

CONSTRUCTION OF POULTRY BUILDING

Maximum Results Are Obtained By Proper Planning

By Paul L. Sharratt.

Success in the poultry business depends to a very large extent upon proper housing conditions. The house should be dry, light, airy, clean, free from drafts and sudden changes in temperature. Hens like dairy cows must be comfortable if they are to be good producers.

On many farms the poultry is housed in an old building originally used for other purposes—such as storing grain, wood or machinery. The use of such a building is usually not economical as it is difficult to remodel it properly.

The house should be built on a hill-side or a well drained place so the floor and yards will be dry. Damp floors and yards are likely to cause a diseased flock. Hens can withstand extremely cold, dry-air but not dampness.

The poultry house should be located conveniently with reference to other farm buildings, but a site should be chosen where the hens will range toward the field rather than toward the house. It is natural for hens to range near the farm buildings to get feed and shade. The use of an orchard for a shady range together with the practice of feeding the hens at the poultry house will tend to keep them away from the farmhouse.

Whenever possible the poultry building should be built on ground that slopes to the south and it should face the same direction. In this way the poultry will get the greatest amount of sunshine on short winter days. A windy place is not desirable for the poultry house. Trees or shrubs may be planted to break the force of the wind, provide shade and afford shelter to the house.

There are several methods of housing poultry among which are the colony house and the long house system. Each of these systems have advantages and disadvantages over the other.

Colony House System

In the colony house system only one flock is kept in building. Colony houses are of two types—the portable and the non-portable.

The portable type is especially adapted to growing young stock. The usual method is to nail the house on runners. In this way it can be moved from place to place with a team. A house ten by twelve feet built on runners makes an ideal brooder house. Five hundred baby chicks can be cared for in a building of this size with a fair sized runway or an additional scratch room.

When used for older chickens this type of house saves much feed which would otherwise be wasted in the field because after the crop has been harvested the house and chickens can be moved into the field. The poultry is always kept on clean ground in this way which is free from disease. They will also get more insects than if the house always remained near the farm buildings. This is especially true in some years when grasshoppers are numerous. The chickens pick much of their living and also rid the farm of troublesome pests.

On some of the larger poultry farms, the chickens are kept in portable colony houses all their lives. The young stock is started while the houses are near the farm buildings and as they grow older they are moved farther from the buildings out into the field. In the fall of the year they are again drawn in near the farm buildings and placed close together so as to be easily cared for during the winter.

The Longhouse System

Long houses with or without partitions are used on many large poultry farms. These are less expensive to build, and less labor is required to care for the fowls, as the poultry man can go from one pen to another more quickly than from one separate building to another. Long houses have ground more closely stocked so that there is less natural feed such as grass and insects.

The tendency to disease is greater under these conditions. The grounds and buildings also need more careful watching to keep them sanitary. The egg eating habit is easily formed where many hens are kept close together in this way.

Partitions in a long house are to be preferred to the house constructed without partitions. Opinions differ as to the distance between partitions. It is generally conceded that they should be placed every twenty feet over the roosts to the ceiling and also about two feet above the floor. The remainder of the partition may be of wire construction. The partition is also of advantage in the hatching season as the better producers can be separated from the poorer ones.

Fencing The Yard

A low fence will confine hens when they are allowed plenty of range but a high one is necessary where the range is small. Frequently a little more fence could be used around the garden and house and the hens kept where desired yet allowed abundant range. At times a rather closely woven fence could be put around the orchard and thus give the hens plenty of room without much added expense.

Unless the chickens are given free range the continuous house without partition should be yarded on both sides of the house. This type of house is least expensive as there are no inside fences in the yard. The chief trouble is that the poultry crowd to one end at feeding time.

If the partition type of house is used the yard may have as many divisions as there are partitions in the building. The principal thing is to keep the yards constantly cultivated to rid them of filth.

Ventilation

Fresh air means health but must never be supplied with a draft. A poultry house usually needs more ventilation than it gets. Fresh air is far more important than warmth. The poultry house then, should furnish protection from storms and cold winds

ing to quite an extent

A shed roof or "one slant" is the most common and requires less cutting of rafters. It turns all the water to the north leaving the south or front dry and warm. In building a shed roof wider than 14 feet, heavy material should be used for rafters or else supporting beams should be run lengthwise throughout the house. The roof on a poultry house, as a rule, is built rather flat, not over one-fifth pitch. A shed roof also gives a low rear elevation which makes the hens will fight to roost on the highest and many of them will be hurt by falling off. Perches should be in the warmest part of the pen so that the hens will not be cold during the night when they are inactive. If perches are removable it is easier to clean and disinfect them as well as to fight

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WAIT A BIT BEFORE BUYING
RADIOPHONE

Says College, Advising Those Who
Plan to Hear Daily Market
Reports

Daily inquiries are received at the Extension Offices of the Ohio State University as to the type of radio receiving set which will be needed to hear the daily crop and market reports that are to be broadcasted from the University. Farmers all over Ohio as well as the county farm bureaus are planning to receive this material.

To all inquirers, H. C. Ramsower, director of extension, replies that necessary experiments will postpone initiation of the service for from two to four weeks, and that until these experiments are concluded no one can be advised just what apparatus to buy.

It will also be advisable to put off purchases until the Hoover Radio Conference, now convened in Washington, formulates its regulations and assigns wave-lengths for various kinds of stations, Mr. Ramsower says.

**TREAT SPUD SEED TO SAVE
CROP AND SOIL**

Now's the Time, Say Crop Men, And
This Is How It Can Be Done

No soil is naturally "scabby," says crops specialist of the Ohio State University. The trouble is introduced by planting diseased seed, and on many Ohio farms the soil has become so infested with scab that clean potatoes can not be raised.

Now is the time to treat potato seed, and this is how: Use formaldehyde, 1 pint to 30 gallons, soaking the seed one hour; or use corrosive sublimate, 4 ounces to 30 gallons, soaking the seed for the same length of time.

Seed can be treated any time between now and planting time, but preferably before the potatoes have started to sprout. Spread the treated spuds out until dry; then store them until planting.

**PLANT SOME ROSES AROUND
YOUR HOME**

A new bulletin, "About Roses," by Alfred C. Hottes, is now available for free distribution from the Department of Publications, Extension Service, Ohio State University, Columbus.

This pamphlet of 16 pages confines itself to practical pointers in making roses grow. It treats with locations suited to roses, soils and drainage, summer care, pruning, insects and diseases, winter protection, propagation and useful varieties.

FRENCH TURNING SAVAGE

Paris' Pessimistic sociologists lament that France is returning to savagery. In support of this assertion they cite the fact that there are now 71 bull fight clubs in France, as against 14 before the war.

HIBERNATING WASPS

Kensington, Eng.—Hibernation by wasps is unknown to all natural history scientists, yet a complete nest of the insects was found hibernating here.

GOVERNMENT TENNIS

Acton, Eng.—Employees of the Pension Issue Office have been granted permission to have tennis courts built. The government will pay the bill.

NOTICE TO NON-RESIDENTS