

POULTRY HOUSE CONSTRUCTION.

How to Build a Good Poultry House at Little Cost—The Necessity of Fresh Air—Keeping Mites Off the Birds.

By Uncle Jo.

IN THE MAJORITY of instances the novice in building poultry houses constructs them in such a manner as to cut off all possibility of fresh air reaching the interior. Now, fresh air is the very essence of life, not only to the feathered tribe, but to all animal life. It matters not whether you build your houses for the purpose of producing eggs or for the rearing of youngsters, ventilation must not be overlooked. The fresh air type of houses is by far the most valuable one to construct, and is considered the best for all climates.

In the open-front house that faces the south, the fowls can be housed almost as comfortably in winter as in summer. In severe weather, a storm curtain can be dropped in front to break the wind and at the same time allow a free circulation of pure, fresh air. It has been found by medical science that in treating tubercular troubles the fresh air treatment is the most beneficial. We use the open-front system and seldom ever have a case of cold. It is the closely confined fowls that contract roup and colds.

A House for Twenty Hens.

A good-sized house for twenty or twenty-five fowls is one 8 x 10, six feet in front and four and one-half at back, facing the south, on slightly elevated ground. If the conditions are not such, then fill in the floor with six or eight inches of dirt and tramp. Have a door two feet wide at the left-hand corner, front, opening out. In constructing the front, nail two ten-inch planks, lengthwise, at top and bottom. This will give you forty inches of solid front. Then over the opening tack one-inch mesh

poultry wire, and behind this, on the inside, have a curtain on a pole that can be dropped down, closing the opening in stormy weather. We keep Leghorns in such a house and have never had a frosted comb.

The house should be free from cracks or knot-holes on both sides and back, for this would create a draft which would be injurious. The nest boxes can be made of soap boxes. Do not nail them, but so arrange as to be taken out and cleaned whenever needed.

How to Guard Against Mites.

I use sassafras roosting poles, as they are almost, not quite, mite proof, but I make them so in this way: Cut them six inches shorter than the length of the house, tack cleats on them two feet apart, and suspend them 2 1/2 to 3 feet from the hen house floor with No. 12 galvanized wire. Draw the four ends of the wire together and form a loop, and fasten these loops to the middle roof rafter, thus making a swing roost, almost vermin proof.

To make assurance doubly sure, we tie small bunches of raw cotton around the wire midway between the roost and the roof and saturate this cotton about once a week with kerosene oil, and it is very few mites that ever bother our chickens. The whole thing is simple and effective, and costs but an hour's work.

We find that plano boxes, second-hand, when we can get them, make the best houses for a cock and twelve hens. Boxes usually cost \$1.50, and for \$1.50 more, you can buy all other material necessary—roofing, hinges for door, and wire for front. Try it and see.

A GOOD HOME-MADE BROODER.

A Cheap Device by Which the Farmer Can Easily Care for a Large Number of Little Chicks at this Season.

Messrs. Editors: We made a number of brooders last year, after a very simple and inexpensive plan that proved very satisfactory. They were easily operated, and we had very little difficulty in keeping the heat at the required degree. One good feature was the fact that they were fireless, and, therefore, could be placed anywhere in any building, or near valuable property without the least danger from fire.

Our home-made brooders were made of boxes about two and a half feet long and two feet wide. In the rear end, for a space the width of the box, and extending out eight or ten inches, we had an elevated secondary bottom up about six inches from the bottom. The space beneath was left open with a little curtain of flannel over the front, but from the front of the secondary board to the top of the box it was boarded up tightly. The upper floor was stripped only, with an inch or more between each strip, and a piece of grass sacking was doubled, and placed over it, the sacking being tacked in tightly at each end and side.

The next feature was a tank made of heavy sheet tin. It was six inches high, and eight inches across, with an opening to receive a funnel at the top, and a spout outlet at the bottom attached to the outside of the tank, and so placed as to extend through a hole in the boxing and discharge on

the outside entirely. A cork was used to stop the flow and hold the water. This tank, after being placed in the space indicated above the strips and the sacking, was packed about and on top with a mixture of crumbled leaves and sand, but none of the latter was beneath it. The opening at the top for the funnel to be used in filling the tank was also spout-shaped, and extended up and so the tank could be discharged and filled from the outside without opening the brooder at all. Placed under a shed, each brooder could be operated very conveniently in any sort of weather.

This heating apparatus, it should be understood, made the hover, or artificial mother for the chicks. Of course, the water used was heated on the cooking stove in the kitchen at meal time, while the stove was heated up. In the front end of the box-brooder was a convenient clear space for feeding the chicks in clover hulls and other litter, with the little chick food of seeds and cracked grain which is best for young chicks. Water was also placed in the same outer space of the brooder for them. We also had a little slatted pen, or runway, for the chicks of each brood, so there was no mixing of broods or chicks of various ages, and each bunch, being comparatively small, was healthy and made good progress in growth.

With several brooders of this kind we brooded the hatchings of two incubators, and of several hens each month that we would re-set; and we found them very satisfactory after we made our tinner understand that we wanted water-tight tanks, and not

tanks simply welded together. This is one point to be watched very carefully in the construction of each brooder, ease there will be some disastrous leaks.

With two or three brooders of this kind, at this season of the year, nearly every farmer who reads this can double his hatching of spring chickens if he will, by simply taking the first hatching from each hen, and re-setting her for another turn, which

may be done without injury to the hen. Then when the second hatching is off, the chicks may also be brooded in the brooders, and the hen put back with the layers.

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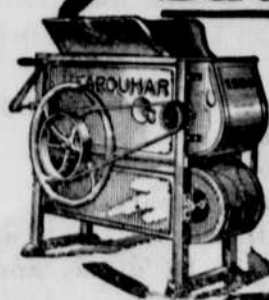
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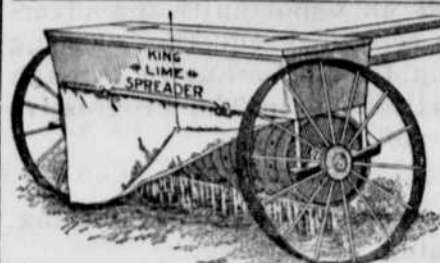
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