

A Weekly Page of Poultry Hints

WHY ARE poultry houses necessary? The wild jungle fowls could very well get along without protection from the elements and natural enemies. They were adapted to the climates, and surroundings, and in every way fit to survive without artificial protection. The jungle fowls were what our wild birds are today, and were living and breeding in a like manner.

Our different classes and breeds, however, have only a slight resemblance to the jungle fowl; they have been domesticated and moved from their natural haunts into various climates and locations. The fact that they have been domesticated is the reason that, in order to have them do their best, artificial shelter in the form of poultry houses are necessary.

Three important factors are necessary to consider in constructing a poultry house. They are comfort to the fowls, comfort to the attendant, and cost of construction and up-keep.

The comfort of the fowls is realized in a house provided with an abundance of fresh air without drafts, plenty of sunshine, a dry interior and sufficient room.

Essentials to Good Poultry House.

The comfort of the attendant is realized in a house built high enough so all the necessary work can be done inside, without stooping or bumping his head; large enough to make it feasible to use some of the various labor-saving devices, in the care of the flock; warm enough in the winter to comfortably do the necessary work, and cool enough in summer so as not to be obliged to sweat blood in the proper care of the flock.

The cost of construction and up-keep in a poultry house is realized by a well planned, plain, inexpensive, and yet solidly constructed building. Beware of the fancy constructed buildings. They are, as a rule, too expensive, do not provide the necessary factors of a good poultry house, and require much expense and labor to keep them up to the original appearance. There are today entirely too many fancy and improperly constructed poultry houses. It is much better policy to have a \$100 poultry house with a \$500 flock inside, than a \$500 house protecting a \$100 flock.

Primitive Poultry Shelters.

One of the oldest and most primitive types of poultry shelters or coops was an A-shaped affair made out of slats. These coops were generally located where they were protected by the farm buildings, or under a tree.

Still another primitive style, but a much more undesirable form of construction for a poultry shelter, was a corner fenced in by wire netting in the darkest corner of the farm barn. On some farms, although very scarce, this kind of a poultry shelter is still used. One of the greatest reasons why it is not any more in as general use, is not because it was found an unsatisfactory way of housing poultry, but because the fowls were found to be a nuisance in the barn, and the lice and mites raised hob with the cows and horses.

Warm Poultry Houses.

Practical experience and repeated experiments have proven that very warm poultry houses are not desirable. Artificially warmed poultry houses, for mature stock, either for heavy egg production for market or for fertile eggs for hatching has been a complete failure.

Artificially warmed poultry houses have a tendency to undermine the constitutional vigor of a flock. It is much better to have a house a trifle cold than too warm. The proper temperature for a poultry house is one that allows the fowls and attendant to feel comfortable. Fowls accustomed to a low temperature can comfortably bear a much lower temperature, than fowls not accustomed to it.

Location for the Poultry House.

The best location is the south side of a gravelly knoll, which affords excellent water and air drainage. Here the water and air drainage will be good and at the same time the

poultry house will be protected from the severe north winds. In a house located where the surface water collects, the floor is sure to be damp. All successful poultrymen know that a damp floor is one of the worst conditions to have in a chicken house. For this reason, when selecting a site for a poultry house, choose a location a little higher than the surrounding ground.

A good poultry house should be as simple in construction as possible. Absolutely no fancy work of any description. A good many put in fancy door frames and unnecessary window casings. These are absolutely worthless except for appearance, and appearances will certainly never make hens lay.

FEEDING THE CHICKEN.

CHIEF among the different elements necessary for a balanced ration are—Proteids, Carbohydrates, Animal Foods, Vegetable Foods.

Proteids—So called because they are high in proteid matter, embrace the following: Cottonseed meal, flax meal, linseed meal, gluten meal, brewers' dried grains, malt sprouts, wheat bran, middlings, etc. Because these foods are high in protein, you must not feed too heavy, because the system will absorb or assimilate just so much; over that will cause bowel and other troubles. Some foods contain too much protein.

Carbohydrates—These embrace such starchy foods and heating foods as corn, cornmeal, cob meal, hominy meal, ground oats, barley, buckwheat, etc. Feed these mixed, or a different variety for each meal. They furnish the fuel for the body, keeping it in warmth, keeping the "steam up," one might call it. If fed too excessively, it will cause over-fatness.

Animal Food—These are composed, in part, of the following: Milk, beef scrap, blood meal, green bone, etc. These foods are by far the richest of the lot, and are essential for egg production. Milk is most excellent of all; beef scrap easily obtained; green bone, the most dangerous of all, as it is very easy to put a fowl off its feed by its use.

Green foods are alfalfa meal, clover meal, sprouted grains, cabbage, beets, etc. All domestic fowls should have some green food to balance the ration. It is very essential.

The most important part in feeding, is not what, but how much, and how often is the question. Six ounces of feed daily should be the required amount of feed supplied to fowls that are laying. Do not forget that oyster shells, charcoal and grit are also very much needed and cannot be dispensed with. Green cut bone, if fed with care, is very valuable and is resultant in a full egg basket if it does not cause bowel trouble.

THE SICK FOWL.

THE SICK FOWL is always an especially hard proposition to come up against. Poultrymen should know and realize that it is easier and wiser to watch for the first symptoms of disease than it is to check or cure it when it has come. The fowl has peculiar digestive organs. Whatever is to reach them must first go into the crop, and the crop is apt, in case of disease, to stop its operation the first thing, so that medicines find difficulty in getting into circulation and doing their part in healing.

DISINFECTING.

DO NOT suppose that because you have sprinkled or sprayed even the best disinfectants over the roosts and houses, you have really achieved a removal of the evils. To really disinfect, a house must be swept, walls, floor, roof; the air must have a good chance to do its sweeping through it; light must be let in, and then every square inch of the space occupied by the fowls must be made dripping wet with the disinfecting solution. It is easily possible to get too little. It is not so easy to get too much.

The foe of the fowl is the insect—lice and mites. A very minute drop of oil of any kind puts an everlasting

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ing stopper on these small but tormenting creatures. A hand spray pump and a gallon of coal oil will do wonders in the hands of an expert sprayer.

The spray is for the eggs of the insects and for such insects as are in hiding in cracks and on roosts. For the bird itself use any good insect powder, and sprinkled clear down through the feathers once a month. Hold the fowl by the legs and miss no part of its plumage.

The Wrong Sign.

Manager of Shoe Store—"I've tried my best to attract the women to this place and they simply won't come.

Salesman—No wonder! Your sign queers the trade.

Manager (heatedly)—Why, what's wrong with the sign?

Salesman—It reads: "The Big Shoe Store."

Accommodating.

"Speaking of accommodating hotel clerks, the best I ever saw was in a certain Maine town. I reached the hotel late in the evening. Just before I retired I heard a scampering under the bed, and saw a couple of large rats just escaping. I complained at the office. The clerk was as serene as a summer breeze.

"I'll fix that all right, sir," he said. "Front! Take a cat up to room 23 at once."

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