

POULTRY YARD

Yarding Farm Poultry

Prof. F. C. Elford, Macdonald College, Que.

The size of the farm poultry plant depends upon present conditions and future prospects. It should be no larger than is required to accommodate the flock; and still hens do not thrive if crowded. Too many farm poultry plants have a lot of old buildings and sheds that are used for the hens, far too many for the purpose. They are very inconvenient and hard to clean. These buildings have outgrown their usefulness for their purposes but are thought good enough for the poultry.

If such buildings were remodelled or half of them torn down and the rest fixed over so as to be more suitable for the purpose, then the hen house would be more attractive. The hens would be healthier. There would be less trouble in cleaning and a better revenue would follow.

ENCLOSURES AN ADVANTAGE.

It is an advantage where a permanent poultry plant is placed to have it where it can be enclosed. It should not be where the hens are forced to run in the barnyard, but where they can have, at times, a yard to themselves, fenced away from the garden and grain. The yard or yards of a permanent plant should be simple. A poor outside fence is a source of temptation to the hens and afterwards to the owner. To avoid this, put up a good fence about the yard and have as few internal fences as possible.

As a rule, one breed of poultry is sufficient for a farmer, and there is very little call for so many yards as are found on some up-to-date poultry plants. One hundred hens of the same breed will do better running in the large yard than when penned off into several smaller yards. The accompanying photograph of a poultry plant in Ontario shows a house to accommodate 200 to 300 hens, but the yards are a net work of posts and wire. There is a small yard for every 25 or 30 hens and a larger one for every 50 or 60. This arrangement might suit a person who kept ten different breeds, but if one breed were kept I would rather have all the internal fences taken out. Each hen would then have 10 times the liberty, and the cost of fencing would be lessened materially.

PERMANENT YARDS.

A good plan for permanent yards and which is sometimes followed is to have two yards, one at each side of the house. The hens could then be allowed into one yard for a year while the second yard was raising a crop. The next year the hens could take the other yard. This, as Professor Graham says, would give a rotation of crops, chickens and grain. There would be no fear of the land becoming foul, or fowl sick, as is often the case on permanent yards. The yards, whether small or large, should have plenty of green feed and shade.

A good poultry house for the farmer and the colony system will be taken up later.

Details of Satisfactory Poultry House

H. B. Webster, Perth Co., Ont.

Until a year ago our flock of hens was kept in a bank barn. Owing to the damp and crowded quarters very few eggs were ever received before March 1st. We concluded that if poultry was to be kept at a profit, winter eggs were necessary, and that some suitable building should be provided. Consequently, we constructed

a building on the most up-to-date principles, as far as possible. It has been occupied now for over a year, and has been very satisfactory.

The building is of wood, made of scantling frame, set on a cement foundation. The top of the cement wall is about eight inches above the level of the surrounding land. This, with an underdrain insures a dry floor. The house is 50 feet long, 13 feet wide, and 6 feet high. It has a gable roof with a 5 foot pitch. The studs are set about 30 inches apart. On the outside of the sheds, on the back and two ends, are tacked two thicknesses of building paper. The siding is of hemlock, put on up and down, with



Permanent Poultry Yards that are Too Expensive

Too much fencing. It costs almost as much to build the fences as the house. The hens would be better without the internal fencing.

the cracks battened. The inside of the studding is lined up with 2x4 inch bass-wood, matched, —culls of house lumber. This makes a very neat finish and is easily cleaned. The front, which faces the south, consists of one thickness of lumber, with cracks battened for the first two feet; above that is all glass and curtains. The frames are about 4 feet square. There are five windows and six curtains. The curtains are hinged at the top, so that they may be fastened up. Cheap cotton was used for curtains and it answers very well.

The floor consists of a layer of field stones, covered with clay, packed, and with six inches of gravel. This is always dry. The lot is boarded loosely and is covered with a foot or two of straw. The roof is sheeted with fence lumber, and is covered with a felt roofing.

The interior fixtures are simple, consisting of a dropping board, the full length of house, 33 inches wide, and two roosts of similar length. Cotton curtains are arranged to be let down in front of the roosts at night in cold weather. The nests are under the dropping board, with a hinged front and a rear entrance. The house is divided into four pens, wire being used for partitions. The house will comfortably hold 125 fowls, allowing about five square feet of floor space to each. The approximate cost of the building was \$1 a hen capacity.

Feed for Young Turkeys

What kind of food do you advise to feed young turkeys, and how to take vermin off young turkeys?—A. S. Russell Co., Ont.

Most turkey raisers have their own method of feeding. The first feed may be bread soaked in sweet milk, squeezed dry, and hard-boiled eggs. Don't coax them to feed until several days old. After eight or 10 days shorts mixed to a crumbly consistency may gradually take the place of the feed.

To keep vermin off the young, keep it off the mother. Dust her often with insect powder or sulphur. Rub sweet oil over the youngsters heads occasionally. Keep them clean.—F. C. E.

MORE ENTRIES RECEIVED FOR THE FARMS COMPETITION

Farms Entered from All Parts of the Province.—This First Competition may be Limited to Two Years.

On Monday of this week, the day before the date set for the receiving of the entries in the prize farms competition, only 13 entries had been received, nine from Eastern Ontario and nine from Western Ontario. Letters were on hand from a considerable number of farmers who expected to have their entries in by Tuesday.

THE ENTRIES

The following is a list of the entries received up to Monday of this week

W. C. Good, Brantford, Brant.
R. H. Harding, Thornedale, Middlesex.
Edmund Laidlaw & Sons, Aylmer, Elgin.
E. A. Penhale, St. Thomas, Ont. Elgin.

DURHAM CO. SPECIAL COMPETITION
A. Smith, Enfield.
T. Baker, Solina.

PETERBORO CO. SPECIAL COMPETITION
None.

STILL TIME TO ENTER

Owing to the fact that a considerable number of farmers who are thinking of entering did not hear about this competition until last week and this week at their annual farmers' institute meetings, it has been decided to extend the date of receiving the entries up to Monday, June 21. All entries must be in the hands of the secretary, H. B. Cowan, Farm and Dairy, Peterboro, by that date.

Some of the entries that have been received are interesting. The one from Wm. McAlister, sets forth: that his farm consists of 126 acres, and supports 60 head of dairy cattle. The entry of River Side Stock Farm, owned by Messrs. Matt. and J. W. Richardson but which is under the management of Mr. J. W. Richardson, adds interest to the competition in Western Ontario. The farm consists of 300 acres and is the home of a noted herd of Holstein cattle. The farm of Mr. Duncan, of the Don, will be a strong competitor in the eastern District. Among possible additional competitors are, John Graham, of Bell's Corners; Geo. W. Anderson, of Mountain View; J. E. Caldwell, of City View and J. H. Clare, of Chapman; and Mr. Anderson, of Preston, all of whom have intimated their intention to take part.

MAY ENLARGE THE DISTRICT

The committee of management has decided that the judges may refuse to award a prize to any farm not considered worthy of receiving one. Owing to the small number of entries, it may be decided to restrict the competition to only two years instead of three as was first proposed. In such an event there will be only two districts this year, one for all of Eastern Ontario and one for all of Western Ontario. In such an event special prizes will be given to the farms that score the highest in each of the four districts as at present constituted. All the farms entered this year will be likely to win a prize. Next year the best farms in these two districts would compete for the championship of the province.

Farm and Dairy believes that as
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PRIZE FARMS ENTRY APPLICATION

I desire to enter my farm in the Dairy Farms Competition being held this year in Ontario by Farm and Dairy, and herewith enclose \$..... being the entry fee called for in the rules governing the competition. I hereby certify that now and for the last five years, my principal occupation has been dairy farming. My farm consists of..... acres, and supports..... head of dairy cattle.

Name.....

Address.....

Date.....