

Molting season: Out with the old, in with the new

If your hens look like they've been in a pillow fight, don't worry — they're probably just molting.

What is molting?

Molting is a natural process during which hens shed old feathers and grow fresh ones. Usually occurring in the autumn months, molting is nature's way of keeping hens warm, healthy and ready for the seasons ahead. What to expect during molt:

- Feathers everywhere (yes, even in the feeder!)
- Egg production may slow down or stop
- Hens may look a little ruffled

The protein connection

Feather growth takes a lot of protein — even more than egg laying! As such, during molt, your flock's diet should feature higher protein levels and balanced nutrition to help them recover faster and look their best.

Homestead® to the rescue

Our Homestead Layer and Homestead All Flock formulas are packed with high-quality protein, vitamins and minerals to keep your hens healthy year-round. During molt, boost their diet with:

Homestead All Flock (17% protein): Perfect for mixed flocks during feather regrowth.

Homestead Layer + free-choice treats or supplements: Keeps nutrients balanced while meeting increased protein needs.

Bump up to Homestead Layer 20% for even more peace of mind during molting season!

Why choose Homestead?

- Balanced formulas for every stage of life
- No added growth hormones or antibiotics
- Backed by trusted nutritional science
- 100% organic trace minerals
- Added prebiotics, probiotics and enzymes promote better digestion and nutrient absorption

Molting period pro tip:

Add mealworms or sunflower seeds (in moderation) as a treat to keep your flock's protein levels up — and to keep them happy.