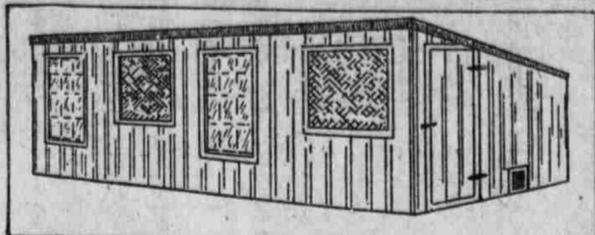
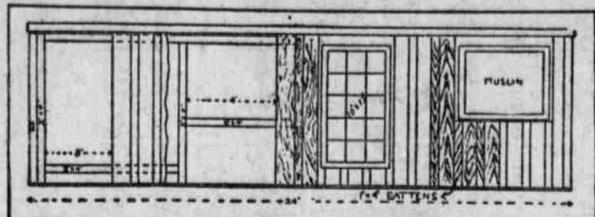


CHEAP AND CONVENIENT POULTRY HOUSE



Poultry House, 12 by 24 Feet.



Front Elevation of Poultry House.

(By N. C. CHAPMAN, Minnesota Agricultural College.)

The house described is cheap, commodious, comfortable, convenient and clean. It gives sufficient floor room, and ample air space, for from 50 to 75 fowls, according to breed. Its construction is such as to reduce to a minimum the time required to feed, water and care for the fowls. All the internal furnishings are movable. The house is divided into two pens or compartments by a center partition of boards and muslin, as shown in the sketch.

Roosts and Nests.—The construction and arrangement of these are the same as in the houses already described and illustrated. The roof and sides of the roosting chambers are covered with several thicknesses of building paper, for winter protection. The paper is removed in the spring. Not a fowl had a frosted comb in this house in the winter of 1909-1910.

General.—When treated with several coats of government whitewash, the house presents a neat appearance. Thus far it has been very satisfactory; and if one wants a cheap poultry house it can be recommended as one well adapted to Minnesota conditions.

used as entrances. Framed wire screens, hinged on the west side, keep the fowls in when the windows are open.

Battens.—These are five-eighths by four inches, and are nailed securely over the perpendicular joints of the boards. Bats either one-half inch or one inch in thickness may be used.

Floor.—The house has an earth floor, which is kept well covered with litter. This is raked aside and the ground spaded up, whenever desired, for the fowls to scratch in. The ground did not freeze beneath the litter in the winter of 1909-1910.

Division.—The house is divided into two pens or compartments by a center partition of boards and muslin, as shown in the sketch.

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GREAT DANGERS TO CHICKS

Chilling and Lice Cause More Loss to the Poultryman Than Any Other Two Causes.

(By W. E. VAPLON, Poultryman, Colorado Agricultural College.)

The greatest enemy of the chick, and that which causes more loss than any other one cause, is chilling; the second enemy in importance because of amount of loss is lice; both lice and chilling are the indirect cause of bowel troubles, because both sap the vitality and life of the chick, making it impossible for the little fellow to resist the organisms of disease which are always ready to attack it.

Dusting the setting hen helps, but some lice are quite sure to escape, and can later be found on the head of the chick; rub a little dab of lard on top of the chick's head, getting it into the down thoroughly, and you will get these; repeat the dose in a week, and if the hen is furnished a good dusting place, the lice are not likely to give any more trouble; but whenever you see a chick that seems unhappy, eyes closed, droopy, look for lice.

The brood coops should be thoroughly sprayed before using with some coal tar preparation, sheep dip white wash, or a mixture of four parts coal oil and one part crude carbolic acid; it pays to be ahead, and that explains why so few of us are making anything on our poultry; we neglect these little things; because of neglect disease gets the start of us, we become discouraged because of the losses, and give up and blame our luck, when all the bad luck might have been prevented by a little careful preparation. Give the chicks a clean place, all the heat they can stand, keep them free from vermin, and you can safely count them before they are raised.

USING INCUBATOR ON FARMS

Valuable Substitute for Hen and Contrary to Common Notion Can Be Easily Operated.

(By J. G. HALPIN, Wisconsin Experiment Station.)

The better types of incubators are rapidly finding a place upon general farms and in most cases proving to be advantageous in raising larger numbers of sound, healthy chickens which will be strong and nicely grown before hot weather comes and well matured and laying before winter sets in. In addition to this, the fact that many of the modern farm breeds of poultry are more inclined to produce eggs than to hatch them makes it more advisable for many farmers to purchase good, reliable incubators.

It is easier to keep a hen laying than it is to start her laying in cold weather. For this, if no other reason, the modern incubator is a valuable substitute. Contrary to a too common notion it can be easily operated by anyone who is more or less careful and methodical.

NOTES From MEADOWBROOK FARM



Pigs need much exercise.

Keep chicks busy and hungry.

Contentment is the best egg tonic.

Never mix warm cream with cold cream.

Wean the calves when the pastures get short.

Groom cows with a brush, not a currycomb.

Almost every farm has a good-sized flock of chickens.

Use pure-bred beef bulls for grading up the native stock.

Animal food of some kind is a necessity in rearing chicks.

Dock the lambs early. The shock is less when they are young.

Feed the lambs specially and get them ready for the early market.

Anyway the incubator has it on the hen for producing louse-free chicks.

Lice and worms keep hogs in poor thrift. Keep these parasites out of the herd.

Let the cream stand eight hours or more (over night) at the churning temperature.

Lamb and mutton—properly fed mutton—are being appreciated more and more by consumers.

The small cost of construction of the pit silo should enable every farmer to build a silo of this type.

A Cornell university hen has produced 257 eggs worth \$7.43 in a year and at a feed cost of but \$1.66.

Don't sit down in the meadow and wait for the cow to back up to be milked. Get up and go after her.

Keep the incubator burner and all the heat-flues clean and there is no danger from operating an incubator.

Don't yank or whip the horse, but find the cause. It may be a sharp tooth or the harness may be ill-fitting.

Wherever sheep or hogs are raised a patch of rape in connection with the other pasture will always prove profitable.

During cold rainy days the hens and young chicks should be protected from the storm by keeping them in the house.

The man who makes the first few days' work easy for his team, is the man who will do the biggest day's work later.

By ignorant overworking of the horses the first week of spring, their efficiency for the season may be greatly impaired.

The difference in the handling of two colts may make several hundreds of dollars difference when they are offered for sale.

Charcoal is good for poultry, having a healthful influence over the whole system. They will eat much of it when placed in reach.

It pays handsomely to use both manure and fertilizer and have it properly used and the ground in good order for drilling or planting.

After taking off one hatch in the incubator always clean and disinfect the machine and the interior equipment before putting in the next lot of eggs.

To get the most value from a sheep pasture requires only a little intelligent attention as to the proper time to change the flock to the alternate pasture.

The variations in the composition and value of manufactured fertilizers which contain the three essential constituents are due to the variations in the character and proportion of the materials used.

Keep on the best terms with the mother turkey hens by tossing them little treats of small grain, table scraps, etc., and you will experience less difficulty with the young turks when you wish to catch them for market next fall.

Little chicks, as soon as hatched and dry, should have litter in which to scratch, so that their toes may be straightened and strengthened. Fine, sharp sand or grit should be scattered in the litter for them to pick up, and fresh water should be supplied.

Give the pigs dry beds.

The bull is half the herd.

Poultry relish crimson clover.

Be careful in feeding rape to cows.

Pigs suffer from the heat and hot sun.

Don't put the sheep out in a wet pasture.

Cool cream to churning temperature as soon as ripe.

Always select the best heifers for breeding purposes.

There is many a farmer who sells cream and buys butter.

Raise and finish beef cattle on the same farm when possible.

Watch for any kind of vermin on chicks, especially head lice.

The pig is not filthy because he wants to be. Just try and see.

Rape is better for sheep and hog pasture than for any other stock.

Moldy litter should never be allowed in a brooder or brooder house.

Begin feeding a pig as soon as it will eat and keep it growing until mature.

Black leg is a disease that will very seldom affect cattle over two years old.

Ninety per cent of the farms of this country are said to be without any sheep.

Some men whip their horses because they are in a bad frame of mind themselves.

In case the sow produces only one litter per year she is liable to be a poor breeder.

It is best to feed young calves three times a day. They relish their dinner the same as you do.

Use the horse much as you would a human being and the treatment will not be much astray.

Feeding a little linseed meal occasionally to stock is beneficial, keeping the system regulated.

Animal husbandry is sure to be profitable in years to come, on account of the high prices of meat.

The best site for a poultry house in any location is one where good water and air drainage are available.

Some farmers believe in cutting alfalfa hay before it is one-tenth in bloom, although this is not common.

Frequent rubbing and handling of the udder at calving time is beneficial to the cow and profitable to the owner.

If we count the fertilizer value of good rich manure at the market price, one ton of manure is worth \$2.50 to \$3.

The German farmer keeps more lice stock and makes a better use of all other sources of plant food than we do.

Look well after the early chicks. They will pay well if given good treatment, otherwise it is best to not have any at all.

The feeder of any variety of stock should never neglect to feed a variety of feeds when it is at all possible for him to do so.

Don't use strong powder to dust a hen with a young brood. Such practice often results in killing the chicks along with the lice.

You feed your cattle and horses and hogs from the products of the fields—yes, and your family, too. What are you feeding your land?

Practical farmers and truckers use the two-horse manure spreader—the manure is thoroughly cut up and spread evenly over the ground.

At this season of the year hundreds of thousands of day-old chicks are shipped right from the incubators to points up to one thousand miles distant.

When weaning the pigs use the creep which admits the pigs but excludes the sow from the pen where the slop is constantly available for the youngsters.

Truckers and gardeners apply eight to ten tons of rotted manure spread broadcast on top of the ground and well harrowed in, and then drill the seed in with about 400 pounds of fertilizer to the acre.

Sheep and lambs are often deceptive to the eye. A short-legged, short-bodied sheep is often heavier and will produce more wool than one that looks to be twice as large. As a rule great coarse looking sheep are not desirable.

The time for cutting alfalfa varies with the use for which it is intended. If the purpose is to get the largest tonnage, the best time to cut the crop is when it is about one-tenth in bloom; or when the young shoots are beginning to show at the base of the plant.

EXCELLENT QUALITIES OF KARAKULE SHEEP



Karakule Ewe and Twin Lambs.

(By HARLAN D. SMITH, Kansas Agricultural College, Manhattan, Kan.)

Persian lamb, astrakhan and krimtoer furs, for which the United States pays \$14,000,000 annually to Russian farmers, can be grown just as profitably in the United States, a Kansas farmer has shown. L. M. Crawford, a rancher near Cottonwood Falls, has been so successful in producing these furs by crossing Karakule sheep from Asia on native long wool breeds that the Kansas Agricultural college, seeing the possibilities of an industry of much promise, has entered into a co-operation with the Kansas rancher for the development of the new farming. The agricultural college will send its expert assigned to the fur farming experiment, Dr. R. K. Nabours, to Bokhara, Central Asia, this summer to study Karakule fur farming in its native country. The knowledge thus gained will be applied in perfecting a sheep fur industry on the Kansas ranch which, it is thought, will be of the utmost importance to United States farmers. Dr. Nabours will leave in May and will be gone four months. Crawford has a large part of the only Karakule herd ever brought to the United States. He is the pioneer in the attempt to grow the much desired Asiatic furs in this country. On 800 white Lincoln and Cotswold ewes he is crossing purebred and half-blood Karakule rams. Pelts from the lambs when only a few days old have been sold on New York markets for \$3 to \$10 apiece. The pelts are valuable even if the lambs are born dead or die soon after birth. The importance of this fact is realized when it is considered that now the thousands of lambs that die in this country every year are complete losses.

Nearly 600 curly, lustrous black lambs bearing valuable furs had arrived on the Kansas fur farm from April 1. One hundred and fifty of these were from half-blood Karakule-Lincoln rams on Lincoln and Cotswold ewes. The pelts of these lambs were hardly distinguishable from those of the purebred Karakule on Lincoln and Cotswolds. This fact, and the further fact that only five of the 150 were white and three spotted, are considered the most important of this year's results, inasmuch as it proves that a half-blood Karakule ram which can be bought for \$150 will bring lambs with pelts almost as valuable as a purebred Karakule which sells for \$1,000 to \$1,200. Sheepmen, therefore, could get a start in fur production on a very small investment.

Aside from its fur-bearing characteristics the Karakule sheep has excellent mutton qualities, the Kansas test has proved. Crossed on American breeds this strain causes a remarkable increase in weight and seems absolutely to breed out the woolly or musklike flavor of the meat of native sheep. The Karakule also is a very hardy sheep. In fact its many desirable qualities, proved since its importation to America, have convinced the Kansas college experts of the advisability of its wide introduction on this continent. The tests on the Crawford farm are being made to that end.

BEST FERTILIZER FOR THE GARDENS

Trials Have Proved That Mixture of Artificial Manure Produces Excellent Yields.

Numerous experiments have proved the high value of a mixture of artificial manure for potatoes, consisting of four hundredweight of superphosphate and two hundredweight of sulphate of ammonia and two hundredweight of sulphate of potash per acre. This dressing should give a good crop, even when no farmyard manure is available, though ten tons of that manure per acre is a valuable addition. When the last is applied the sulphate of ammonia and potash may be reduced to half a ton each. Trials have proved that these manures produce their best results when placed in drills under the seed potatoes. Growers who plant only a few rods may have difficulty in getting locally small quantities of the artificial manures named; but there are some large town firms who sell them by the bags. A ready-made potato manure from a firm of high reputation may answer equally well, although it will cost a little more than its constituents cost when bought by the ton. A deep stirring of the soil, without bringing the sub-soil to the top, is a security against drought.

GREEDY HOGS ARE MOST DESIRABLE

Breeders Might Well Devote Themselves to Developing Appetite Instead of Points.

The Oregon agricultural station has found out by actual feeding tests that the hog which eats most greedily is the most profitable. Thirty pigs were divided into three lots, the heaviest eaters in one lot, and the others graded according to their capacity for consuming feed.

A hundred hogs like the heaviest eaters, at the rate of gain made and present prices, would make a profit of \$297.65, or almost exactly \$3 a head. A hundred like the poorest feeders would have made a profit of \$115.65, or only a little more than a dollar a head. They were evenly graded as to size and sex. If there is this great difference between the heavy eating hogs and the light eaters—and most hog growers will agree that the breeders might well devote themselves to breeding appetite in hogs, instead of color or fancy points. If the appetite makes the profits, breed appetite.

GREAT VALUE OF LEGUMINOUS CROPS

Results Obtained From Their Use Are Far More Striking in Poor Soils Than in Rich.

Investigations prove the high value of the common legume crops whether used in rotation, or as green manure crops. Results obtained from their use are far more striking in poor soils than in rich soils. Perhaps the safest rule to apply where there is a choice of two legumes is to use the one which gives the largest total yield per acre, or if these are about equal, to use the one whose seed is cheapest.

The plowing under of green manure crops as a regular operation is seldom carried on except in orchards. In this case there can be but little doubt that the operation is highly profitable. With field crops the plowing under of a green manure crop is seldom justifiable except in the case of very poor lands or at considerable intervals, because ordinarily it is far more profitable to utilize the crop for feed and then to return the manure to the soil.

There are 16 important leguminous field crops used in the United States, namely, red clover, alfalfa, cowpeas, alsike clover, crimson clover, white clover soy beans, peanuts, Canada peas, hairy vetch, common vetch, velvet beans, Japan clover, sweet clover, burr clover and beggar weed.

VALUE OF SILAGE TO THE PRODUCER

Great Saver of Grain Regardless of Whether Fed to Stock Cattle or Fattening Animals.

There is no roughage which is of more importance to the producer of beef cattle than silage. The value of silage to the beef producer varies considerably and is dependent upon a large number of other factors. If rough fodders are scarce or are high priced, if the grain is high priced, or if the grain is so near a good market that much of it can be readily sold, silage will have a greater value than if the opposite conditions exist. It is a great saver of grain regardless of whether it is to be fed to stock cattle or fattening cattle. It will lessen the grain feeding by practically the same amount as is contained in the silage. The value will also depend somewhat upon the kind of cattle to which it is to be fed. If there is an abundance of rough fodder which cannot be marketed, silage will not be so valuable.