

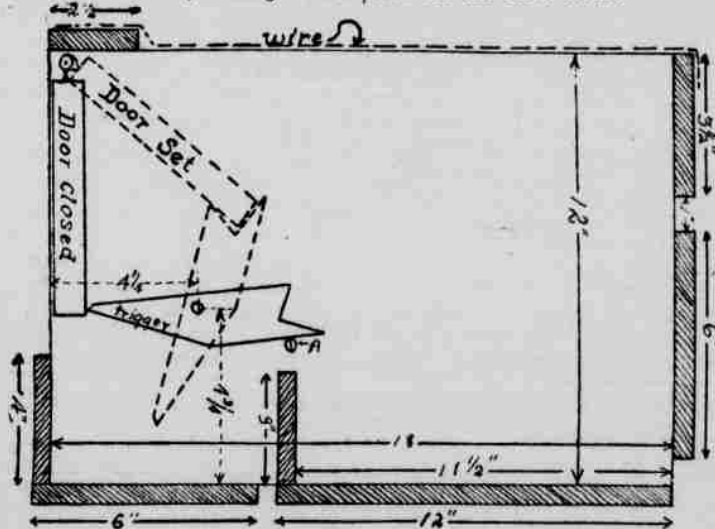
Home-made Trap Nests

THERE are many kinds of home-made trap nests, but few have proven so satisfactory as has this nest. The nests are of good size, 12x18 inches inside measure and twelve to fifteen inches high. A board three inches high is put across the nest twelve inches from the back, which makes a nest twelve inches square, and this board holds the nesting material in place. The most convenient unit is two nests. The nests should be built in pairs. This makes a nest in which a good large hen can be comfortable either sitting or standing, which is a desirable quality in a trap nest. This door and trigger can be used on any sort of nest or box you care to attach them to.

The body of the nest is built of light material, one-half or five-eighths inch lumber. The trigger and front door should be made of seven-eighths or inch material. Nests which are to be placed under tight droppings platform or underneath any object which will prevent the fowls from roosting on them need be covered only with one-inch-mesh poultry netting. Other-

The door is hung on screw eyes. The screw eyes are placed in the upper corners of the door. A gimlet or a small bit is used to make a small hole through each partition at the top of the nest where the door is to be hung. A long wire is passed through these holes and also through the screw hooks at the top of each door and the wire is then bent and fastened at each side of the nest. This one wire allows the screw hooks and the door to swing on it. This acts as a hinge for the doors and allows them to swing freely back and forth. The doors must swing absolutely free if the nest is to be a success. This makes a cheap hinge and permits the door to swing freely in all directions.

The door is checked by means of screw hooks or thumb buttons. These screw hooks are made by bending down ordinary hooks of the proper size and for purposes of this kind. The buttons are placed on the front of the center partition and act as a stop for both doors. If you should be troubled with the buttons working loose, then use the screw hooks.



wise make the top of the nest tight. It is a good idea to leave an inch opening in the back or sides of the nests for ventilation. Also leave an opening of three-fourths inch in the back of the nest at the bottom. This prevents the eggs or the nesting material from passing through this opening, but at the same time gives you a space through which to scrape the trash and filth which accumulates in the bottom of any nest.

Use a door consisting of a frame over which small mesh wire has been tacked. We like the wire door better than a solid wooden door, because of the fact that it affords ample ventilation, the lack of which is one of the glaring faults of the average trap nest.



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The trigger can be attached to the side of the nest box by using a long screw, but in every case must work freely. The screw must be set squarely into the side of the box to absolutely prevent the trigger from binding against the side. Free action of the trigger is positively required.

The trigger must be set in such a position that when the door is swung inward and rests on the notch it will be invitingly open and at the same time this opening must be small enough to prevent the hen walking into the nest without touching the door with her back. As she steps into the nest and slightly raises the door, the trigger is released and falls backward. The door then swings down and the pointed end of the trigger rises behind it, effectually locking it.

See that the nesting material does not interfere with the trigger. Long hay or straw may eventually get piled up in such a manner as to interfere with its action. To remove the hen, simply turn the button or screw hook and swing the door outward, or, if you prefer, turn down the point of the trigger and swing the door in toward the top of the nest, thus permitting the bird to come out that way. Of course the nest can be set in a partition with a back door through which the hen may be removed.

It is necessary to drive a nail into the side of the box in such a manner as to check the falling trigger, when the sharp end rises to a point where it safely locks the door. The point of the trigger should rest near the bottom of the door when the door is closed. The trigger resting on the back of the door prevents any hen on the outside from coming in and the door closing against the button or screw hook prevents the hen in the nest from releasing herself.—Missouri State Experiment Station.

HEN MANURE.

THE POULTRYMAN or farmer can materially add to the profits of his business by properly caring for the droppings of his fowls. For example, it is shown that the droppings from 1,000 fowls if preserved without needless loss are worth at least \$300 per annum, and this estimate is based on the assumption that less than

half of the droppings, or only 30 pounds per hen per year, can be collected.

The droppings should be collected daily and mixed with substances which will (1) prevent loss of nitrogen, (2) add sufficient potash and phosphoric acid to make a better-balanced fertilizer, and (3) improve the mechanical condition of the manure so that it can be applied to the land with a manure spreader.

This can be done as follows: To each 30 pounds of the manure add 10 pounds of sawdust, good dried loam, or peat, 16 pounds of acid phosphate and 8 pounds of kainit. Such a mixture will contain about 1.25 per cent of nitrogen, 4.5 per cent of phosphoric acid, and 2 per cent of potash, which, used at the rate of two tons per acre would furnish 50 pounds of nitrogen, 185 pounds of phosphoric acid and 80 pounds of potash, and at the present price of fertilizing ingredients is worth about \$10 per ton. The mixture would furnish a well-balanced stable fertilizer, which, although not fine enough to work well in drills, can be successfully applied with a manure spreader. The treated manure should be well sheltered until time to apply to the land—this is, shortly before plowing.

Doctoring fowls is mighty unprofitable business for the poultry raiser, and prevention should be the watchword—strong stock, proper feeding and housing cleanliness. When sickness does occur in his flock, his remedies should be the simple ones indicated and the hatchet.

A piece of alum in the drinking water will prevent throat and lung disease.

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