

# THE GOLD HILL NEWS

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### How to Raise Poultry

By Dr. L. D. LeGear, V.S., St. Louis, Mo.  
Dr. LeGear is a graduate of the Ontario Veterinary College, 1892. Thirty-six years of veterinary practice on diseases of live stock and poultry. Eminent authority on poultry and stock raising. Nationally known poultry breeder. Noted author and lecturer.



#### A SHORT CUT TO LONGER PROFITS

You think you have eliminated the heavy eating, light-laying drones from your flock, but are you sure you have gotten them all? If you are a good judge of the signs which

indicate poor layers, the chances are you have eliminated the worst drones. In all likelihood, however, there are still a number of hens left which are on the border line or just below it; either they consume as much in food as they pay back in eggs or just a little bit more. In



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either case, they are unprofitable to keep, but hard to discover when ordinary methods of culling are employed.

Now these "border line" fowls require just as much care and equipment as their more profitable sisters. Care and equipment represent part of the investment on which a profit must be paid. It becomes self-evident, therefore, that very many such fowls will cause a serious cut in the percentage of profit returned on each dollar of capital invested. But the question is how to convict the offenders of their shortcomings. I know of but one certain way and that is to keep books on the whole lot of them and in a short while you will know beyond peradventure or doubt which are the egg layers and which are destined for a speedy trip to market.

Trap-nesting, in short, is the one sure method of determining exactly how much each hen is laying and whether or not she is going to be worth keeping on the job. Such knowledge is of especially great importance to the breeder of fine pedigreed fowls, but is sufficiently important to most poultry raisers to be worthy of consideration. Trap-nesting, incidentally, is valuable in taming young birds which tends to increase productiveness.

Many will object that trap-nesting involves too much labor. It is true there is some additional work involved but it is questionable whether there is much more than would be required for taking care of a large number of fowls from which no profit could possibly be realized. Furthermore, the work can be materially reduced by dividing the flock and trap-nesting one section at a time. As soon as the desired purpose has been definitely, another section can be put through the course and so on until a dependable record has been made by every hen in the entire flock. This record not only serves to indicate the best layers, but is an invaluable guide for the selection of breeding stock.

A flock should be trap-nested for twelve (12) months to tell accurately just what each individual hen is capable of doing in egg production. To trap-nest for three months and multiply by four does not give an accurate year's record.

And now, just a word about the mechanics of trap-nesting. A trap nest, as everyone knows, is one equipped to hold a hen captive when she enters it to lay. Each hen in the flock has a numbered leg band on one of her legs, and before she is released if she has layed, her number is put down on a daily record sheet, indicating that she layed that day. After a hen lays in a nest, she has to be released by an attendant and the nest left open ready for another hen. Home-made nests of this kind are easily constructed, although space is lacking in this article for giving definite instructions as to how it is done. There are many ready-made forms of trap-nests that give satisfaction and are reasonably priced. Some manufacturers simply furnish a front with the trap mechanism attached. It can easily be fitted to a suitable form of home-made nest. Numbered leg bands for identifying the hens are purchased in series at comparatively trivial cost.

At least one trap-nest should be furnished for every four birds in flocks of fifty or more, and one for every three in smaller flocks. Try to have a sufficient number so that hens do not have to wait too long for their respective turns. For the same reason pay a bit more of atten-

a real smoke!



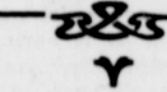
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### THE JOKERS CORNER



#### KEPT HIS WORD

For nearly a week Smithers and his wife had not been on speaking terms. Soon one of the neighbors got to know about it. The same afternoon she called on Mrs. Smithers. "What is the trouble about, dear?" Mrs. Smithers looked tearful. "Jim is such a beast," she burst

out. He promised me a big surprise if I learned to cook—and so I had a course of lessons."

"I see," nodded her friend. "And didn't he keep his promise and give you the big surprise?" "Yes he did. He went and fired the cook."

PLENTY PERSONAL  
The professor had asked time and again for the students to put more personal touch in their themes, so one of the papers which he received ended thus:  
"Well, professor, how are the wife and kiddies; and, by the way, before I forget it, could you lend me five dollars?"

AND HOW HE YELLS  
"Can your little brother talk yet?" "He doesn't need to. He has only to yell and he gets what he wants."

tion to the trap-nests during the normally busy hours of the day, which are usually from 8 to 11 a. m. They should be visited once every hour especially during the forenoon. The use of trap-nests enables the poultry raiser to learn some really astonishing facts about what his hens are really doing. He will be surprised to find that some of those in which he had most faith were least deserving of his trust, and vice versa. He will definitely drop guessing from his payroll and substitute scientific certainty. The change may mean more work of one kind but it also means less work of a less profitable kind and in the long run trap nesting is bound to pay a sufficiently large increase in cash dividends to more than justify the increased investment in labor and equipment.

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