



## HOW TO MAKE COOL TREATS FOR CHICKENS

As chicken keepers, we all tend to worry about our flocks overheating on particularly hot summer days. Good news! There is something you can do that is a low cost (or no cost if you grow it yourself) way of providing cool treats. Look no further than your refrigerator or kitchen counter. You can select fresh produce and either chill it in the freezer or let it hang out longer until it is completely frozen.

If you have a large item such as a melon or pumpkin, cut it down into smaller pieces. This not only allows for the item to chill or freeze more quickly, but it gives your flock individual pieces to eat rather than them trying to share from one large piece.

Place the produce in a freezer-safe container. Place in a freezer until either the produce is chilled or frozen. (You may need to periodically check on the progress). Remove the produce from the freezer and take it out to your flock. Stand back and watch them enjoy.

### **Supplies**

- Container that is freezer-safe
- Assorted fruits and/or vegetables that have a high-water content such, but not limited to: grapes, watermelon, zucchini, cantaloupe, pumpkin, blueberries, strawberries
- Optional: Container that you don't mind placing in the chicken run (or you can simply toss the cool/frozen treats directly on the ground)

NOTE 1: for any treats, please avoid anything that is starting to mold or is dissolving into a smelly mess (think spinach that is WAY past its prime). It is fine if said item is just beginning to soften beyond your personal preference for eating.

Note 2: If you find yourself without any produce that you can chill or freeze on a hot summer's day, go ahead and place ice cubes in their waterer. You can also set out a tray of water in the chicken run and load it up with ice cubes as a cool, refreshing treat.