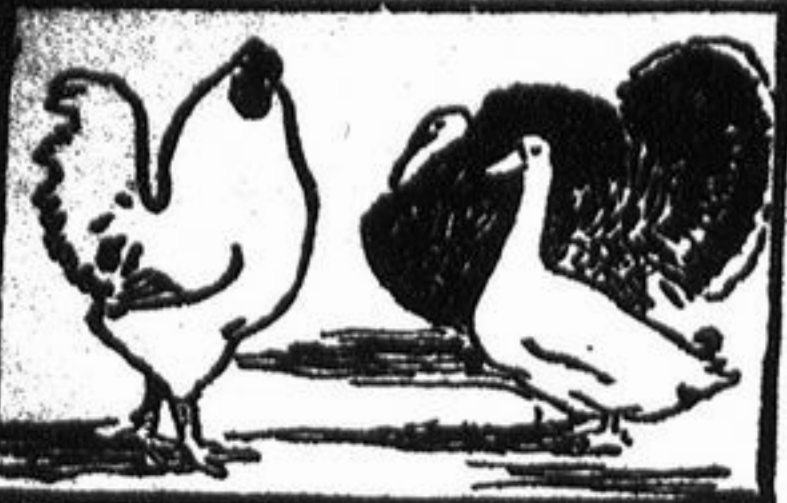


POULTRY



KEEP LITTLE ONES GROWING

Young Chicks, When Allowed to Range, Are Too Often Neglected and Become Stunted.

(By N. E. CHAPMAN, Poultryman, Minnesota College of Agriculture.)

Most chicks are well fed and cared for while their mothers are confined in coops; but when allowed to range regular feeding is too often neglected, and as a result growth is retarded and they become what is termed "stunted." It appears from statistics furnished by produce dealers that but seven per cent. of spring chicks marketed weigh four pounds December 1. By this time all the spring stock of the general purpose breeds, like the Rocks, Wyandottes, Orpingtons and Reds, should average at least six pounds live weight. Plymouth Rocks have been made to weigh seven pounds dressed, at Thanksgiving time, by judicious feeding for growth and development while on range.

When the chicks are weaned at six or eight weeks and are on range, their grain ration, with grit and charcoal, may be supplied in hoppers. The hoppers should be so placed or so constructed that the old fowls will not rob the chicks or drive them away. A small inclosure, made of lath and covered with wire, will admit the chicks and keep others from frightening or molesting the chicks while eating. Coops of ample space should be furnished, well ventilated, but secure from the depredation of night prowlers. The coops, utensils and



A Prize Winner.

surroundings should be kept scrupulously clean and sanitary and the flock kept free of vermin.

Cracked corn is one of the best grain feeds for growing poultry. When new corn begins to harden, whether sweet or field corn, it may be "whittled" or shaved from the cob for the eager chicks. On range they will secure bugs, worms and grasshoppers, and pick up grit and bone-making material.

When they have reached full height all those intended for market should be put in fattening crates and fed ground feed and skim milk for three weeks. An average of two pounds per head may be added to the weight of fowls, old and young, by this method at a cost of about five cents a pound. By all means keep the chicks growing, and fatten them before putting them on the market.

PARTITION IN CHICKEN COOP

Found Especially Convenient in Forcing Fowls Toward Door at Either End of Pen.

A good retaining pen from which to sell poultry may be had by building a coop of the desired size and placing in it a sliding partition for use in forcing the fowls toward the door at either end, enabling a person to take out one at a time.

The sliding partition may be used for dividing the pen into two compartments by placing the partition in the



Sliding Partition.

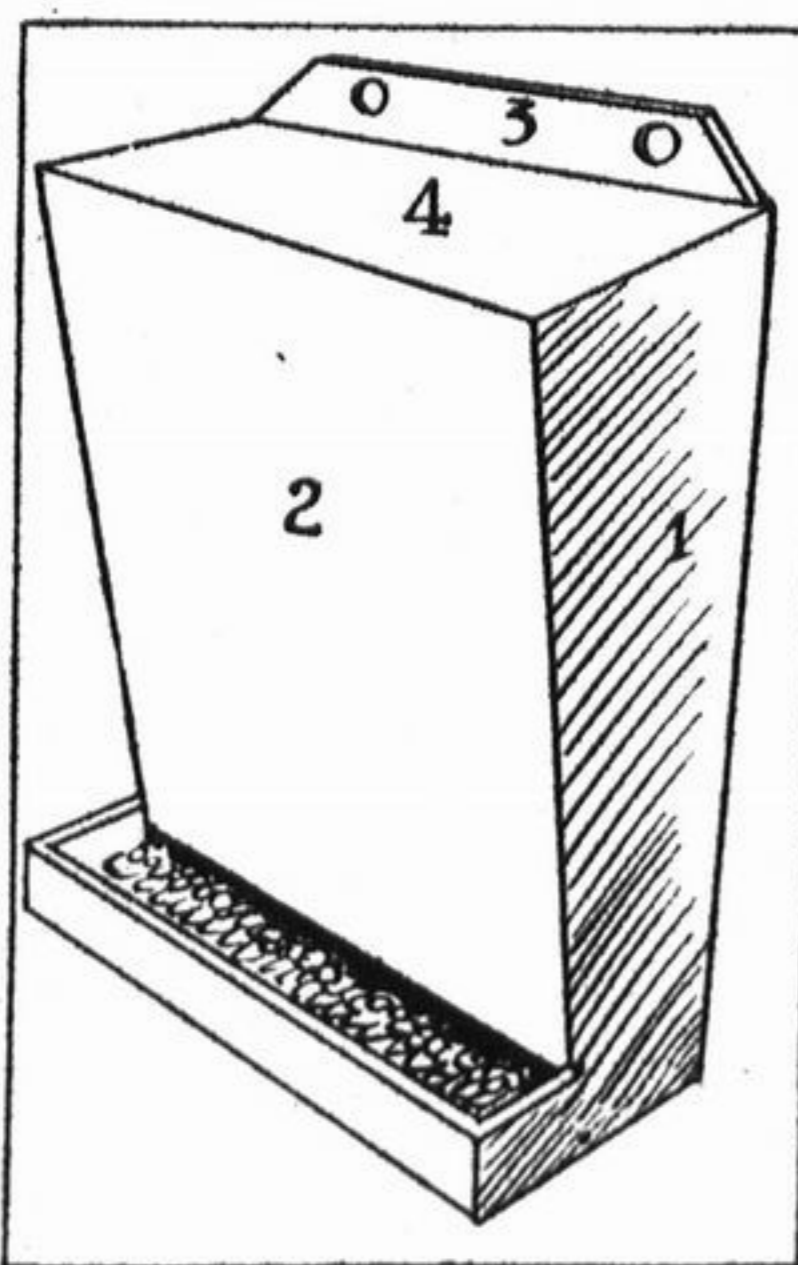
center of the coop, says a writer in the Popular Mechanics. The pole which runs from the center of the sliding partition through a hole at one end of the cage for pulling the partition back and forth may be used also as a roost when it is desired to leave the fowls in the pen for several days for fattening purposes.

Band for Pigeons.
To place a band on a pigeon, hold the hind claw back and press the band down through the ring; draw the ring close up to the knee joint, and then, when on a level with the center of the hind claw, gently pull the hind claw through the ring. The band will be in position and ready to be placed on the next bird.

GRIT BOX IN CHICKEN HOUSE

Much Trouble Can be Saved to Poultry Raiser by Using Device Shown in the Illustration.

If you want to feed your chickens grit, make a grit box like this to hang in the chicken house and the trouble will be over, writes George W. Clark of Noble, Ill., in the Farmers Mail and Breeze. The sides (1) are made of 7-8-inch boards 20 inches long on the back side and 17 inches on front side, 2 inches wide at the bottom where the sides meet the trough and 4 1/2 inches wide at the top. Front of hopper (2) is 1/2-inch thick, 13 inches wide and 17 inches long. The back (3) is the



Grit Box for Chicken House.

same as the front except that it is 24 inches long and extends above the hopper, with two 1/2-inch holes so it can be hung up on the wall. The cover (4) is 6 inches wide and 12 inches long, hinged to the back with a small hinge in the middle. A trough (5) 12 inches long, 6 inches wide and 2 inches deep, attached to the bottom of hopper, leaves a 1-inch space below the front board for the grit to feed through.

To Clean Fountain.

The best way to clean drinking fountains which cannot be reached on the inside is to use scalding hot water and a big handful of shot. Fill the fountain about a quarter full of hot water and then pour in the shot. Shake the vessel briskly so that the shot will scrape along the bottom and sides of the fountain. This will remove the scum and leave the fountain clean.

Feed the Chicks.

The best feed for chicks is a variety of ground grains, consisting of corn, wheat, Kafir corn, millet and bulled oats. Feeds of these and similar good mixtures are purchasable at less cost than the mixture can be prepared by the individual. Also give them charcoal and fine grit. Never feed any wet feeds.

Desire Meat for Ration.

The observing poultry raiser cannot fail to note how eagerly young chicks seize any kind of a scrap of meat. They will pull and tug and tumble over each other in their eagerness to get a bit of flesh, either raw or cooked. This indicates the desire which nature has given them to supply their wants.

POULTRY NOTES

What are you breeding—lice, mites or poultry?

Look to the comforts of your stock if you want good results.

It's more profitable to feed poultry than it is to feed vermin.

Kafir corn is considered a stimulating grain by the pigeon breeders.

Nux vomica is a good stimulant and appetizer if fed in moderate doses.

Preparations are frequent in yards that have no shade the hot days.

The poultry business is a legal business, and yet we must have watered stock to do business.

A hen, if given the opportunity, that does not keep the lice on her body under control, is not worth keeping.

Feed your poultry very little corn, if any, these hot days; the mites a kerosene emulsion and make the lice "bite the dust."

Good breeding and exhibition stock is scarce this year, and will be scarcer after "Johnny-on-the-spot" gets through selecting his.

Now that ducks have stopped laying turn them out to pasture; feed lightly and give lots of shade, as ducks are very susceptible to heat.

Spray once or twice a month with a kerosene emulsion or some other good disinfectant and use lime with a little sulphur added in the nest boxes.

Speaking from observations and not from experience breedy hens are like love-sick lovers in one respect—they eat less than when in a normal condition.

Permanganate added to the drinking water, just enough to make it a claret red, will kill all germs in the water, and is an excellent disinfectant for the digestive system of your birds.

Limberneck is caused by the fowls having access to decaying vegetable or animal matter. If you find any cases in your flock look for something dead lying in some corner that has commenced to decay and your birds have commenced to eat it.

FARM AND BEES



HANDY AS A SWARM CATCHER

Material, Which Costs but Few Cents, Consists of Cloth Bag, and Piece of Wire.

(By F. G. HERMAN.)

I will describe how to make a swarm catcher with which a swarm of bees clustered 30 feet high can be hived nearly as quickly and easily as when near the ground.

It requires only a short time to make one. The material, which is worth but a few cents, consists of a large bag made from any kind of stout, coarse cloth—such a sack as binding-twine comes in is excellent.

To hold the mouth of this sack open, a piece of smooth wire as large or a little larger than a telegraph-wire is used, which is bent in a circle with the ends overlapping some inches, so that they can be tied together with a small wire or stout cord.

The mouth of the sack is then securely sewed around the wire hoop. A crochet stick, the prongs of which naturally of their own accord stay as far or a little farther apart than the diameter of the wire hoop, is used, and with stout cord the end of each prong is tied to the wire hoop directly opposite each other so that the sack swings free.

Now the mouth of the open sack will always point upward, no matter at what angle the pronged stick is held. The stick below the prongs should be at least two feet long so the small end of a light pole can be attached to it by allowing the two to overlap a couple of feet, and binding them together with short straps. Different length poles can be used, as they can be attached or detached in an instant.

When a swarm is clustered on a small limb, the catcher can be raised



A Swarm Catcher.

up around them, then quickly raised up, which jars the limb, so that the whole swarm falls right into the sack.

If they are clustered on a large limb the mouth of the sack can be raised up under them and by moving it one side, the bees are brought into the sack, and a swarm can be picked right off the body of a tree, for by letting the mouth of the sack catch on the body of the tree below the bees, then gradually raising it up, the bees will be brushed in.

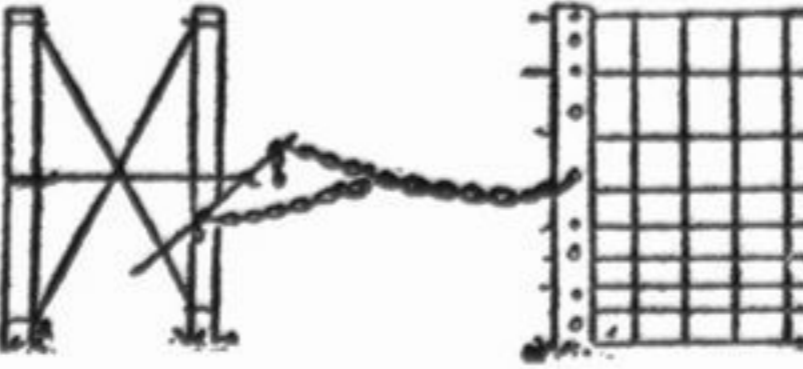
Carry to the hive and invert the bag, or rather turn it inside out, and the bees will drop in front of the hive and run into it, and the hiving is done.

STRETCHER FOR WOVEN WIRE

Excellent Device May be Made Using Heavy Chains Attached to Two by Four Pieces.

An excellent device for making a stretcher for woven wire is described by Elmer J. Million of Oklahoma in the Farmers Mail and Breeze as follows:

Take two stay chains from the wagon and a log chain, fasten a chain or wire about two feet from a two by four or other pole and connect back to the corner post and you have a good stretcher for woven wire fence.



Wire Stretcher.

Sling a stay chain about the lever on either side of the connecting wire, or chain and hook the other ends into the log chain as the fence is drawn up with the lever. To get a firm hold on the wire take two pieces of two by four and bolt them over the end of the wire as shown.

Fertilizers for Black Gumbo.

In the southwest black gumbo soils are frequently difficult to handle. Of late years they have been planted freely to orchards of various kinds and orange and grape fruits seem to occupy considerable attention. For these two crops, use a mixture of equal parts cottonseed meal and acid phosphorus at the rate of 500 pounds per acre. Apply this in the spring when the trees begin to grow. It may be applied around the trees and worked in, beginning at some little distance from the tree, depending upon the size. For small trees begin at a distance of two feet. For large trees at a distance of about 10 feet. For trees four years old, 50 pounds of kainit can be added to the above mixture. The mixture with the kainit added will be suitable for pears, plums and peaches.

LARGE APPETITES OF BIRDS

Robin Will Devour Two and One-Half Times Its Own Weight in Twenty-Four Hours.

It is claimed by naturalists that no living creatures eat so much, according to size, as birds. A robin, for instance, when in good health, devours two and a half times its own weight in the course of twenty-four hours, while a pair of blue birds have been known to feed their young 475 times during a single day. These many meals were not very large ones, of course; a single grub was brought on some occasions, and on others the beak of the parent birds were stocked with three or four small ones, but it is well within the mark to say that the weekly consumption of grubs by this family of young ones alone was between 4,000 and 5,000.

A barn owl has been known to eat 1,000 mice per month, without consid-



Oregon Robin.

ering such trifles as earthworms, cock roaches and the like, with which it helps to sustain life from time to time.

A barn owl has been known to eat seven mice, one after the other. The heron is a large bird, though not a heavy one. A heron weighing four pounds would be a remarkably fine specimen. One of these birds, when trapped, disgorged two recently swallowed trout, one weighing two pounds and the other one and a half pounds. Another specimen was found to have put away three trout, averaging three quarters of a pound each, although it was only a young bird, and another swallowed seven small trout, a thrush and a mouse.

Lime-Sulphur Bad for Potatoes.

Farmers who plan to use lime-sulphur instead of bordeaux mixture for potatoes should abandon this idea of getting along with only one fungicide. The New York experiment station has established the fact that lime-sulphur used on potatoes dwarfs the plants and cuts down the yield. The crop sprayed with bordeaux mixture yielded 50 bushels more per acre than the unsprayed, and the patch on which lime-sulphur was used yielded 50 bushels to the acre less than the unsprayed. This gives a difference of a hundred bushels to the acre in favor of the bordeaux as against lime-sulphur. Lime-sulphur for trees, bordeaux for potatoes, seems the proper rule.

Draining Swamps.

A German inventor has put in effect a system based on the principle of the hydraulic ram, by which the waves of the sea do the pumping for the purpose of draining swamps along the shore. This should interest the Atlantic and Gulf states of this country.

Exhausted Soil.

The farmer who wakes up to the fact that his soil is exhausted and will not produce as it once did is in the position of a man who has overdrawn his bank account. He must make good and that quickly.

BEES AND FARM NOTES

Fix up the binders before the beginning of harvest.

Sow some grass seed on the bare spots of the lawn.

Good hay depends more than half upon the hay-maker.

Plan in plenty of time to de-tassel the corn on the seed plot.

There is always trouble with milk and cream in hot weather.

Spray the fruit trees. It is good insurance for this year's crop.

Red clover is the most common clover grown for agricultural purposes.

The extra haystack will do no harm, and may be a splendid reserve supply for next year.

A good pasture makes a brimming milk pail, and silo makes possible good winter pasture.

Of the making of roads there is no end, and the last state of some of these is worse than the first.

Burr clover, or, as it is sometimes called, California clover, is adapted to low lands that are well drained.

Spade up the ground around the shrubs and trees, leaving about two feet of cultivated land about each plant.

Good roads are more essential than million dollar court houses; the one benefits the masses, the other the classes.

Many farmers every year lose a portion of the value of their crops because they have not force enough to sow them in season.

Forty pounds of pure Kentucky blue grass, five pounds of solid redtop and three pounds of white clover per acre make a good lawn seed mixture.

People are deceived sometimes in the length of time it takes to cool a big can of milk set in the cellar. Try with a thermometer and see.

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