately. They had weak gizzard muscles which I proved after killing them. "Soft and flabby."

With the second nest I added beans to the diet when the squeakers were 12-days old and at weaning time I was feeding 60% beans and 40% boost. The youngsters were top class, no set back. I think they are the best I have ever bred.

The following words I wish to address to "Old Hand".

Now, sir, to sum up—your "Golden Boost" plus the "Ace" Vitamin and raw eggs, makes the finest food ever produced for building a good, solid foundation for the baby pigeon.

—by G. E. Cooper—

SEEN ON THE RIGHT WITH HIS
YOUNG GRANDSON. (G512)

But the gizzard muscles must be developed to enable the youngster to grind up adult food when old enough. Pinhead oatmeal, on its own, will not sufficiently develop the gizzard muscles.

I hope this report is what you "more or less" expected, as I call a spade a spade, whatever the circumstances. You may say I should not have killed the first nest? Well, there is no room for wealings in my set-up when dealing with livestock, and whatever the cost of the subject.

The above two grand youngsters have been handed over to two good pigeon fanciers. I have sold my large loft and all birds except two pairs which I am keeping for further interest and for experimental reasons. I am wondering what I can do with the extra vitality I gain in the birds by feeding your "Golden Boost" and "Ace" Vitamins next season?—if I am still about and kicking, that is? Here's hoping that your tummy gives you no trouble and that you sleep well at nights!

Ed. "Old Hand" replies: "Thank you, Mr. Cooper, for your valuable report on the "boost" and "Ace". Readers should take note of the findings of a famous fancier of your high standing and repute. I agree with what you say about the gizzard muscles and this is one of the reasons why I advise novices not to use pellets. In the past I have always advised my novices to feed beans through a hopper but to pull the hoppers back out of the way when they put down the "boost", restoring hoppers afterwards, when the birds have cleared up the "Golden Boost" and not before. Of course, when breeding it is best to keep beans in the hoppers always before the old birds and to stand the "boost" in a pot inside the nestbox. Youngsters will then start feeding themselves with the "boost" when just over a week old and they should be out of the box, and on a perch, at about 14-days. My youngsters are always flying with the old birds at 17/18 days of age, whereas most fanciers don't attempt to wean until youngsters are 24-days old. Since using "boost" (to which an egg or two has been added, same as you did) I have never had to wean a baby, they wean themselves. Thanks again for your most interesting report, it is greatly appreciated.)

