

## IMPROVING HOUSING OF POULTRY

Requirements of Building Are Clean, Perfect Ventilation and Plenty of Sunlight.

(By N. R. GILBERT.)

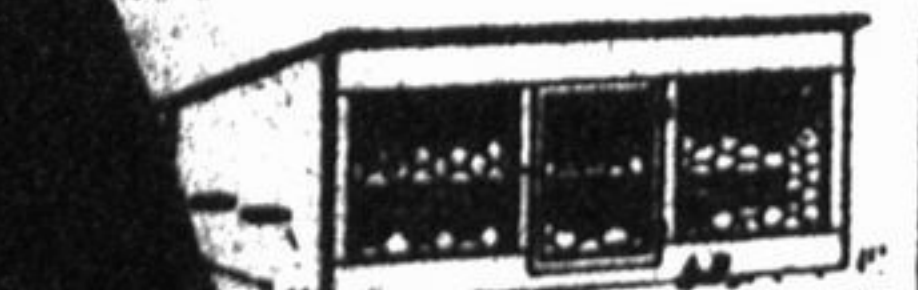
Frequently poultry keepers complain bitterly of the failure of their birds to show profit, when the whole fault lies in defective housing.

Poultry lead an entirely artificial life when they live penned in a run, or even when at liberty and provided with a sleeping-house—that is to say they have their food provided them and do not sleep in the trees, as their natural instinct would teach them.

It is simply the difference between sleeping in a house and sleeping in trees that upsets them. When they do the latter, they may not lay well but they keep their health. More than half the diseases *modera fowis* suffer are caused primarily by this defective housing.

The chief requisites of a house are that it should be weather-proof, so that whatever the inclemency of the season, the fowls keep dry. It must be provided with ample ventilation and should have a sunny aspect.

The sun is life to all animals, and the more fowls get of it, the better. Yet, sometimes, fowl-houses are placed in dark, secluded corners, and fail to admit hardly any light. A



house that supplies plenty of light to the chicks. Six feet by six feet wide, two feet high in front, eighteen in the back.

It should always, if possible, be on ground sloping toward it, then in the wet weather the rain of the house drains away. If the house is on level the rain of the house will tend to remain in it.

A hole should be dug to carry it off, there should be a hole to carry the wet water from a spout connected with it.

That the ground around the house should be well as the house is fowls never do

Special attention should be paid to the roof. The roof should overlap some three inches, and it is all the better if built of stouter wood than the walls.

There is no necessity to cover the roof with felt, provided it receives a good dressing of tar at first and a further coat each year. On no account make the roof of corrugated zinc.

Such a house will be cold in the winter and hot in the summer. If the poultry-keeper has some sheets of this very useful article—for such it certainly is—make a roof of thin boards and put the zinc on top.

For the floor, the earth needs to be beaten down quite hard and a dressing of some inches of sand or light dry earth put on top. If the soil is clayey, it is better to have a wooden floor, for it must be dry.

In any case, observe scrupulous cleanliness, removing all droppings once a week and taking care there is never any smell.

Ventilation is a subject better understood now than formerly. We indulge in more of it for ourselves and more for the fowls. Yet for them as for ourselves, we must not forget that the thing can be overdone and that a good deal depends upon the location of the house and the outside temperature.

## IMPROVEMENT OF FARM EGGS

Government Bulletin Contains Result of Careful Study of Industry in State of Kansas.

Every reader should read circular entitled "The Improvement of the Farm Egg" issued by the department of Agriculture, Washington, D. C. Among other things this contains the results of the careful study made of the industry in the state of Kansas, where an effort has been made to bring about an organization of the egg industry and the co-operation of the state authorities for the purpose of compelling the traders in eggs to sell on a quality basis only. There is a mention in our mind but that the investigation in Kansas that the "case count" system introduced in the very near future will be substituted in the "case count" method of buying and selling. When this system is put into effect it will be a great benefit to the industry. We are sure that there will be a very marked increase in the next few years in the quality of the egg as the result of this investigation. It is hoped that the investigation will be extended to other states.

## DIRTY EGGS DECREASE VALUE

Agricultural Department Estimates Loss to Farmers at \$8,000,000 Every Year.

While there are a few egg producers who take the best of care of their product, the average farmer considers the eggs produced on the farm a by-product and makes very little provision for their care, aside from gathering them. A large loss is caused by dirty eggs, the number being enormous, and according to the estimate of Secretary Wilson of the department of agriculture this money loss to the farmers in the United States amounting to about \$8,000,000 annually.

This loss is very largely brought about by not gathering the eggs often enough. In wet weather more dirty eggs are found than at any other time. This is caused by the fact that the hen's feet are often covered with mud or other filth, and in going on the nest to lay she soils the eggs already in the nest.

An insufficient number of nests is often the cause of many of the dirty eggs found. Eggs are laid on the ground and around the hay and straw stacks, and becoming stained, are classed as "dirties." Again, when too many eggs are allowed to remain in a nest some are broken and many of the others become smeared with broken yolks. This condition is often brought about by allowing the broody hens to use the same nests with the layers. On a farm where one nest to every four hens is provided and the nests are kept clean and well bedded, it is found that very few dirty eggs are produced.

After gathering the eggs, care should be taken not to put them where they will become heated, or near oil, onions, or other vegetables, as they readily absorb odors.

Although dirty eggs may be perfectly fresh, they invariably sell as "seconds," and when but a few dirty eggs are mixed with an otherwise fresh, clean lot, they materially decrease the price of the clean eggs.

## RECORD NEST IS PRACTICAL

Device Works Automatically and Accurately, Identifying Each Egg as It Is Laid by Hen.

The wide-awake poultrymen who are trying to increase their profits by systematic breeding and selection will certainly welcome the new reading nests which are now placed upon the market for the first time. These nests



Men Going on Nest. Device works automatically, accurately identifying each egg with the hen that laid it.

They were invented by two practical poultrymen who realize the great value of individual records, but, like other busy poultrymen, have no time to watch trap nests.

The nest designed by the inventors, for one purpose—to make the keeping of individual records a simple and



Men Leaving Nest. This effort was a complete and unique success. They are in no sense a trap nest, and the hen is at liberty to leave at will.

easy task. This effort was a complete and unique success. They are in no sense a trap nest, and the hen is at liberty to leave at will.

## POULTRY NOTES

Eggs now are at their highest. The best breed is one that suits one's purpose best.

A little salt and pepper mixed with the mash is good for the hens.

Hens must be fed, and fed a long time, before the eggs will come.

Breeding turkeys can be profitably kept up to the fifth and sixth year.

The cost of feed for geese is small, compared with that for other market fowls.

When at all indisposed, a turkey should be separated from the rest of the flock.

Ducks and geese require deep drinking vessels, especially if reared and kept on land.

A hen, like a human being, needs to be made comfortable in order to do the best work.

As soon as the breeding season is over the male birds should be separated from the hens.

The business of our domestic hen is to produce plenty of eggs, and we must feed her for them.

Do not select your brooders for wet feet and soil and soil those that you have not meant for this use.

## Greater Farm Efficiency

### Choosing a Useful Draft Horse

By PROF. A. B. ALEXANDER, Wisconsin College of Agriculture



Stallion of Good Form.

A horse's height is measured in "hands" (4 inches) from the summit of the withers to the ground. A typical, ideal draft horse stands over 16 hands (5 feet 4 inches) and under 18 hands high. Tall, leggy horses, if deficient in weight, width and quality, are undesirable. Such horses often are found affected with St. Vitus' dance. Exceptionally tall horses (over 17.5 hands) are difficult to match in pairs and therefore may not meet with ready sale on the market. Such horses are chiefly used for single work or as the middle horses of three horse teams.

A draft horse should weigh 1,600 pounds, or more, in ordinary flesh. Weight in a draft horse is absolutely necessary for the hauling of heavy loads. It enables the horse to derive full benefit from the strength of his muscles, adds to the effect of his motions and gives him a firm grip upon the ground. Heavy weight is a useless burden when not associated with adequately developed frame and muscle. It should be accompanied by vigor and energy.

The form of the draft horse should be broad, deep, massive, evenly proportioned and symmetrical, the entire makeup suggesting great strength and weight. The body should be blocky, and compact, with short, broad, clean, well set legs showing fine skin, large joints and prominent tendons.

The entire appearance of the draft horse should be indicative of strength for heavy hauling. A massive body, set squarely on sturdy legs is required.

Good quality is shown by fine, bright, silky hair; soft, pliable skin; clean, well defined tendons; smooth well developed muscles; strong, smooth bones. It usually is associated with style, spirit and intelligence indicative of "breeding."

A draft horse does most of his hard work at the walking gait. It is therefore important that he should be able to walk fast without tiring. He should be able to walk four miles an hour with a load. To do this the action must be perfectly regular, straight and level. Joints must be quickly and fully flexed; feet must be advanced and set down without deviation from a straight line. Soles of the feet should turn up and show the shoes plainly as the horse moves away from the observer, at both walk and trot. The feet should be lifted quickly, evenly and be set down squarely and firmly.

There should be no "padding," "dishing," or "winging" in or out, cutting or interfering, nor should the fore legs swing out or "roll," or the hind legs be carried too close together or too far apart. In judging of the action the observer must note the movements of each leg and foot, the carriage of the entire body, as the horse walks and trots. Watch closely for lameness. The hocks should be carried well together when in motion. Rolling, or waddling in front is due to too great width of chest. Knee and hock action should both be free and comparatively high. Perfection of action at the walk is of highest importance in the draft horse.

The draft horse should show a vigorous, lively, energetic disposition, yet be docile, tractable and intelligent. He should be neither sluggish, nor irritable, nor excessively nervous.

Noticeable vices, as cribbing, wind sucking, weaving, tail switching, shying, biting, kicking, head shaking, etc., are undesirable. Sluggishness associated with fat should be avoided, as it induces disease. Stupidity, timidity, meanness or excessive nervousness are objectionable and should discount the animal.

The head should be large, proportionate in size to the body and well formed, clean, free from scurs and irregularities.

Strength may be shown in the head as well as the rest of the body. It should be carried well up and finished

properly upon the neck.

The shoulder of a draft horse should be moderately sloping, smooth and extending well back. A majority of poorly formed draft horses have shoulders which are too steep. Occasionally the shoulders are too sloping. Either extreme in a draft horse is objectionable. Trouble with collars comes from these causes when the horse is doing heavy pulling. The correctly laid shoulder should form a smooth, comfortable bed for the collar. Straight or upright shoulders detract from easy, free action of the forelegs and generally are found associated with upright pasterns. The shoulders should be smoothly and deeply covered with muscles and be free from coarseness, roughness, sores and tumors. The withers should be well covered and moderately high.

The forearm, extending from the elbow to the knee, should be long, wide, heavily muscled and free from coarseness. This portion of the body of the draft horse, together with the lower thigh (gaskin) of the hind leg, cannot be fattened, but is composed chiefly of lean muscle and bone. The muscles should be prominent in front and above and the entire part clean and free from puffiness and coarseness.

The knees should be straight, wide, deep, strongly formed and smooth.

So long as these and other joints are free from puffs, bony growths and meatiness, they cannot well be too large or too strongly developed. Knees should be straight and so set as to perfectly carry the weight of the body. Sprung knees, or "buck knees," bent in the forward direction are an objectionable as those of the reverse type which are known as "calf knees." Examine the knees for blemishes and the cannons for splints close up to the knees. Splints will be



Crooked or "Sickle" Hock.

likely to cause lameness. Blemishes may indicate tendency to falling.

The hoofs should be ample in size, sound, smooth and symmetrical in shape.

The chest encloses the heart and lungs; it should be roomy in every respect. A narrow, shallow chest denotes poor constitution, lack of endurance and deficient breathing organs. If too wide the action tends to waddling or rolling. A narrow chest and high knee action often go together. An ample, wide, deep chest denotes vigor, power, strong constitution and easy keeping qualities.

Poor hocks are a common fault in draft horses. It is important to improve this deficiency. To that end breeding animals should have good hocks and for work horses this also is imperative. The hock (not "hind knee") is commonly the seat of some one of such diseases as bone and bog (not "blood") spavin, thoroughpin and curb. These should be avoided. The joint should look and feel firm, hard and with each bone well defined, free from meatiness and of great size. The point of the hock should be prominent, clean and sharp and the tendons under it straight, distinct, but free from bulging.

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