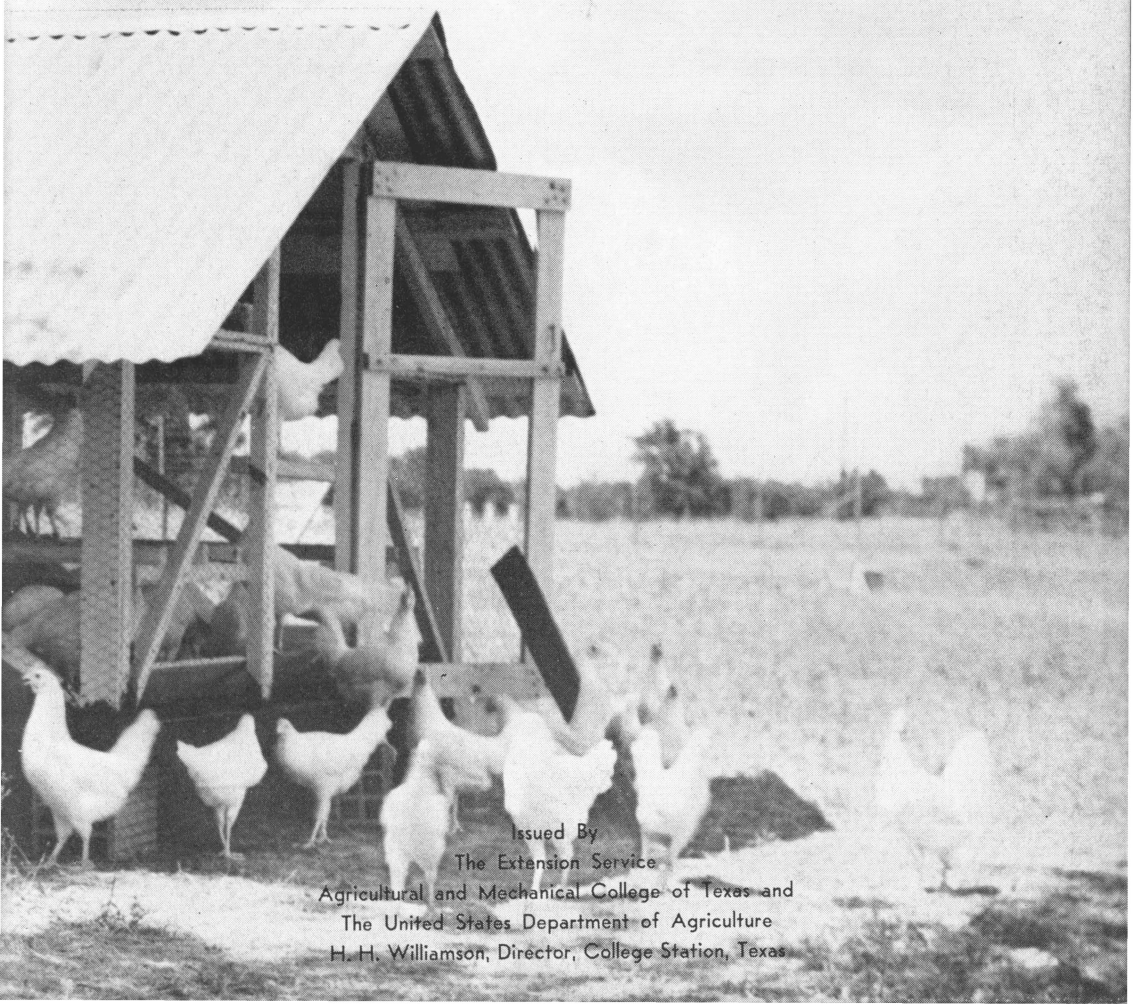


# POULTRY YARD EQUIPMENT



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# POULTRY YARD EQUIPMENT

by

George P. McCarthy, Extension Poultry Husbandman

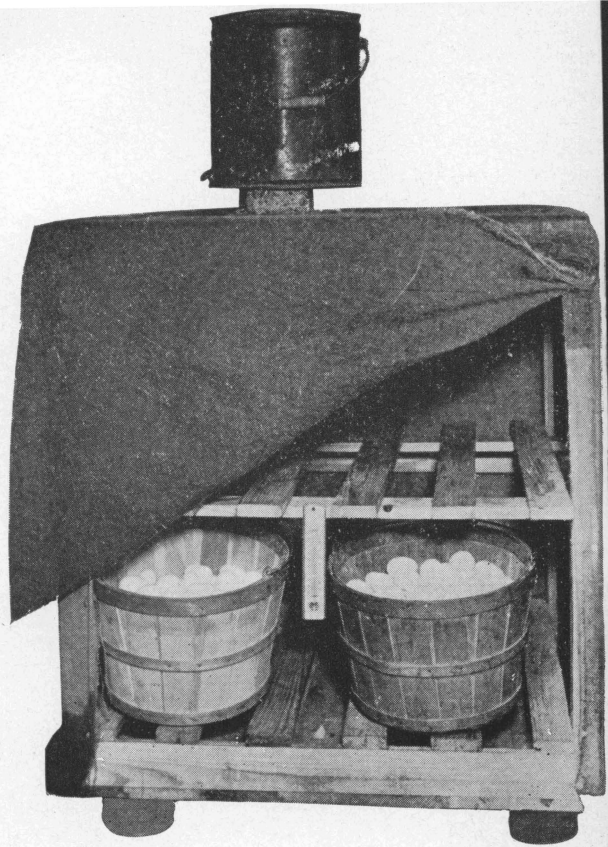
and

M. R. Bentley, Extension Agricultural Engineer

**N**O attempt has been made to cover all poultry equipment in this bulletin but merely to illustrate the more common pieces and those that can be easily 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.

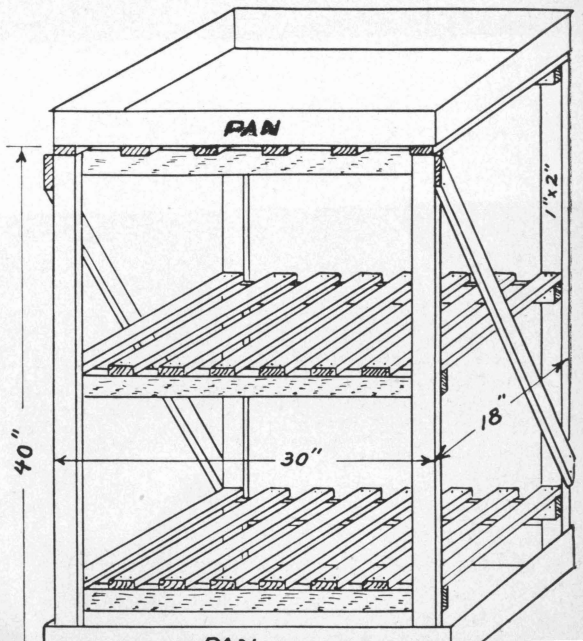
The legends of several of the illustrations refer to other bulletins. These are obtainable through county agricultural and home demonstration agents.

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

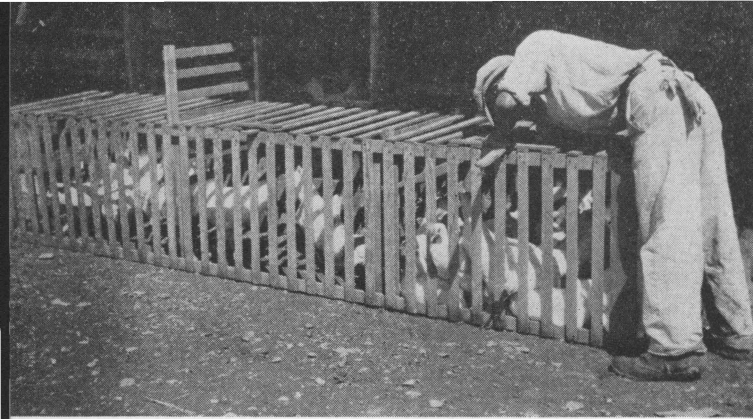


Hot weather causes eggs to break down rapidly. Many Texas poultry farmers are using small iceless coolers to maintain the quality of their market eggs.

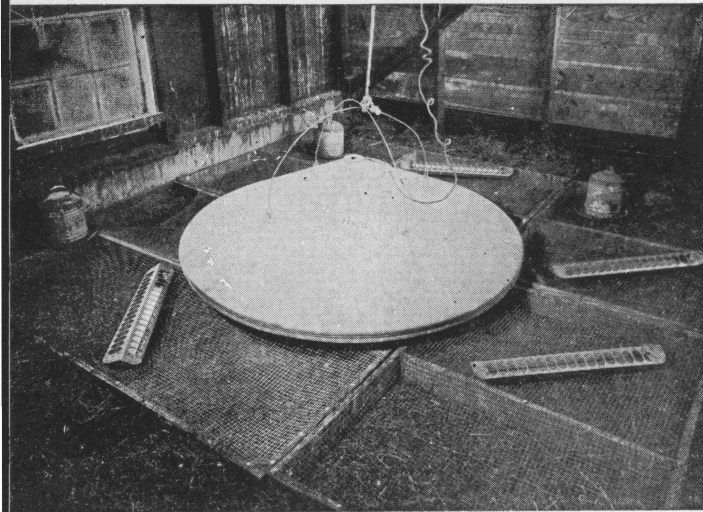
The line drawing shows the dimensions for constructing the iceless egg cooler. The cover on the sides is made of burlap sacking. Space between the slats allows the air to circulate freely.



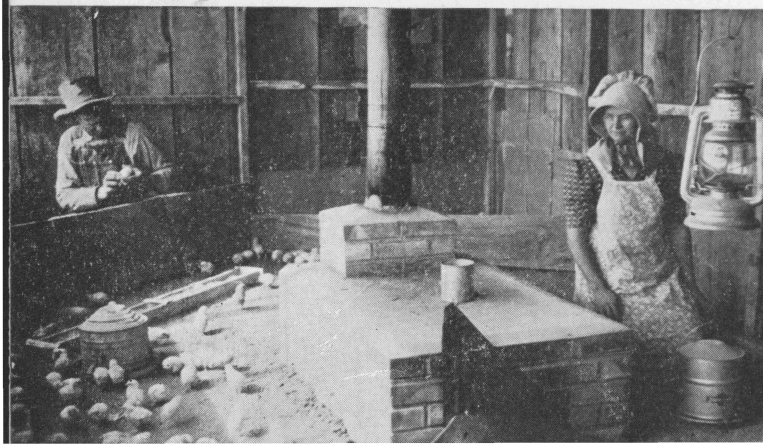




Catching crates can be easily made and save time and labor. No poultry farmer should be without one. The size may be varied to suit individual needs.



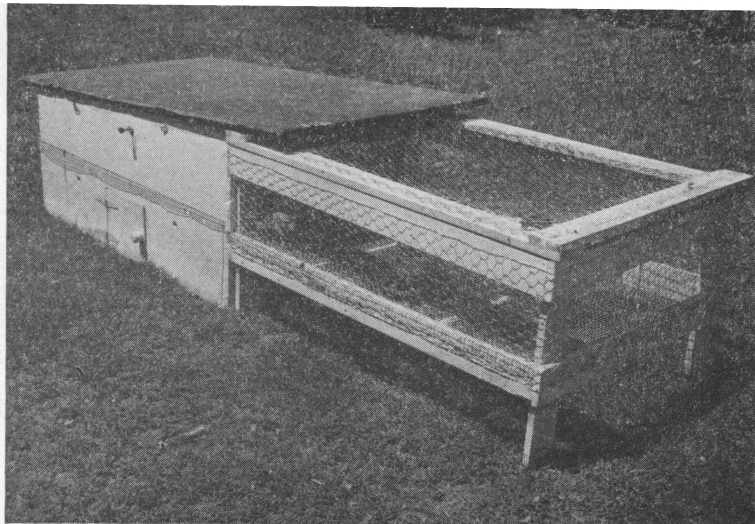
Interior view of brooder house showing arrangement of equipment and the wire floor. Wire floors are used as a precaution against disease by preventing the birds from coming in contact with the droppings.



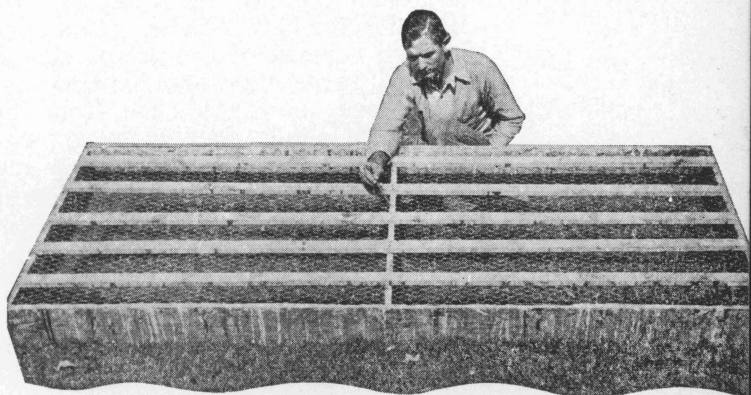
The homemade brick brooder is giving excellent results on a number of farms in Texas. Plans for construction are available through the Extension Service.



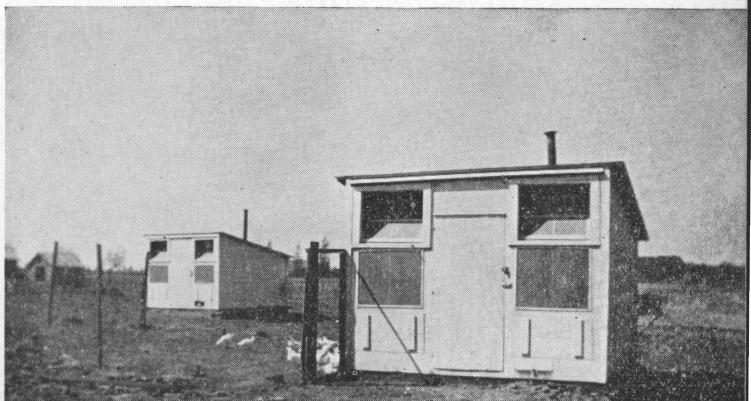
Approximately 75 chicks can be brooded conveniently in this type of oil-lamp brooder. Plans are available in Extension Circular C-141 Home-made Lamp Brooder.

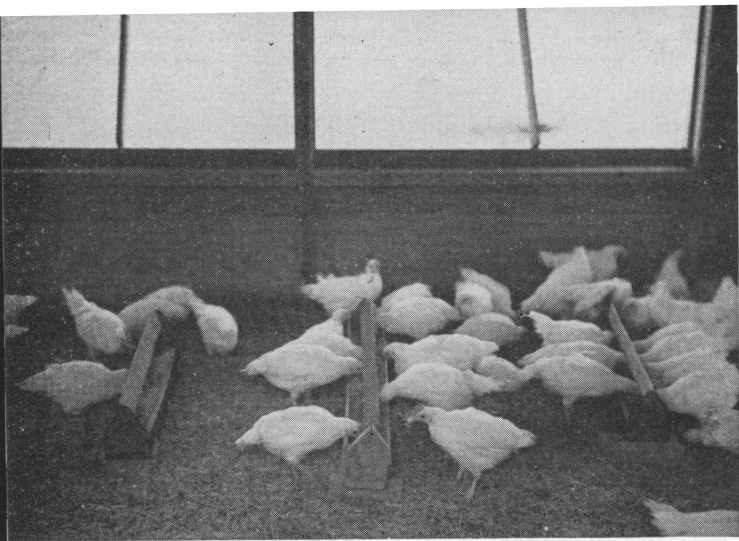


Small roosts are easily constructed and are excellent for use in the brooder house to teach chicks to roost at an early age. The roost illustrated is made of a 1" x 4" frame and built in convenient sections.



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

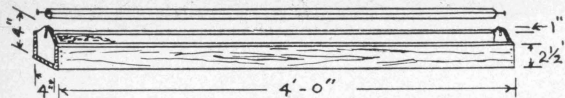




Small feeders for young chicks and for growing pullets are an important part of the poultry house equipment. Feeders should be constructed to fit the size of the birds that will use them. Big feeders for chicks are no better than small feeders for hens.

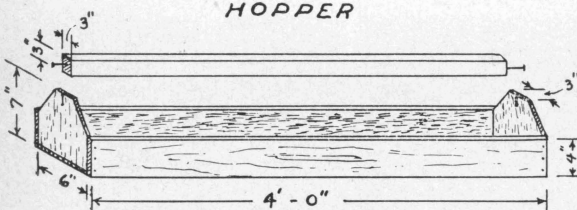
Chick feeders should be designed in proportion to the size of the birds that will use them. Chickens that are frying size cannot satisfactorily use feed hoppers that were installed for baby chicks. The construction of feed hoppers of the proper size is an economical investment because there is less loss 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**

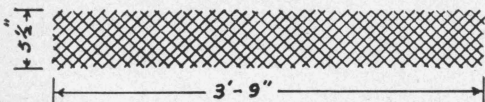


*For chicks 1-4 weeks old.*

**HOPPER**



*For chicks 4-12 weeks old.*

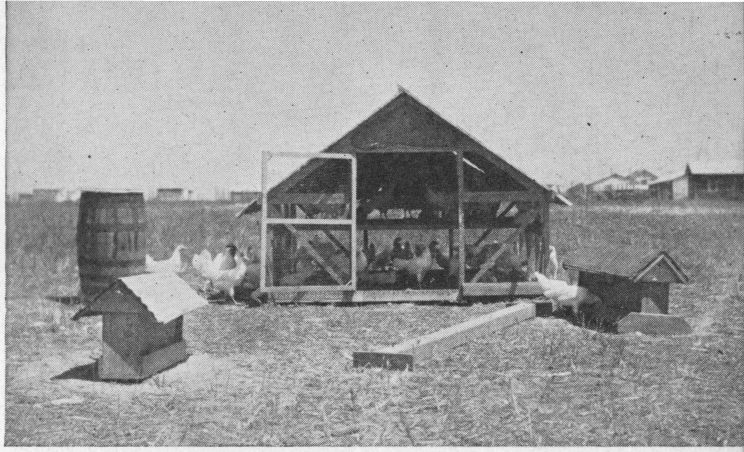


**WIRE MESH**

*Lay loose on top of feed in hopper.*

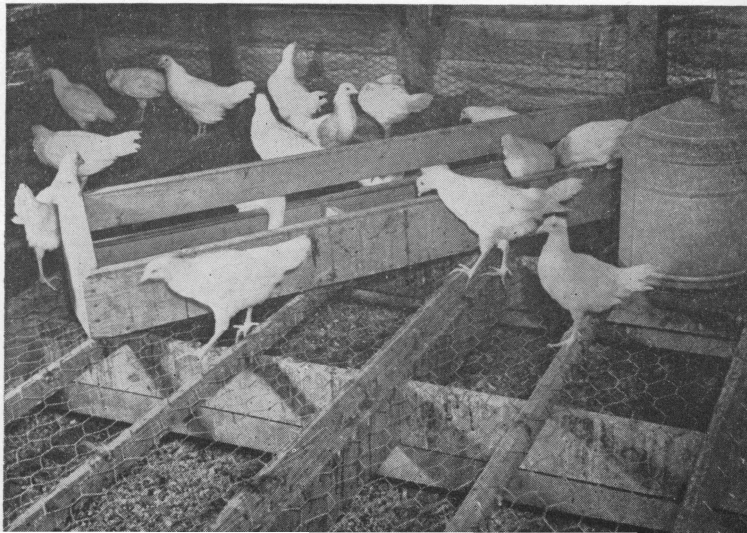
Feeders can be made any length, but the length shown in the detailed line drawing is recommended. Experience has shown that it is better to use two hoppers, each four feet long, than one eight foot hopper.

Range shelters are excellent for developing pullets. They should be placed on clean range 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.

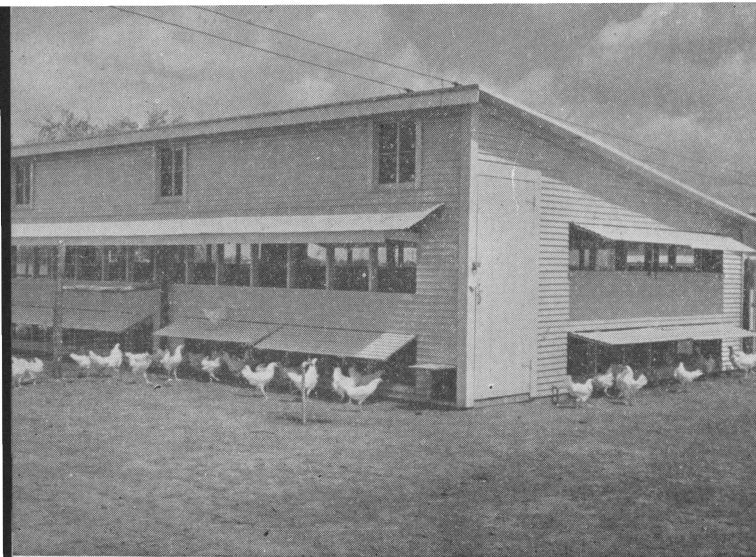


Large and small poultry flock owners are finding that shelter houses are almost essential for the proper development of pullets. A range shelter is inexpensive, is light in construction and can be easily moved. It will serve as a comfortable shelter for growing pullets during the summer, enabling the 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 brooder house that has been converted into a range shelter. The wire floor allows the droppings to go to the ground. The netting floor is built in sections so that it can be easily taken out and a wooden floor put in.



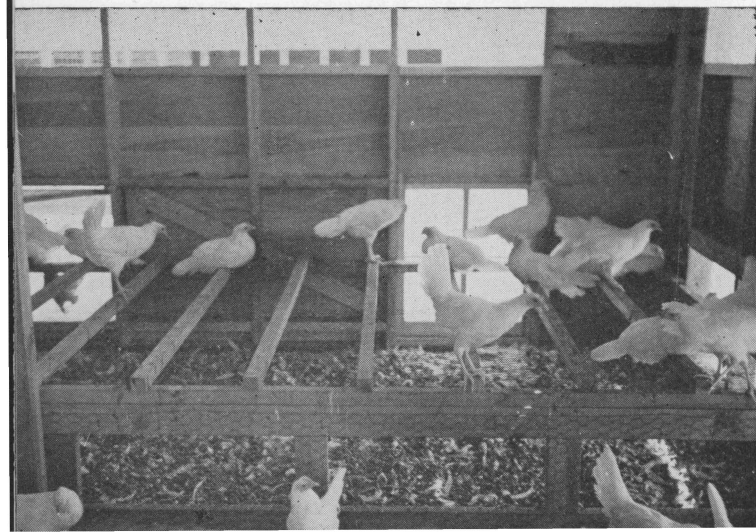




Poultry house designed for proper ventilation. The lower ventilators open at the level of the floor. Plans are available in Extension Bulletin B-65 Poultry Houses for Texas.

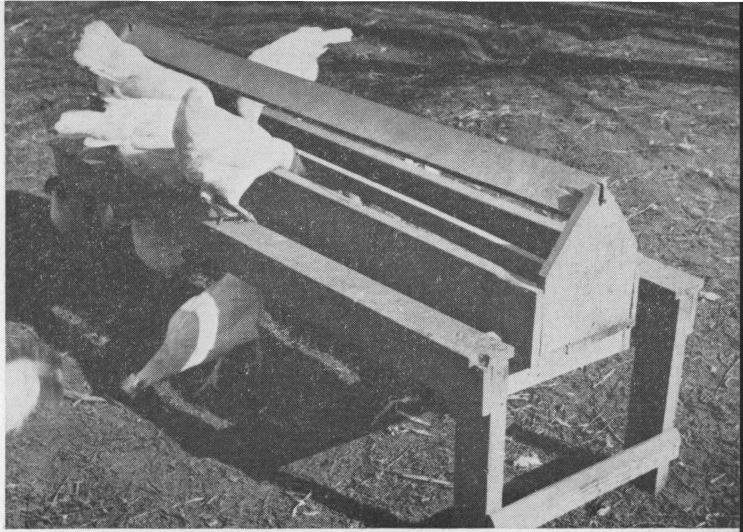
One of the essentials in poultry house construction for Texas, has been comfort to the birds. The above photograph illustrates floor line ventilation. This type of ventilation insures comfort during the extremely hot summer days.

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



The dropping pit is recommended over the old type roost with dropping board. The roosts over the dropping pit are 20" from the floor. The pit is enclosed by 2" mesh netting to keep the birds out of the droppings. Plans are available in Extension Bulletin B-65 Poultry Houses for Texas.

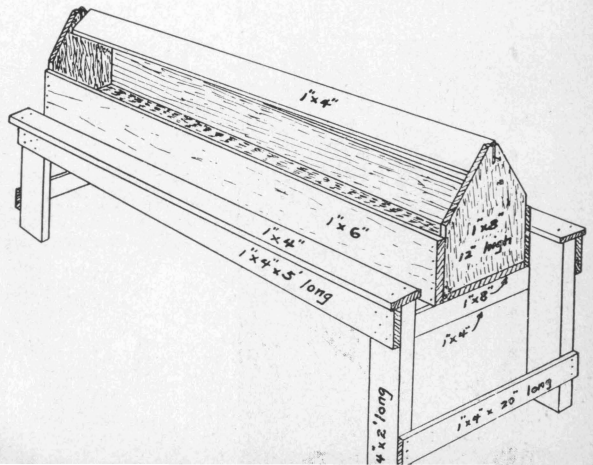
Feeding equipment is important on any poultry farm. A handy mash hopper that is easily constructed and economical is shown.



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 for pullets by removing the hopper from the stand and placing it on the ground or floor, and later used for laying flocks by placing it 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. The reel at the top keeps chickens from sitting on the hopper. A nail in each end of the reel serves as an axle.





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 flock.

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.

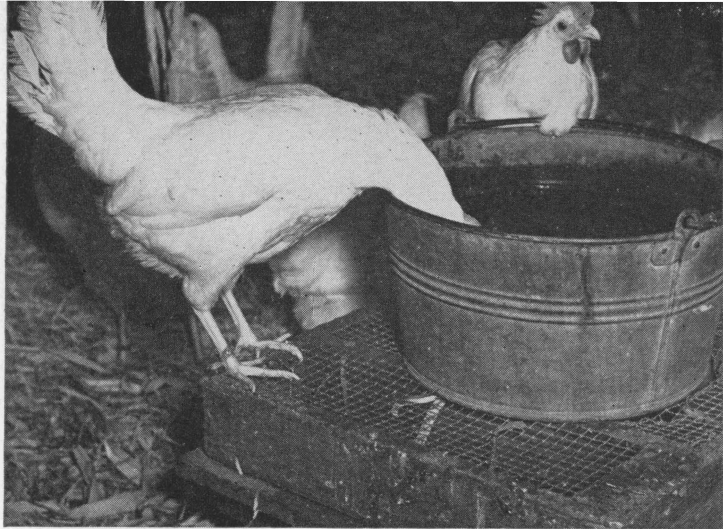
During the summer green feed is often depleted and poultrymen are forced to substitute in some manner to provide the vitamins essential to the health and development of the birds. Sprouted oats are a common substitute and the accompanying photograph shows an inexpensive oat sprouter.



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



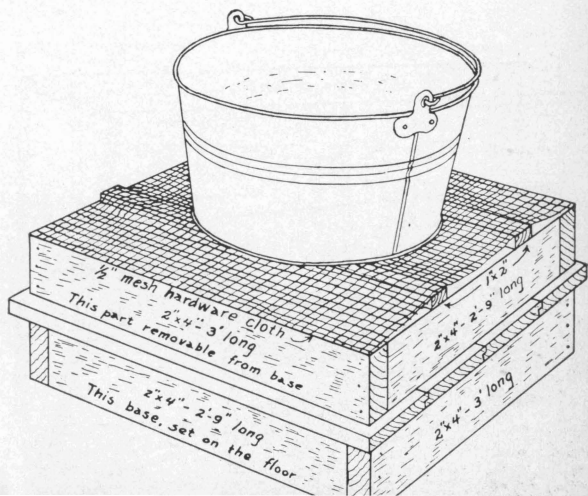
Handy watering device showing frame and drip box. Water containers should be thoroughly scrubbed each day and disinfected with a good disinfectant once each week.



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

A drip box prevents excess water from spilling over on the litter and causing a damp spot in the house. A drip box that is easily constructed is shown in the accompanying line drawing. Use of this type of watering system does much to prevent the spread of disease and internal parasites.

The line drawing shows the detailed dimensions for building the watering device. Faulty watering systems have been the cause of much trouble from disease and internal parasites among poultry.

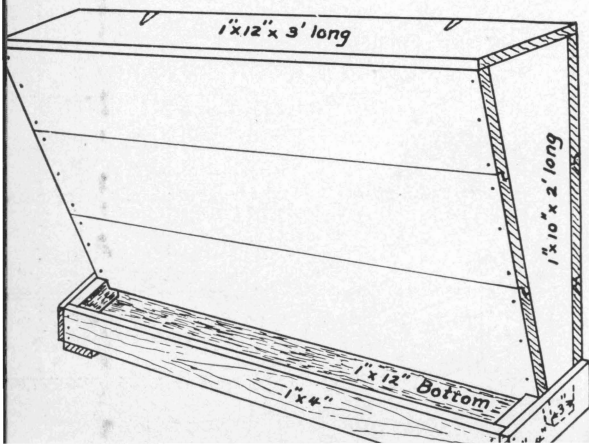




Oyster shell and grit are important in poultry feeding. A convenient hopper for feeding the necessary mineral is shown. The free choice mineral feeding system has been very successful.

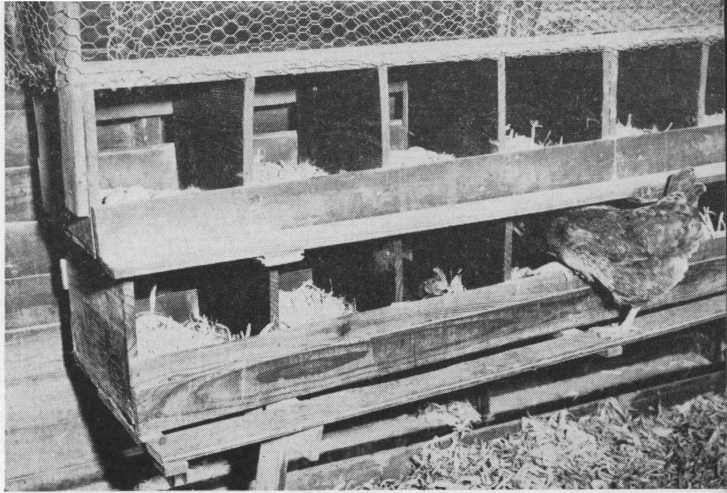
Chickens need mineral the same as any other form of livestock. Many poultrymen do not feed minerals because they think their mash feed contains a sufficient amount of mineral material to take care of the needs of the birds.

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



Line drawing shows detailed dimensions for building the mineral hopper.

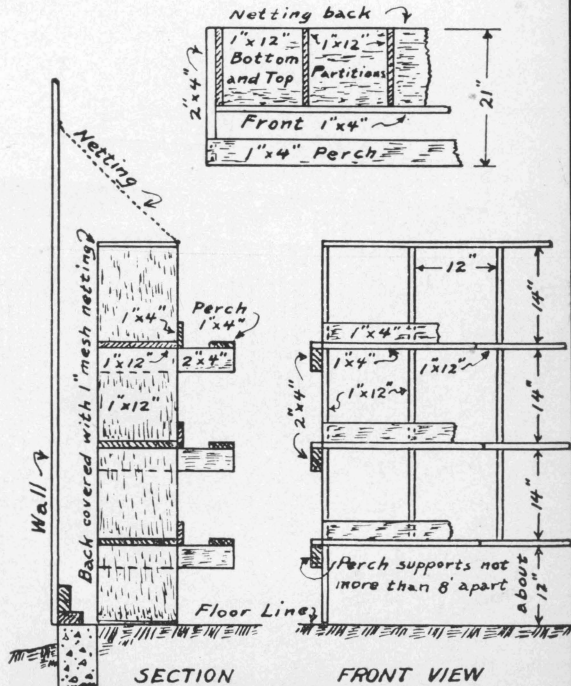
There should be one nest for every five hens. Nests should be built so as to allow air to circulate around them, thus adding to the comfort of the birds.



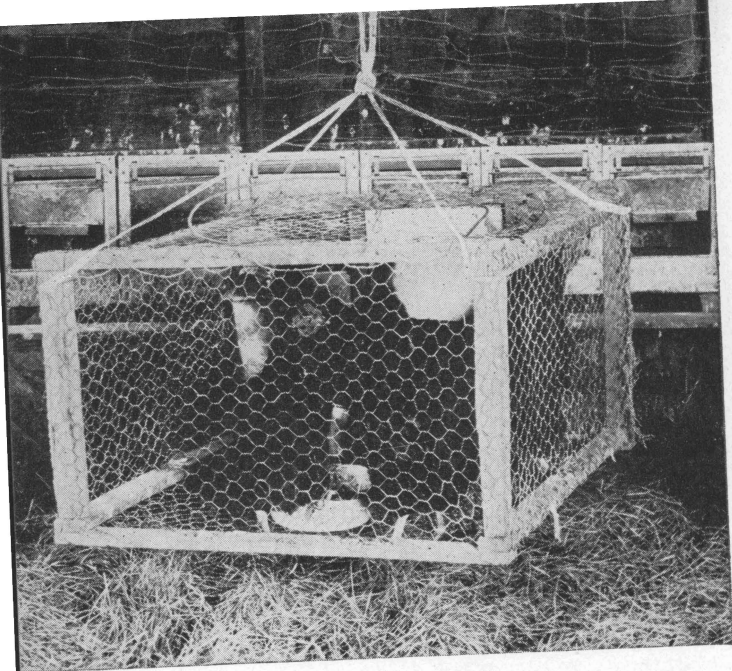
Comfort is one of the essentials of a good poultry house. This applies also to the nests. Nests that are built to give proper ventilation add to the comfort of the birds and also reduce death losses during the summer. The nests should be at least 4 inches away from the wall to allow air to circulate 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 shows detailed dimensions for constructing the homemade nests.

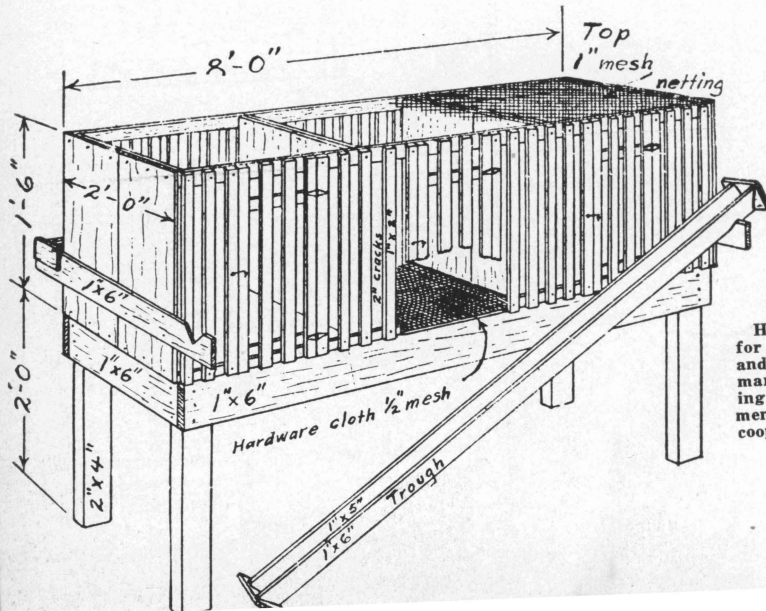






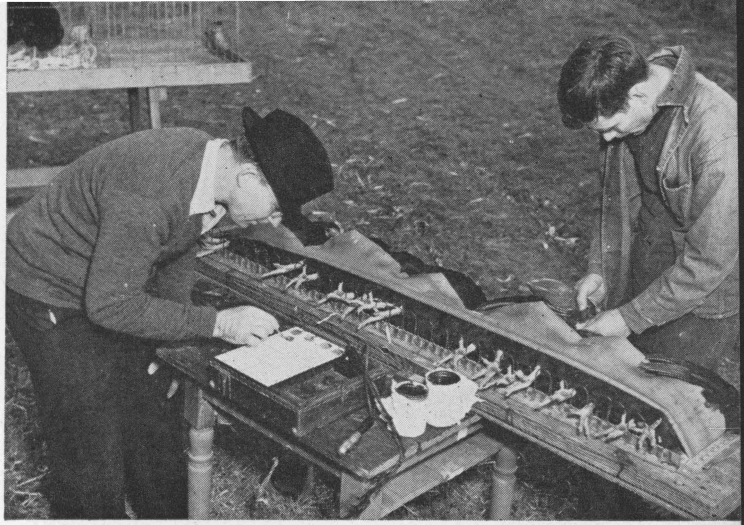
A swinging broody coop is a handy piece of equipment to use in breaking up broody hens that have a tendency to set. This type of coop almost cleans itself. Persistent brooders should be culled from the flock.

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. Experience has shown that moderate temperatures and free circulation of air are important factors in breaking up broodiness.



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

**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.**



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.

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

