

He must buy practically everything he feeds or uses; grain, vegetables, straw, etc. On a farm the birds have plenty of room. Usually smaller flocks of from fifty to two hundred are kept. Much of what the fowls eat would otherwise go to waste; the rest has been grown on the land and has cost the farmer, just the labor of producing it. Since the farmer has plenty of room and lots of feed, he can put his birds in the best condition before marketing them, or can hold them for higher prices without being inconvenienced thereby. The poultry man, however, must sell as soon as his birds are marketable. He needs the room and the feed is costing money. He usually keeps small quick-maturing breeds, like the Leghorn. These do not weigh much when marketed. The farmer usually finds it pays better to raise larger more hardy breeds like the Plymouth Rocks, Wyandottes and Rhode Island Reds. These are all particularly well adapted to the needs of Saskatchewan poultry-men.

POULTRY HOUSES

We find poultry doing well in so many different styles of houses that it is often hard to decide what model to adopt when building.

All the most successful poultry houses have certain features in common. They provide: (1) lots of fresh air, (2) plenty of sunlight, (3) a tight roof, (4) walls that break the wind, (5) from four to six square feet of dry floor space per hen. These are essential. Heat is not essential when hardy breeds of fowls are kept.

Fowls withstand steady cold better than sudden changes in temperature. The temperature in a cotton-front house changes less than in any other kind of poultry house yet tried.

A single lumber, tar-paper-lined house in which cotton covered frames, hinged at the top and arranged to open in, form the greater part of the south side, will give better results than do the air-tight or glass front kinds; while it costs only about half as much to build. (Note—Poultry netting should be placed over the outside of the window openings to keep the fowls in when curtains are raised.)

If you now have an air-tight, dark poultry-house, try a big cotton window in the south side and see what an improvement sunlight and fresh air will make. If you have a glass-front house, try filling alternate frames with cotton. You will find the air much purer and the temperature much more even.

In planning a poultry-house, certain general rules apply. To have sunlight reach practically all parts of the floor daily, the width of the house should not exceed twice the height of the south side. The simplest form of house is the "shanty-roofed" type. If the front wall is six feet high above the sills, the width should be twelve feet. If the front is seven feet, the width may be fourteen. The height of the rear wall will depend on the slope required. Shingles need a steeper roof than prepared roofing. Probably from four feet to five and one-half feet would be satisfactory.

To get the greatest area of floor space for the number of feet of lumber in the walls, a building should be square. Thus as a general rule a building six feet high in front should be twelve feet wide and fourteen feet long. When one seven feet high would be fourteen feet wide and fourteen feet long. When other proportions than these are used it should be for a definite reason. If, for instance, a house twenty feet square is needed, a window in the east end and one in the west might be provided to give light to the back part of the house.

Houses twelve or fourteen feet square may be built on skids and moved from place to place. Such portable houses have many advantages over a large stationary one. By their use birds may be kept in small flocks on free range. This plan being natural to them, they lay more eggs. Both fertility and vitality are better than when birds are confined in small runs. More chickens are hatched from each hundred eggs laid by birds on free range, and more of the chickens will live to maturity.