



Feeding Cooked Eggs to Chickens

[Mick] Just yesterday, my son and a friend of mine cracked open some eggs that I waterglassed in March 2020 or March 2021. (I've been too afraid to crack them, so they have just sat until somebody who wasn't chicken decided to evaluate them). The yolks were runny and the whites had browned some; but they were NOT rotten. My friend took all of them home (four 5-gallon buckets) to cook and feed to her chickens over the next few weeks. It's unbelievable to me that the waterglassed eggs are at least 2 1/2 years old (and maybe 3 1/2, depending on which bucket she opened), but the eggs are still good enough for animal feed.

[Jacquie] I would be afraid to give eggs, cooked or uncooked, to my chickens. I would not want to get them starting to like their own eggs! As I understand it, once they start eating their own eggs it is hard, if not impossible, to get them to stop. I don't know. Anyone else have input on that?

[Mick] Good question, Jacquie; and I have heard of many people who have that concern. The concern would certainly be valid if one were thinking of giving raw eggs to his chickens; they would definitely develop an egg-eating habit that would be difficult if not impossible to break. However, cooking the eggs chemically changes them so much that the chickens don't "recognize" them as eggs. We have fed scrambled eggs to our chickens for years and have never had a problem with them later eating their freshly laid eggs. Below are two good articles which touch on the subject:

- <https://theheartychickenhouse.com/2019/06/03/can-i-feed-eggs-to-my-chickens/>
- <https://the-chicken-chick.com/5-healthy-treats-for-chickens-and-3-2/>