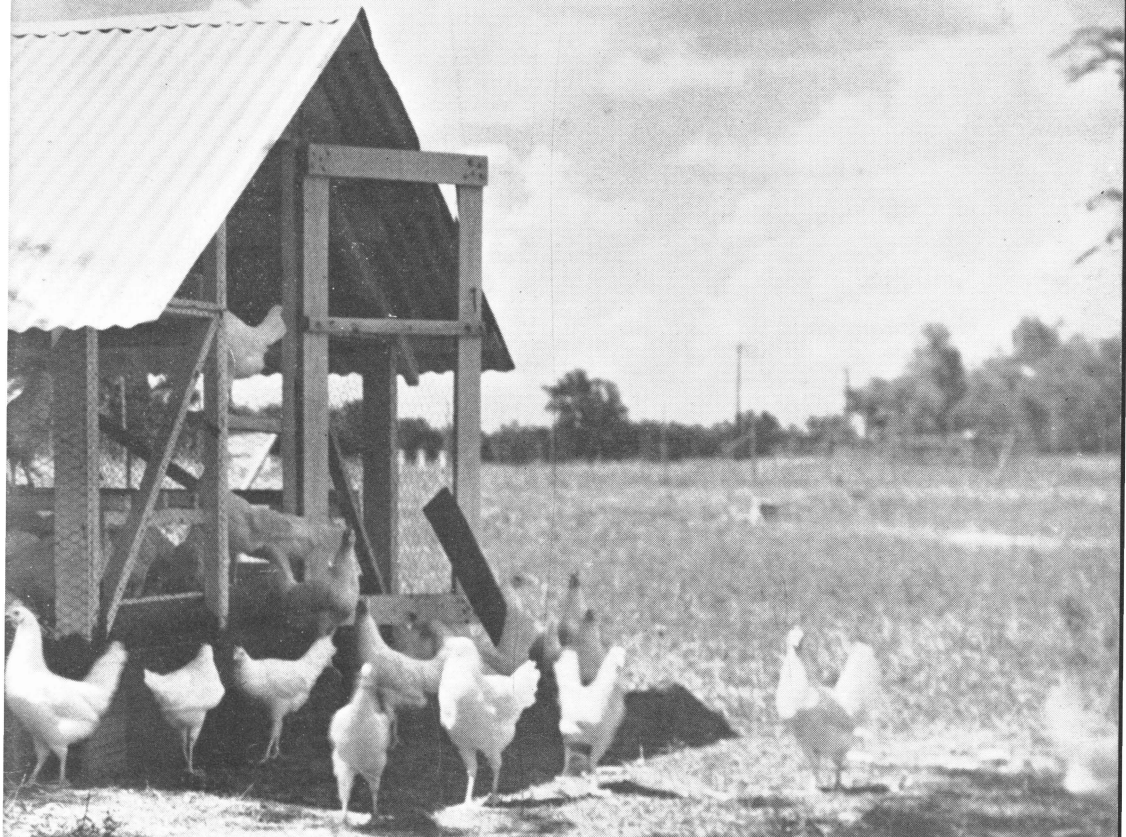


POULTRY YARD EQUIPMENT



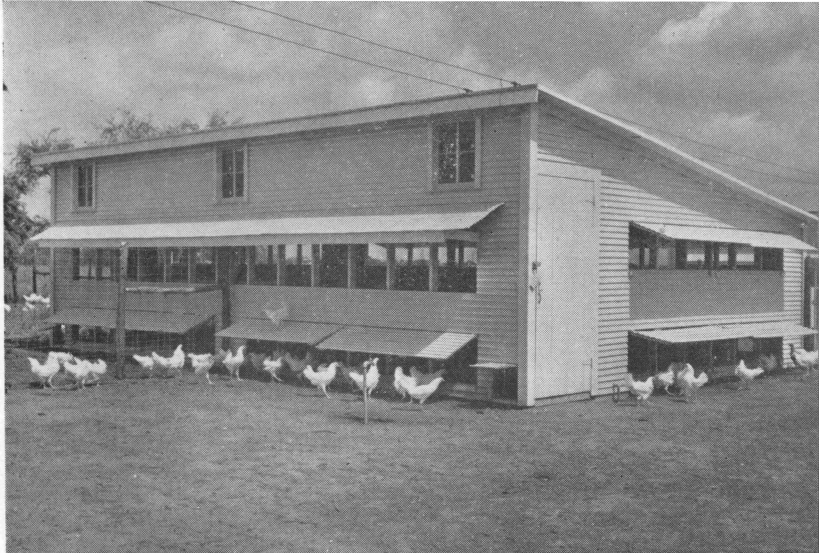
issued by
The Extension Service
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The United States Department of Agriculture
H. H. Williamson, Director, College Station, Texas

FOREWORD

NO attempt has been made to cover all poultry equipment in this bulletin but merely to illustrate the more common pieces and those that can easily be constructed at home. Simple equipment as shown in this bulletin helps to take lots of work out of the poultry enterprise and makes the work more enjoyable as well as more profitable.

Many illustrations are referred to other bulletins. These are obtainable through county agricultural and home demonstration agents.

Poultry house designed for proper ventilation. Attention is called to the ventilators open at the level of the floor. Plans are available in Extension Bulletin B-65 Poultry Houses for Texas.



Poultry Yard Equipment

George P. McCarthy, Extension Poultry Husbandman

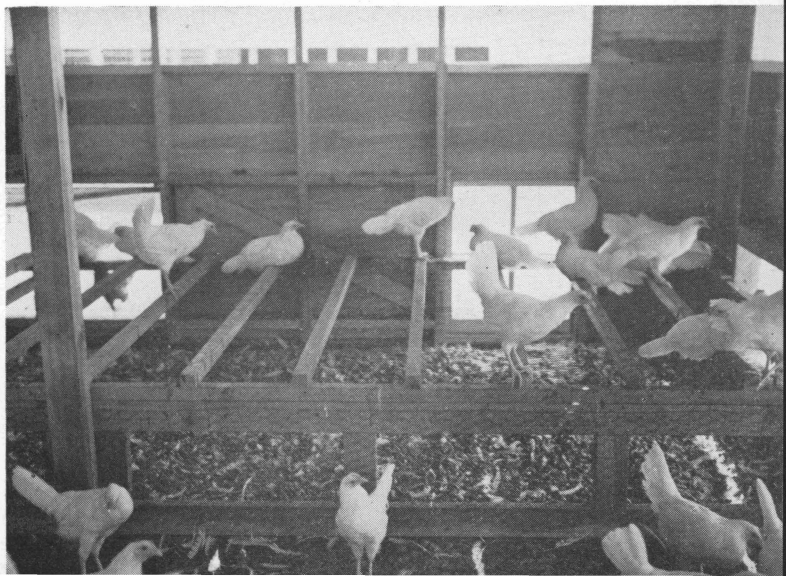
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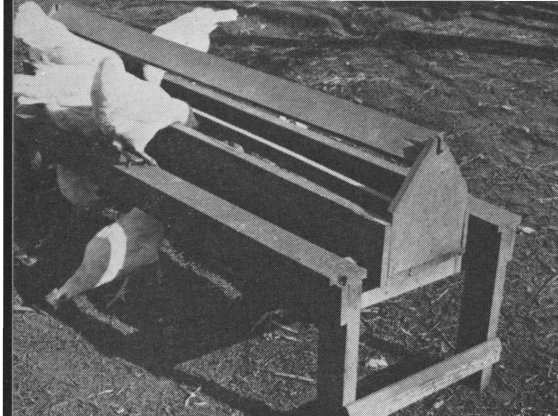
M. R. Bentley, Extension Agricultural Engineer

One of the essentials in poultry house construction for Texas, has been comfort to the birds. The above photograph illustrates floor line ventilation. This style ventilation adds comfort to the birds in the summer during extremely hot days.

Dropping pits have added to the comfort of chickens and have been a decided factor in reducing colds. Dropping pits are cheaper to construct than the old type dropping boards.

Interior view of poultry house showing dropping pits. The dropping pit is recommended over the old type roost with dropping board. The height of the dropping pit is 24" and it is enclosed by wire to prevent the birds from coming in contact with the droppings. Plans are available in Extension Bulletin B-65 Poultry Houses for Texas.

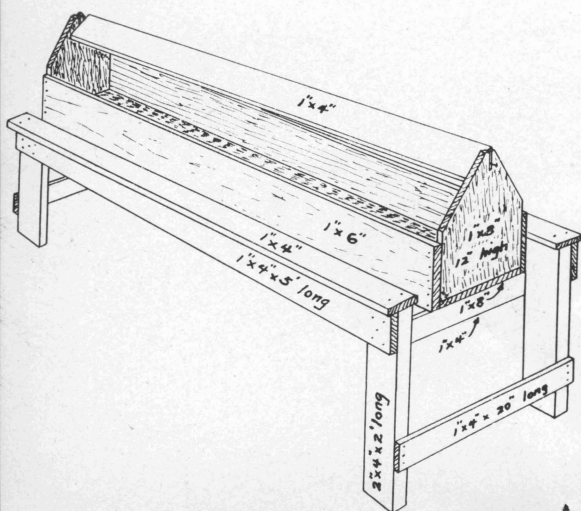




Feeding equipment is important on any poultry farm. A handy mash hopper that is easily constructed and economical is shown.

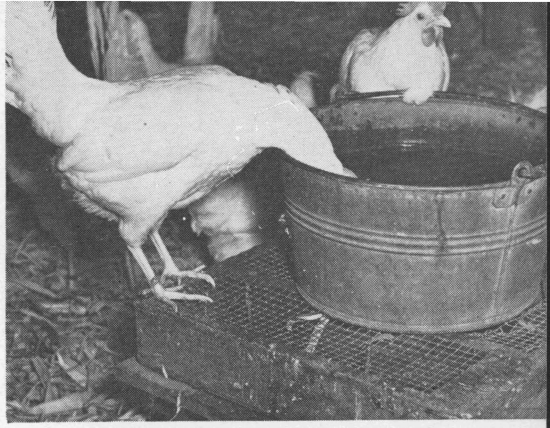
Proper feeding equipment is essential on any poultry farm. A feed hopper that is easily constructed and economical is shown above.

This may be used as a feed hopper for pullets by removing from the stand and placing on the ground and later used for laying flocks by placing on the stand to keep litter and trash from being scratched into the feed.



The line drawing shows the detailed dimensions for constructing the mash hopper.

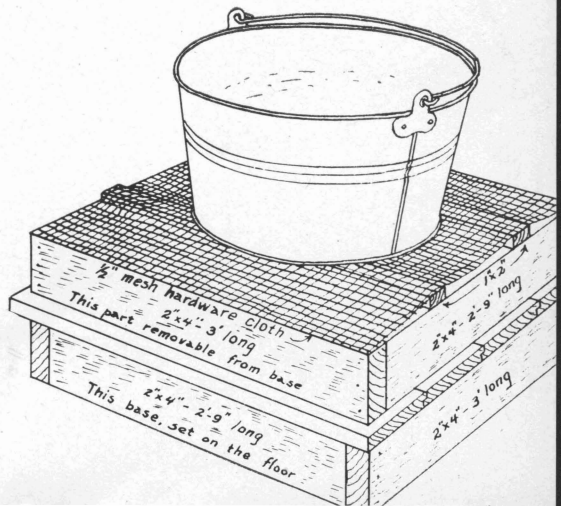
Handy water device showing frame and drip pan. Water containers should be thoroughly scrubbed each day and disinfected with a good disinfectant once each week.



Good, clean water is as essential to poultry production as any other part of the feeding program. A good galvanized bucket that can be easily cleaned and disinfected makes an excellent container for water.

A drip pan prevents excess water from spilling over on the litter and causing a damp spot in the house. A drip pan that is easily constructed is shown in the accompanying line drawing.

The line drawing shows the detailed dimensions for building the water device.





Small wet mash trough constructed of 1" x 4" material. This type of trough can be made any desirable length to fit the needs of the poultryman.

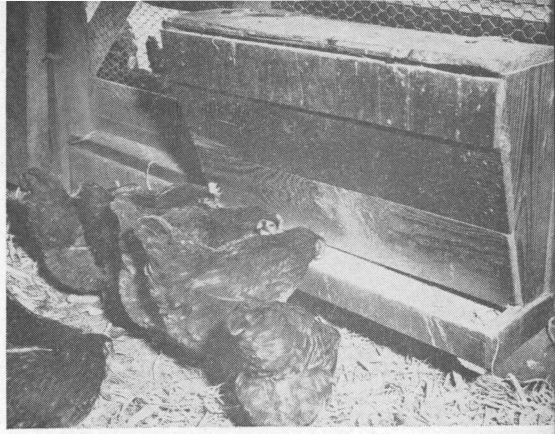
A very handy piece of equipment in any poultry house is a small feeding trough that can be used for feeding wet mash and grain. This type of trough can be made from 1 x 4 material either as a flat bottom trough or a "V" shaped trough. Most poultrymen today, are feeding their grain in a trough of this kind as a means of controlling internal parasites.

During the summer green feed is often depleted and poultrymen are forced to substitute in some manner to provide the necessary vitamins essential to the health and development of the birds. Sprouted oats is a common substitute and the accompanying photograph shows an inexpensive oat sprouter.



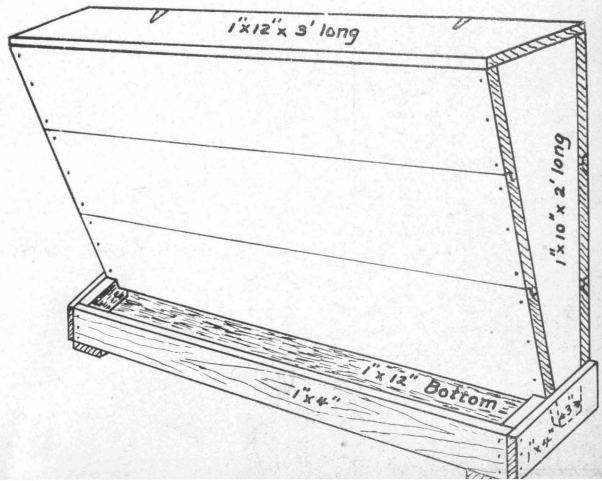
Homemade oat sprouter for sprouting oats during any season of the year. Oats are often substituted when green feeds are depleted during the summer.

Oyster shell and grit are important in poultry feeding. A convenient hopper for feeding the necessary mineral is shown.

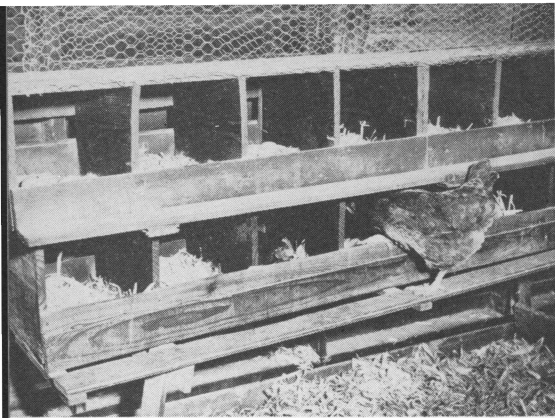


Chickens need mineral the same as any other form of livestock. Mineral is not fed on numerous poultry farms because poultrymen feel that their mash feed contains a sufficient amount of mineral material to take care of the needs of the birds.

This is a mistake that quite often leads to losses in the poultry flock. A small hopper to contain the mineral, particularly oyster shell, can easily be constructed and placed against the wall in some convenient place where the chickens can have access to it as their individual appetites demand.



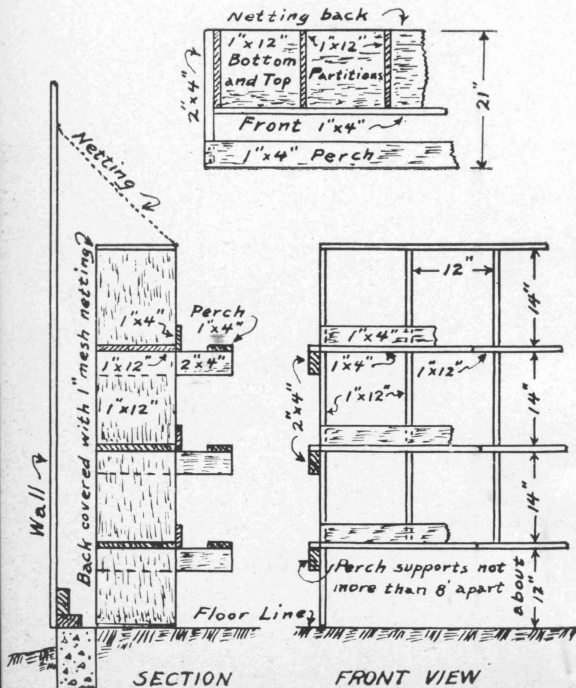
The line drawing shows the detailed dimensions for building the above hopper.



There should be one nest for every five hens. Nests should be built so as to allow air to circulate around them, thus adding to the comfort of the birds.

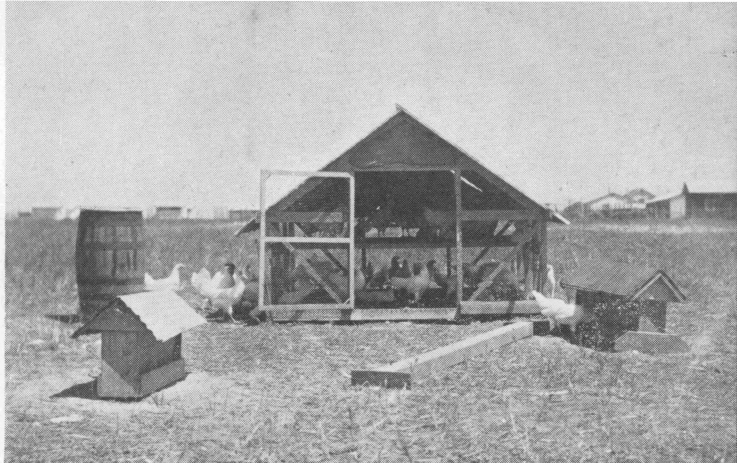
In the beginning it was mentioned that comfort was one of the essentials of a good poultry house. This applies also to the nests. Nests that are constructed to give proper ventilation add to the comfort of the birds and also reduce mortality during the summer. It is better that the nests be at least 4 inches away from the wall to allow air to circulate behind them. The backs may be slatted or covered by wire and the bottoms of the nests may be made of wire to allow a complete circulation of air in and around the nests at all times.

Clean, comfortable nests will mean fewer floor eggs and cleaner market eggs.



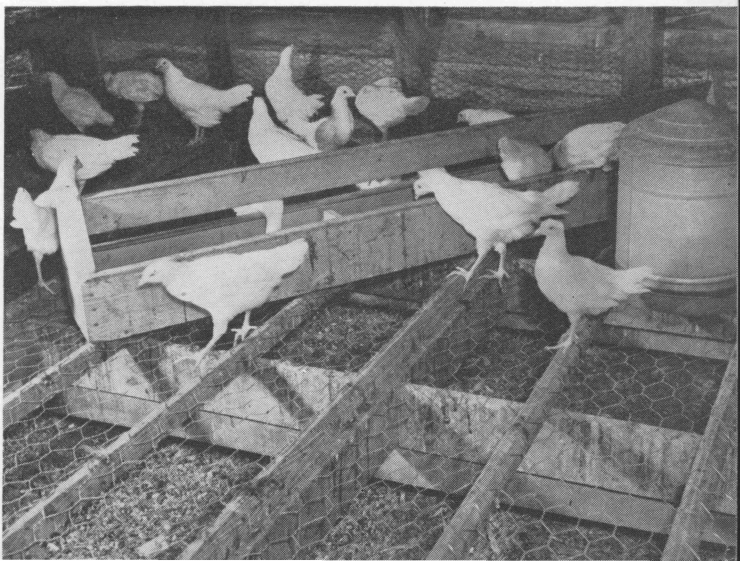
Line drawing showing detailed dimensions for constructing the homemade nests.

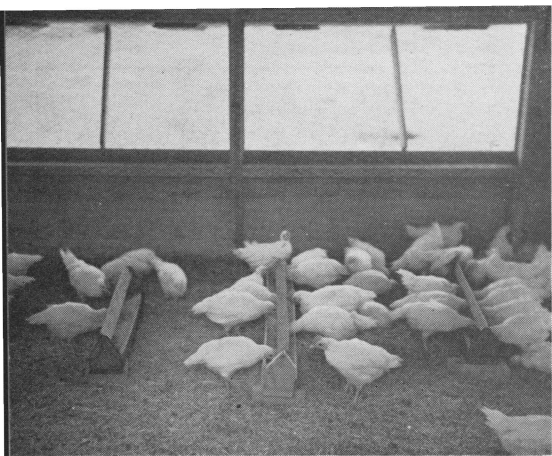
Range shelters are excellent equipment for developing pullets. They should be placed on clean ground away from the mature stock. Here is shown convenient equipment to go with the range shelters. Plans are available in Extension Bulletin B-65 Poultry Houses for Texas.



Large and small poultry flock owners are finding that shelter houses are almost essential for the proper development of pullets. A range shelter is inexpensive, is light in construction and can be easily moved. It will serve as a comfortable shelter for growing pullets during the summer, enabling the flock owner to develop pullets on clean ground, separated from the old flock. This will mean stronger and healthier pullets that can be moved to the laying house in the fall ready for good winter production.

Interior view of a poultry brood house that has been converted to a range shelter. The wire floor allows the droppings to go to the ground. The floor is built in sections so that it can be easily taken out and a wooden floor put in.

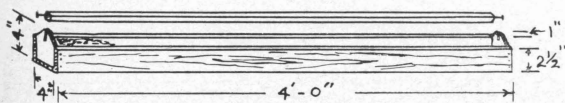




Small feeders for young chicks and for growing pullets are an important part of the poultry house equipment. Feeders should be constructed to fit the size of the birds that will use them.

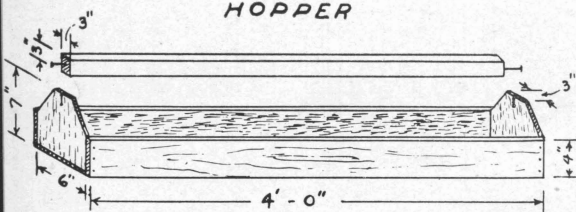
Chick feeders should be constructed in proportion to the size of the birds that will use them. Chickens that are frying size cannot satisfactorily use feed hoppers that were intended for baby chicks. The proper size of feed hopper construction is an economical investment, because there is less feed losses from feed being scratched from the hopper and there is more feeding space for the growing chicks. Lack of feed hopper space often results in the dreaded habit of cannibalism.

SMALL HOPPER



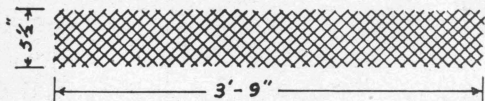
For chicks 1-4 weeks old.

HOPPER



For chicks 4-12 weeks old.

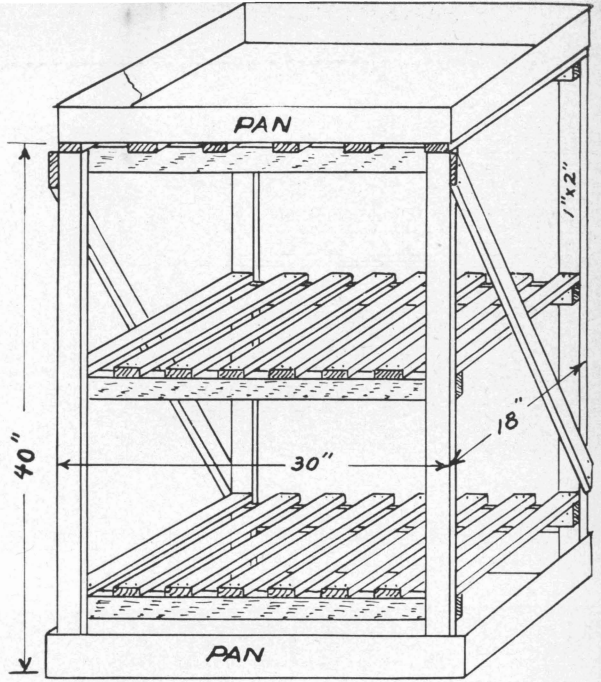
Feeders can be made any length, but the length shown in the detailed line drawing is recommended.



WIRE MESH

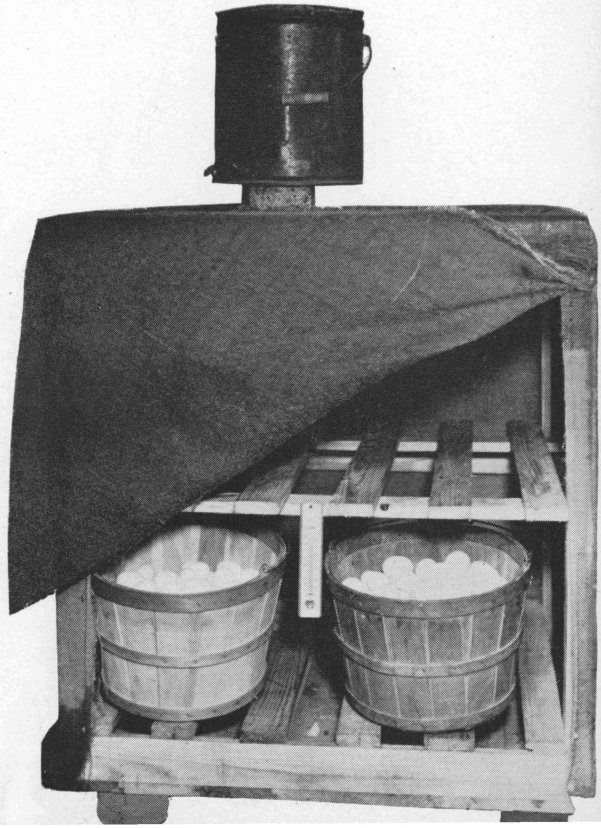
Lay loose on top of feed in hopper.

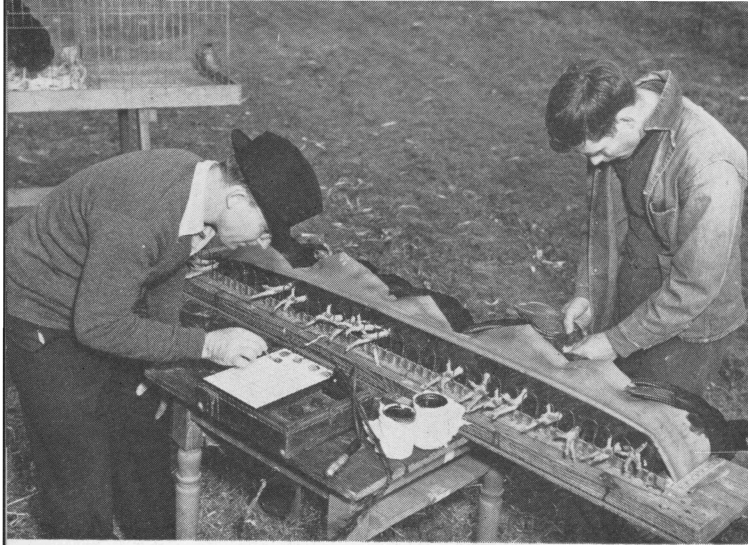
Line drawing showing the dimensions for constructing the egg cooler shown below.



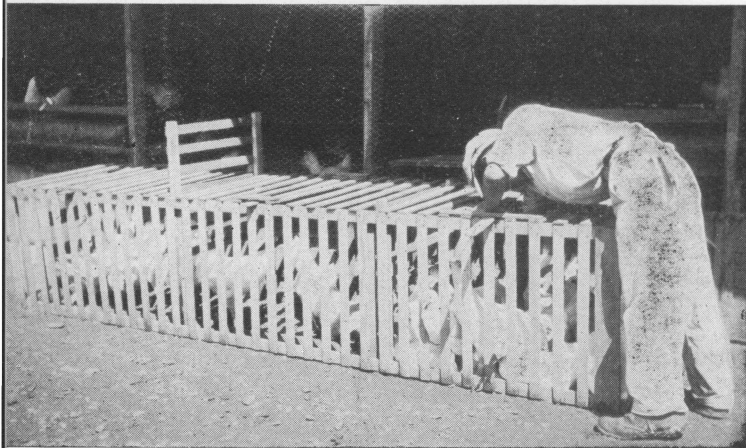
Hot weather causes rapid deterioration of eggs. Every poultryman is interested in maintaining high quality market eggs. To do this, some means of cooling the eggs should be available. The small iceless cooler is serving this purpose on numerous poultry farms in Texas.

This type of iceless cooler is handy for holding eggs in the summer time, aiding the poultryman to market high quality eggs. The capacity of the cooler shown is four cases of eggs.

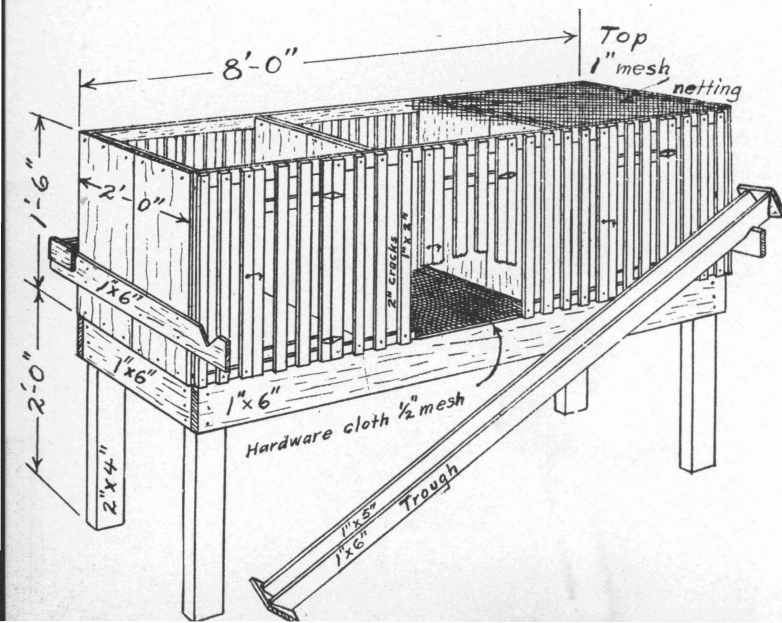




Homemade table used for bloodtesting work. The holding table has heavy wire to hold the bird's legs in place. An old inner tube is stretched across the body of the bird to hold the bird down and to prevent flopping of wings.

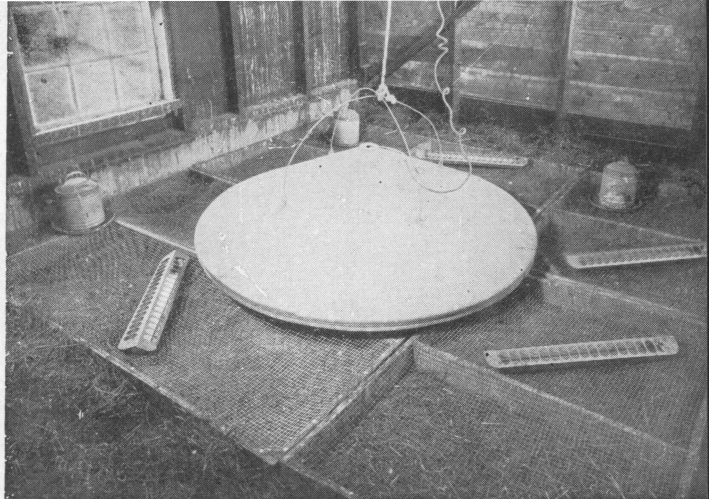


Catching crates can be easily made and save time and labor. No poultry farmer should be without one.

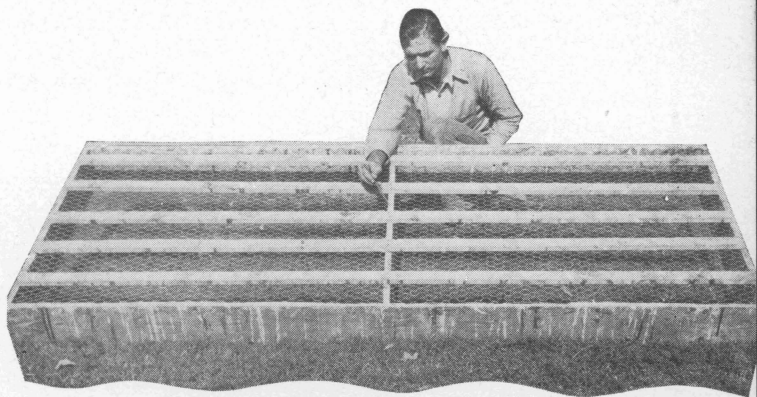


Handy fattening coop for fattening old hens and roosters for the market. The line drawing gives the detailed dimensions for building the coop.

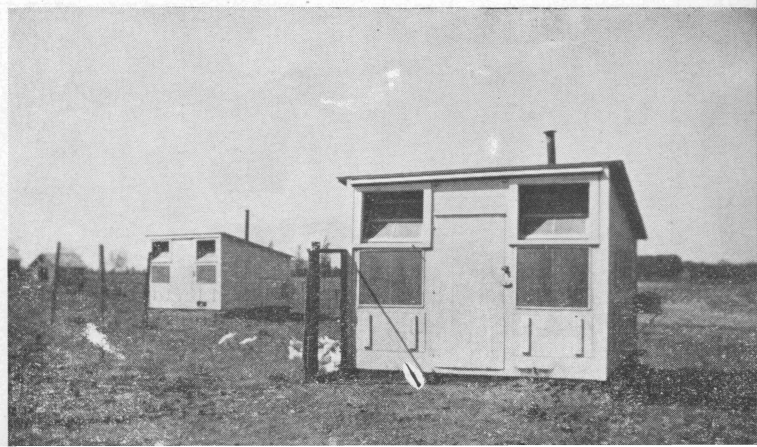
Interior view of brooder house showing arrangement of equipment and the wire floor. Wire floors are used as a precaution against disease by preventing the birds from coming in contact with the droppings.

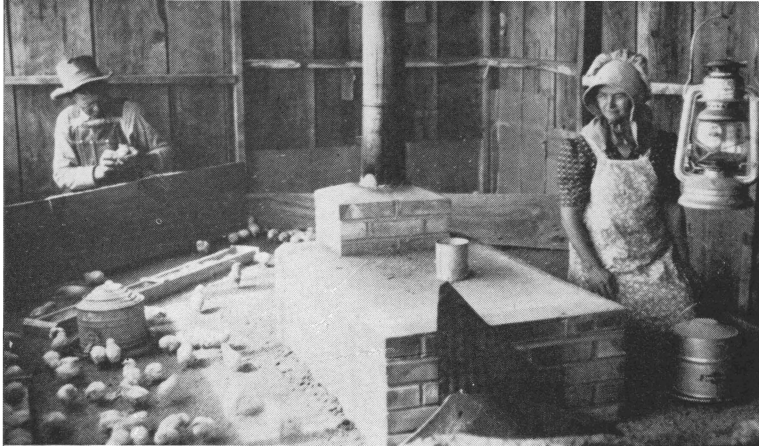


Small roosts are easily constructed and are excellent for use in the brooder house to teach chicks to roost at an early age. The roost illustrated is made of a 1" x 4" frame and built in convenient sections to fit the brooder house.



Brooder house properly ventilated and built on skids for convenience in moving. Plans for construction are available in Extension Bulletin B-65 Poultry Houses for Texas.

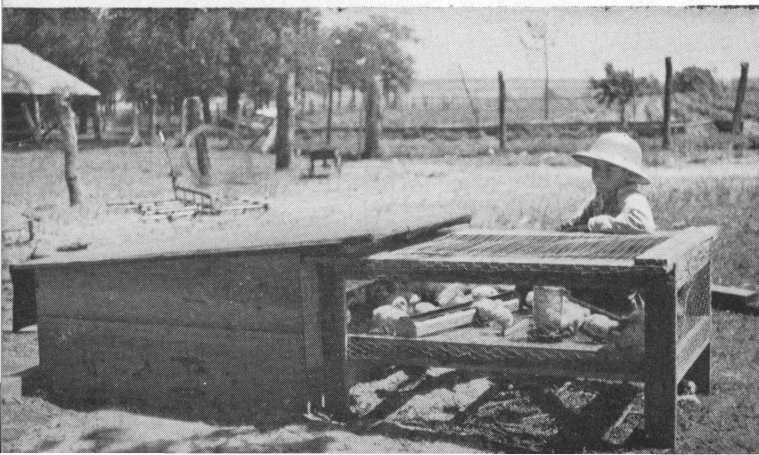




The homemade brick brooder is giving excellent results on a number of farms in Texas. Plans for construction are available through the Extension Service.

There is always a demand for inexpensive brooding equipment. The brick brooder which is shown in the above photograph works very satisfactorily in the brooder house. This type of brooder is heated with wood and is very popular on many farms.

The oil lamp brooder shown below, serves a very definite purpose on those farms where it is impossible to construct a large brooder house and where persons intend to produce only enough chickens for family use. This type of brooder is very inexpensive and has proved very satisfactory. It is being used quite extensively by 4-H club members.



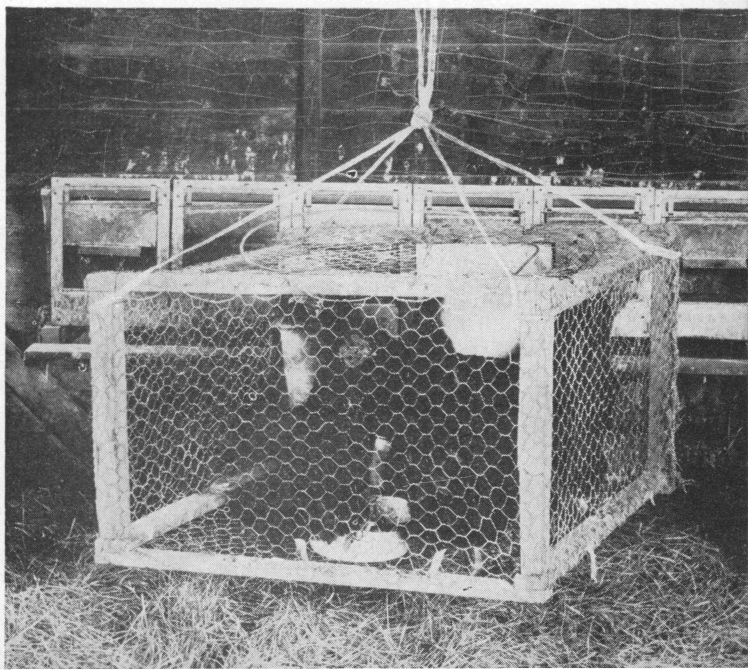
Approximately 75 chicks can be brooded conveniently in this type oil-lamp brooder. Plans are available in Extension Circular C-141 Home-made Lamp Brooders.

A good selection of cleaning equipment takes a lot of labor out of poultry house cleaning. Sanitation is necessary in the poultry business.



No poultry farm is complete without labor saving equipment. Proper equipment for cleaning poultry houses and for disinfecting the houses, reduces the labor cost considerably and takes the drudgery out of this type of work. Sanitation is essential in the poultry business and where proper equipment is available, sanitary practices are usually followed.

Broody hens sometimes are hard to handle. They often cause losses through egg breakage and losses in production. A good broody coop is an important piece of equipment for breaking up broody hens.



A swinging broody coop is a handy piece of equipment to use in breaking up broody hens that have a tendency to set.

