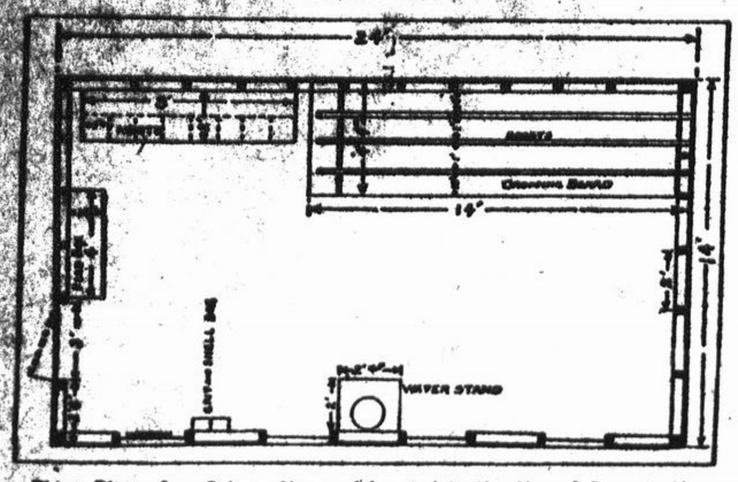
CONSTRUCTION OF POULTRY HOUSE NOT DIFFICULT TASK FOR ANY HANDY FARMER

Plain, Sturdy Built Structure, Well Lighted, Dry and Properly Ventilated Without Drafts, Is All That Is Required—Seventy Hens Taken as Basis for Colony Coop.



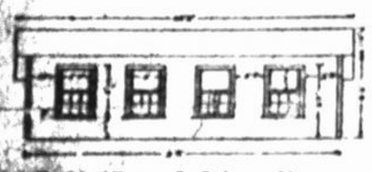
Floor Plan of a Colony House Ada pted to the Use of Seventy Hens.

(By H. L. KEMSTER.)

The average farmer's flock of poultry varies in size, but in the designing and building of the farmer's colony house herein described, seventy laying hens will be taken as a basis.

The house, 14x24 feet in dimensions, is built on a wall 6x8 inches above the ground, which is filled in to the top, making the floor dry at all times of the year. The south or front side the nature of the weather, and by is 6 feet 8 inches high, the back 4 feet 8 inches, while the plate and sills are made of 2x4 inch material, thus making the studding 6 feet long in front and 4 feet in the back, these being placed 2 feet apart. The combination tight roof being comparatively flat. The flat having 1 foot rise to every 3 feet horizontal run, is covered with a special prepared roofing. With this house a shed or shingle span roof could be used to an equal advantage.

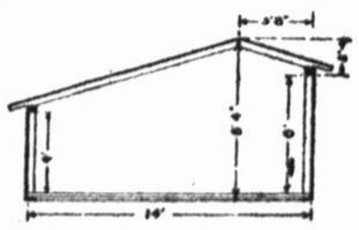
The front is of the muslin front type. It consists of four windows, each having for its upper sash a muslin frame 2 feet 4 inches by 1 foot 11 inches which slides up and down, while the lower sash is a six light 8x10 inch glass window. There is approximately 16 square feet of muslin to 336 square feet of floor space or 1



Front View of Colony House.

square foot of muslin to every 21 square feet of floor space, and also an equal amount of glass.

The muslin frames are of a convenient size for the control of ventilation, it being possible to open as many as necessary to supply the required fresh air, varying the number with placing the muslin frame as the upper sash there is no draft on the birds on the floor. During the coldest weather one of the frames, and often more, is kept open all day in order to keep the birds in a healthy condition. The windows are placed as high as desirable for the most efficient lighting of the house. The roosts located on the back side 3 feet 8 inches from the floor are on edge, the upper corners being rounded off. They are merely set in notched boards at each end and can be easily removed for clean-



End View of Colony House.

ing purposes. About one foot beneath are the dropping boards.

Located on the back wall is a section of nests, and on the end is a feed box 4 feet by 14 inches, with a 16-inch front and a 24-inch back, which is divided into two parts for the holding of whole and ground grain. This is a simple convenient house, and has given excellent satisfaction.

Portable nests greatly facilitate cleaning, while darkened nests not only afford a feeling of security on the part of the hen, but also tend to reduce the amount of egg eating.

Provisions should be made for a dust bath in every house, for the problem of dealing with lice is greatly reduced by its presence.

In order to keep the drinking utensils in the colony houses clean and sanitary, it is desirable to use water stands about 16 or 18 inches high to prevent straw and dirt from collecting in and about the pail.

HANDLE BARNYARD MANURE PROPERLY

Experiments Teach That Liquids and Solids Deteriorate When Kept Together.

(By F. P. NICHOLSON, Bacteriologist, Idaho Experiment Station.)

In handling the barnyard manure the farmer can save or lose hundreds of dollars annually. A manure heap is a hotbed of bacterial activities. Some of the nitrogen is formed into ammonia and passes into the air; this is a clear loss.

Some is transformed into nitrates, which are soluble, washing out by rains and sink into the soil or run off into the ditch; this is also a direct loss. Some of it is formed by bacteria into nitrates, and these nitrates attacked by another species of bacteria which change into nitrogen gas, which passes into the air and is lost.

Nitrogen is worth at least eight cents per pound, and a horse will produce 12 tons of manure and litter per year, containing in round numbers 120 pounds of nitrogen. At eight cents per pound the value of this manure is $10.40. It pays to save it. Experiments have taught us that liquid and solid manures when kept together deteriorate much more rapidly. Also that the more compact the manure is stored away from the weather the least loss will result.

Here is a hint for the progressive farmer. Our farmers need this nitrogen, and when it represents at least ten dollars per horse, one can afford to take a little better care of the ma- produced by our stock.

Reward for Rats Killed.

[illegible] issued by the board of ag- [illegible] and fisheries of Great [illegible] Ireland states that farm- [illegible] land owners have found it [illegible] to form rat clubs. Re- [illegible] award for the killing of [illegible] certain number. Hunt- [illegible] and trapping are the [illegible] of operation.

NUTRITIOUS FEED FOR YOUNG COLT

Something More Than Mere Filling Is Quite Essential for Growing Animal.

(By R. H. SPEER.)

A young and growing animal requires something more than mere filling. It must have nutritious and tissue-building, blood-making food It is much easier and cheaper, says a writer, to put two years' growth on a colt the first year of its age than it is to "make-up" for a year's loss of growth in two or three years. A good growth the first year of a colt's life costs less than at any other age, and is twice as valuable to the breeder—a fact that is too often ignored. Spare the feed and spoil the colt, is surely true. In training the colt do not use the whip simply because you have it. It is a very poor driver who makes a blow the starting signal. See that there is feed and water in abundance and a clean, dry bed.

Don't neglect the shoeing; it is vital on slippery roads or pavements; nor the blanket in cold weather, when the colt is standing out. Don't overload nor let the colt stand in the sun, nor where water drops on him. We believe that down in the heart of every man is some kindness and sense of justice.

Sugar in Philippines.

The sugar produced in the Philippine islands during the year ending June 30, 1911, according the Philippine Agricultural Review, amounted to 269,000 short tons of "crude sugar and panochas," equivalent to 1,813 pounds of crude sugar per acre of cane harvested. There were 297,000 acres of cane harvested. Exports of sugar from the archipelago for the same fiscal years were 164,606 short tons.

Guard Against Borers.

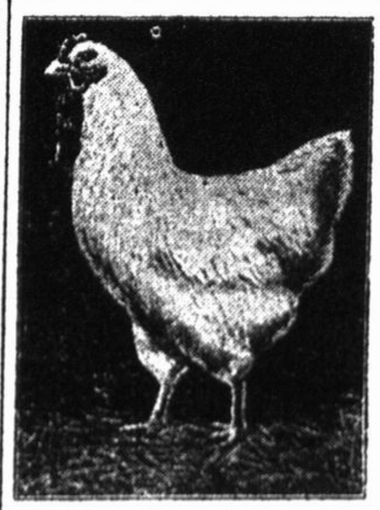
Professor Riley says, regarding protecting trees against the round-headed borer: "I generally take a bar of hard soap and rub it up and down the trunks of the young trees and place a piece in the principal crotch, allowing the rains to gradually wash it down [illegible]

POULTRY

LAYING CONTEST'S BEST HEN

Most Industrious Fowl of 655 in Competition Lays 260 Eggs in Course of Eleven Months.

The hen which has made the highest record in the national egg-laying contest laid 146 eggs in 151 consecutive days, and produced 260 eggs in 11 months. "She is the most industrious hen among the 655 in the contest," writes Secretary T. E. Quisenberry. "She goes immediately from the roost about daylight each day into her trap nest. She lays the egg and is released from the nest about eight o'clock in the morning. She then spends the remainder of the day in eating a large amount of food and drinking lots of water, out of which to manufacture eggs for future days. We can usually tell about when she is going to miss a day. As this time approaches she lays a little later each day, that is, if she is to miss soon,



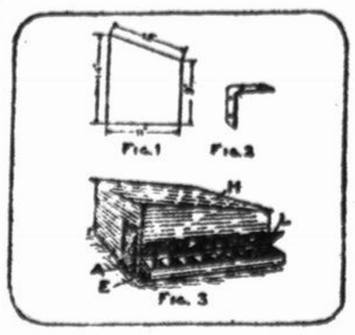
White Plymouth Rock Lady Showyou, Best Layer in National Egg-Laying Contest—Producing 260 Eggs in 11 Months. Her Nearest Competitor is a Barred Plymouth Rock with a Record of 239 Eggs.

we will not find her in the nest so early as usual. She will go on at ten o'clock, the next day at one o'clock and the day before she misses we do not find her on the nest until about four o'clock in the afternoon. When we find her on as late as this she then misses the following day, but the next day has laid by eight o'clock and keeps it up at that hour until time to miss again. She has only missed laying five days in the past five months, and this has been true of her in each case when she missed a day."

HANDY NEST FOR HEN HOUSE

Arranged So That One May Gather Eggs Without Entering Building —Not Hard to Make.

It is easy to make a nest box which will enable you to gather the eggs without going inside the hen house, writes Horace H. Dahl in the Farm and Fireside. It is fastened to the hen house seven inches from the floor by pieces of iron shaped as shown in Fig. 2. These have holes in them and



Good Nest Box.

can be screwed to the nests and house. Fig. 1 is the end made of one-half-inch wood. There are two of these. Nail boards on the back of them as long as the side of the hen house. Make a bottom of boards or tin, and nail it to the ends. The cover is made of weather-boarding and is two inches longer and one inch wider than the nests. This is hinged to the hen house. The partitions which separate the nests are nine by eleven inches and ten inches apart. Holes are cut in the side of the hen house, through which the hens may pass into the nest. In Fig. 3, H is the hen house; A shows the holes; E is the end shown in Fig. 1, and L is the cover of the nests. These nests are dark, easy to clean and are handy when sitting time comes.

Telling Fresh Egg.

The fresh egg beats to a froth easier than a stale one. It takes a longer time to boil a fresh egg than it does a stale one. The fresh egg, when boiled, will stick to the shell, while one a few days old will peel off smoothly.

Different Diets.

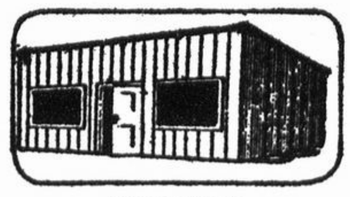
It never occurs to the average farmer that the effect of a long continued diet of grain is as injurious to fowls as to cattle, nor that the concentrated grain food gives the best results when diluted or mixed with some bulky nutrient material.

POULTRY

SMALL, MOVABLE HEN HOUSE

One Found Satisfactory After Much Experimenting—Built on Runners to Facilitate Moving.

After experimenting with several sizes and styles of poultry houses we have decided that the small, movable house is best of all, writes Mrs. W. H. Bush in the Missouri Valley Farmer. It is built upon runners so that a team may be hitched to it for moving, and should not be larger than 8 by 12 feet,



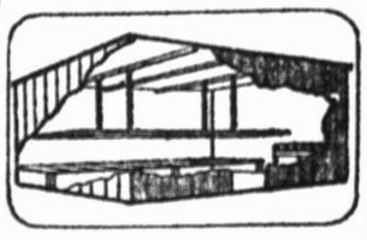
Exterior View.

7 feet high in front and 5 at the back. A good, tight floor is laid, and the walls inside are covered with rubberoid roofing, the same as is used on the roof. Walls thus covered are draft and mite-proof, as well as warm and neat looking.

Dropping boards are built 2½ feet above the floor, along the back wall, the roosts being placed a foot above, suspended from the ceiling by wires. In front of roosts is a canvas curtain reaching from the ceiling to within a foot of the floor. The door and windows are fitted with screens and also canvas curtains, which are for use at night and for stormy days. A house arranged in this way insures the chickens against drafts and at the same provides plenty of fresh, pure air.

The floor space, being clear, is used as a scratching pen, for hens, to do well in winter, must be kept busy. Nest baxes are placed at each end of the building or along the front beneath the windows.

In summer the houses are moved frequently to fresh ground, as when chickens run continuously over the same lot the ground becomes foul and unhealthy. When winter comes the houses are moved and arranged in a row along the middle of a large yard, which has previously been sown to wheat, and furnishes the flock with



Interior View.

green feed till spring. The lot is divided by the row of houses and a little fencing into two parts, which are used alternately. Forty to fifty hens may be kept in this manner in a house such as I have described.

TRIAL OF HOPPER FEEDING

Test at West Virginia Station Shows Egg Production at Lower Cost Than Other System.

In bulletin 130 of the West Virginia station a report is given of a trial of the hopper-feeding system for poultry, which was installed in order to save labor. In a year's test, with five pens of white Leghorns, the cost of food varied from 68 cents to $1.04 per fowl per year, and averaged 90 cents per fowl for the 100 fowls in the experiment.

The egg production varied from 81.4 eggs per hen, when fed principally upon corn, to 24.7 in the pen which received whole grain once per day, scattered in litter, and dry mash and beef scrap without limit in a hopper. The food cost of the eggs during year varied from 8.5 cents to 11.9 cents per dozen. Two pens, hopper fed, produced eggs having a lower food cost than the pen which received moistened mash, and in this test there was apparently no benefit from the extra labor involved in moistening the mash.

POULTRY NOTES

Darkened nests discourage the egg-eating habit.

The successful poultry raiser loves his fowls and his work.

You must provide other grit for the chickens besides oyster shell.

Keep as many hens as you like, but do not keep too many in one flock.

A little granulated charcoal mixed in the soft feed is excellent in cases of diarrhoea.

This is the time of year when a leaky roof on the poultry house needs attention.

It is a rest period now for many of the hens. It pays at this time to feed them liberally.

A little more elbow grease used in keeping the premises clean will often prevent disease.

A hopperful of bran is always seasonable feed and the whole flock should have access to it.

A comfortable home for the hens may be constructed by a person who has very little mechanical ability.