

to project through the forms and into the concrete. Fill the second box with concrete immediately, being careful that no dirt or other foreign matter falls or collects on the surface of the first batch of concrete, as this would prevent a good bond between the two layers. Finish this step or slab in exactly the same manner as described for the first step. The last or third step is constructed in exactly the same manner as those previously described.

The brace between the two back cleats is for the purpose of preventing the boards from spreading at the side next to the wall. The outer surface of the top step is carefully leveled off with a straight-edge and finished by troweling to a smooth surface. Excessive troweling, however, must be avoided. Not more than a half hour should elapse between placing the concrete for each step so that the concrete first deposited will not harden and set up before the next form is filled. After the steps are about one week old, the forms may be removed and the steps used. After the forms are removed any roughness or irregularities may be smoothed down and the surface of the entire steps finally finished by rubbing with an old piece of emery wheel and water or carborundum and water. Where the work includes many steps, a hollow space is generally left under the main body of the steps to effect a saving in materials. Where this is done the platform and steps are reinforced with steel rods or heavy wire mesh to prevent cracking.

Care and Feeding of Breeding Cockerels

Breeding cockerels should be well bred birds and they should be typical representatives of one of recognized standard breeds. They need not be exhibition birds, for, utility birds, with plenty of stamina, vitality and constitution, will prove more profitable to the average person, declares S. A. Bergey, of MacDonald College in the Witness.

These cockerels should be kept

separate from the females, except during the breeding season. The house for breeding cockerels need not be expensive, but it should be fairly roomy to allow sufficient floor space. Plenty of sunlight, dryness, freedom from drafts, and an abundance of fresh air in the house are the main requisites for housing the cockerels. Sunlight is nature's germ destroyer and it also adds to the comfort for the birds.

Unless the house is dry and free from drafts the birds are liable to take colds, which are very detrimental to the flock. Be sure to have an abundance of fresh air in the house. Cold dry air is preferable to warm damp air. Birds will stand quite a lot of cold providing there are no drafts and the house is dry.

Points to Notice

Sufficient perch room should be provided in order that they roost comfortably. Leghorns, Anconas, and other light breeds require from seven to eight inches perch room; Plymouth Rocks, and other general purpose breeds require from eight to ten inches; heavy breeds, such as Brahmas and Langshans, require from 10 to 12 inches.

A dust box should also be placed in the pen so that the birds may dust themselves whenever they so desire. Regular dusting will keep them fairly free from lice and mites. The dusting box should be about two feet square and about two feet deep. A deep box is necessary to keep the litter out. Fill the box about half full with good sandy soil.

The feed for breeding cockerels should be of good quality. The ordinary farm grains answer the purpose very well. In feeding the grain scatter it in the litter morning and night. The litter should be about ten inches deep. Be sure that the grain is well scattered in the litter so that the birds will have to scratch for nearly every kernel. This encourages exercise, which adds greatly to the health of the birds.

Other Feeding Points

Keep before them a liberal supply of fresh water. Sour skim



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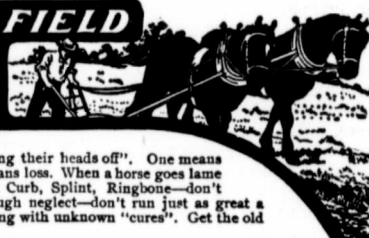
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