

Chickens can be taught to eat by lamp-light, and where one's time during daylight is otherwise occupied, this feature is very convenient. After November 1st, or even earlier, we feed but few chickens during daylight. They are generally fed twice each day, and not more each time than they will consume quickly.

CONSTRUCTION OF FATTENING CRATES.

Fattening crates are usually made 7 ft. 6 in. long, 18 to 20 in. high, and 18 in. wide. The crate is divided into three compartments, each holding from four to five birds, according to the size of the chicken. The crate is made of slats, except the ends and partitions between the compartments, which are solid wood—those on the top, bottom and back running lengthwise of the coop, while those on the front run up and

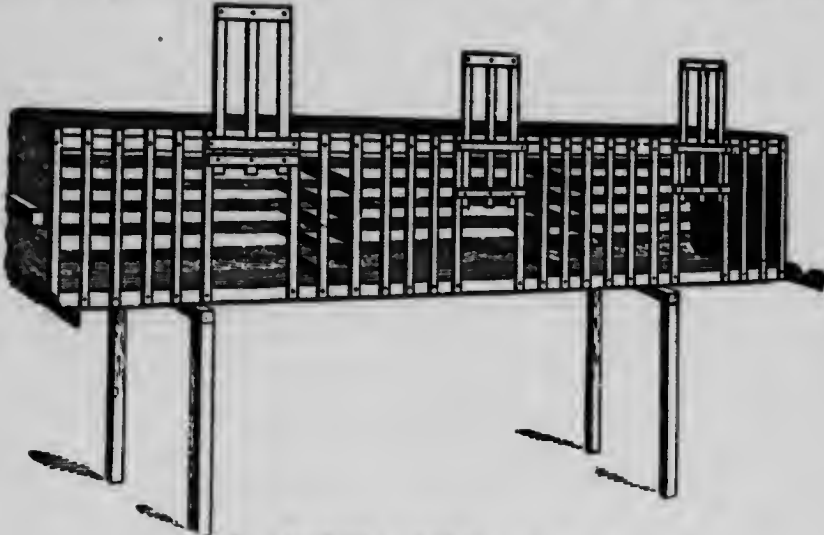


Fig. 34. Showing a single crate or coop.

down. The slats are usually $1\frac{1}{2}$ inches wide and $\frac{5}{8}$ inch thick. Those in front are placed 2 inches apart to allow the chickens to put their heads through for feeding. The slats on the bottom are placed about $\frac{1}{4}$ inch apart, so as to admit of the droppings passing through to the ground. Care should be taken not to have the first bottom slat at the back fit too closely against the back. An opening between the first slat and the back prevents the droppings from collecting and decomposing. The slats on the top and back are usually two inches apart.

There is a small V-shaped trough arranged in front of the coop for feeding and watering the chickens. This trough is from two to three inches deep and is generally made of $\frac{3}{4}$ -inch lumber.

Very fair coops may be made from old packing boxes, by taking off the front and bottom, and substituting slats in their places (see Fig. 34):