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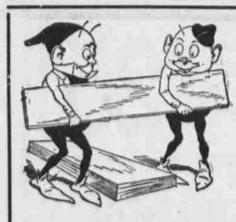
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Making Money On the Farm

X.—Poultry Houses and Equipment

By G. V. GREGORY. "Home Course In Modern Agriculture" Copyright, 1909, by American Press Association

OR the money invested and work applied poultry is one of the most profitable side lines on the farm. Indeed, many farms are run at a profit with poultry alone. If poultry is profitable on a place where all the feed must be bought it should be doubly so on the general farm, where much of its feed is made up of waste products. Too often the work of caring for the poultry is left to the women and chil-Much of it is light work that hey can do all right, but the man of the place should not consider it beneath his dignity to lend a helping hand when it is needed.

If poultry is to be kept at a profit some kind of shelter other than the machine shed, the apple trees or the cow stable will have to be provided. A good, warm poultry house is absolutely necessary if winter eggs are to be secured. At 30 to 50 cents a dozen winter eggs will soon pay the cost of building a house of this kind, to say nothing of the superior health of the

The theory that poultry does best when left to its own resources is about exploded in enlightened communities, it has been demonstrated over and over again that no form of domestic Supplies creature kept for profit responds more readily to good treatment than this same barnyard fowl. That it has alcreature kept for profit responds more ways more than paid its way even when neglected shamefully is but an indication of what it would do under better treatment.

Locating the Poultry House. The poultry house should be located pear the other buildings. The chickens will go to the barnyard to scratch anyway, and if the poultry house is



FIG. XIX-SMALL POULTRY HOUSE.

too far away they will roost in the barns and sheds rather than return to it. The poultry house should not be too far from the dwelling either, in order that it may not be too inconvenient to care for the poultry. The ground where it is placed should be fairly high and naturally well drained. A damp poultry house fosters all sorts of diseases.

The size of the poultry house depends upon the number of fowls kept. It is estimated that about five square feet of floor space should be allowed per fowl. If they can be out of doors most of the time they can get along with considerably less. The best kind of house to build is the scratching shed type, built with a shed roof. The high side should be to the south. About half of this house should be partitioned off for a scratching shed. The south side of this shed part is to be left open, covered only with wire netting to keep the fowls in. If the back and sides of this room are tight and the bottom boarded up a foot or two there will be little draft and the fowls will be comfortable even in the coldest weather. The floor of this shed part may be of dirt and should be kept covered with several inches of straw.

The remainder of the house should have a floor, preferably of cement. A cement floor is easily kept clean and is little more expensive than a wooden one. The chief advantage is that it keeps out rats and other vermin better than any other kind of floor. Neither does it furnish any crevices in which lice and mites can hide. These pests are the worst enemies to poultry culture, and care should be taken in building a house to leave as few cracks where they can hide as possible.

Value of a Curtain Front. There should be several windows in the south side of the house to supply light. Light is one of the best disinfectants. It does much to keep the fowls free from disease and happy and contented. To provide for ventilation there is nothing equal to the "curtain front." This is a large square of muslin fitted into a frame the same as a window. This allows a gradual admission of fresh air without drafts. The exchange of air takes place slowly enough, so that it does not lower the temperature of the house too much. Considerable light comes through the cortain also, and less heat escapes through it at night than through glass windows. The curtain has the further advantage of being cheap. No poultry touse should be put up without one.

Whether built of lumber or of some other material. the poultry house should be tight. Drop siding is good material for the side walls. A single wall is the cheapest and answers the purpose very well. It costs only a little extra, however, to lath and plaster the inside, and such a house is more

desirable in regions where the winters Miss M. Ruth Taylor are extremely cold. It does not pay to paper the inside of the house, as the mites will find a congenial home between the paper and the wall.

Roosts and Nest Boxes. Part of the main part of the house should be given over to roosts and the rest used for nest boxes. It is better to have the roosts along the north side. A muslin curtain arranged on a roller, so that it can be let down in front of the fowls on cold nights, does much to keep them comfortable. The roosting space to be allowed to each fowl is six to twelve inches, according to size. Two by fours set edgewise, with the sharp corners rounded off, make good roosts. They should be set in notches, so that they can be easily removed to be cleaned and disinfected. The droppings should be removed every week or two and not left for a year, as is so often done. If plenty of straw is used on the cement under the roosts it is but a short job to throw the excrement out of a hole back of the roosts and put in fresh bedding. It is labor that will Phone 605 507 Sweetwater Ave. be well repaid, for a clean, sweet smelling house is essential to egg production.

A little slaked lime thrown around under the roosts helps to keep down bad cdors. Sprinkling the house with coal tar dip and whitewashing the roosts and walls once in awhile are also good practices.

The nest boxes should be provided with a cover and so arranged as to be dark and secluded Inside, as the hens prefer to lay in this kind of place. Where a specialty is made of poultry it pays to use trap nests. These are so arranged that the hen is caught when she goes in to lay and cannot get out until the attendant comes along and releases her. By having the hens numbered with leg bands a record can be kept of the eggs laid by each one. Thus those that never lay can be culled out and sent to the butcher and the eggs of the highest producing ones kept for raising pullets to increase the flock. In this way the average egg yield can be increased considerably. It is important in this those hens which do most of their efficient service. laying in the winter months, as they are of considerably more value than the ones that lay in the summer, when eggs are cheap.

Yards and Fences. On the farm there is little need for many yards about the poultry house The chief need for fences is to keep the poultry away from the garden and house. For this purpose woven wire fence with hexagonal meshes is best The meshes should be small enough at Drs. Coppernoll & Petersen the bottom to keep out the small chickens. The wire should not be smaller than eighteen or nineteen gauge. An important point to look to is the galvanizing. This galvanizing is a layer of zinc that is coated over the wire to keep it from rusting. There are two methods of galvanizing, known as "aft-cr" and "before." The former is applied to fencing galvanized after it is woven and the latter to that galvanized before. The "after" galvanized fenc- Eye, Ear, Nose and Throat ing can be told from the fact that the joints where the cross wires are twisted together are filled with zinc. When the wire is galvanized before weaving the zinc is cracked more or less in the weaving process and rust readily gets a foothold. The "after" galvanized wire sometimes costs a little more, but it lasts about five times as long.

Coops. houses and fences, is coops. It is more economical to make these fairly large. so as to hold a hundred chickens or so. A coop sixteen feet long, two feet wide and about two feet high in front, with the roof sloping toward the back. OFFICE IN FLETCHER BLOCK is convenient and cheap. It can be divided into eight or ten compartments and will do for as many bens and their broods. The partitions should be about six feet long and a foot high. This will allow them to project in front about four feet. Laths are nailed along the front and over the tops of these partition boards, making a little runway in front of each coop. One of the laths should be removable to let the hen in and out as soon as the chicks are big enough to follow her about.

While such coops are cheap, they have one serious fault, and that is that they are not big enough for the chickens after they get to be two or



three months old. "There is no place like home" to chickens, and it is a great deal of trouble to teach them to forsake their coops and go into the poultry house nights. This trouble can be avoided by building a number of small colony houses. A convenient size for these houses is 8 by 10 feet. Such a house will hold a hundred chicks until they are nearly full grown. It may be built on the same plan as the main poultry house without the Undertaker and Embalmer scratching shed part. It should be built on runners, so that it can be hauled about from one place to auother, as is most convenient. These colony houses are practically indispensable when poultry raising is conducted on a large scale. In such case it is best to build these houses in a substantial fashion, so that they may be used many sensons. As much attention should also be given to keeping them in good sanitary condition as is due the main poultry house,

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