

POULTRY

Hawk-Proof Coop

EDITOR FARMER'S ADVOCATE:

Last year I hatched out over 300 chickens with the incubator but the hawks took over half of them, even swooping down and killing them after the birds were full feathered. There are no bluffs near here and the only shelter the chickens had was the brooder, a few coops and the wood pile. We shot a few of the hawks but for every one we killed, two seemed to come to the funeral. I intend to raise a lot of chickens this year but am not ambitious to feed hawks with them.

2. I would like to take up a homestead and pre-emption this summer but as I will have very little time to hunt for same perhaps someone would be good enough to tell me where I could get a good selection with only a few bluffs and plenty of good water not over 20 miles from railway and near fire wood.

NEWCHUM SCOT.

When hawks become serious in their depredations on the poultry yards and when the ordinary methods of keeping them away fail, that is, if shooting will not prevent their depredations or the ordinary means of frightening them off are of no avail, and the poultryman wishes to continue raising chickens, the only thing left is to raise them in hawk-proof coops. This increases the cost of raising stock considerably, and where large numbers are raised the plan may be impractical, but for a farm flock it is possible to construct coops that will be proof against the ravages of hawks, cats, crows, etc., and raise chickens with little additional cost of production. Any style of coop will do that prevents these pests from gaining entrance. Stakes may be driven into the ground to form a run for the chicks, and poultry netting used as sides and covering. Or if a more substantial and convenient form of coop is desired the one shown here will be found satisfactory.



BARRED ROCK COCKEREL.

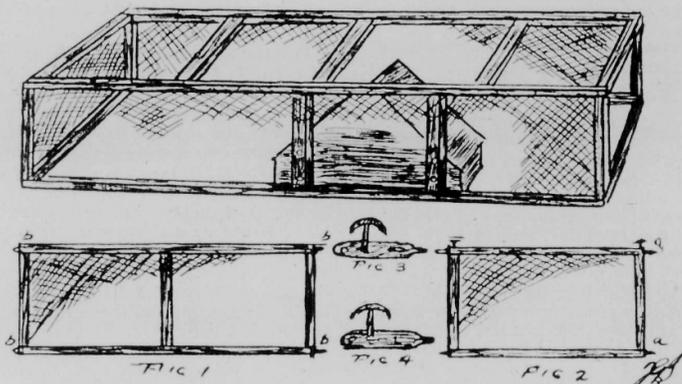
Owned by R. M. West of Glenboro, Man. and prizewinner at last year's Provincial Poultry Show.

Fatty Degeneration of the Liver

My hens have been dying almost every week since spring set in. Upon close investigation we found their livers double the normal size. They were spotted with white spots. Before they die, they have blue combs, and mope around miserably for about one week or two, and then lose the power of motion, and die.

A. S.

The trouble is probably fatty degeneration of the liver due to improper food or the method of feeding. A damp hen house is one of the causes of the trouble, and it is also constitutional, and probably is communicated from one bird to another by the droppings. Mere indigestion and torpid liver in the early stages



A HAWK-PROOF COOP.

BILL OF STOCK FOR ONE COOP

4 pieces $\frac{3}{4}$ x 4 inches 12 feet long; 4 pieces $\frac{3}{4}$ x 4 inches 5 feet long; 11 pieces $\frac{3}{4}$ x 4 inches 2 feet long; 5 pieces 2-inch furring $5\frac{1}{2}$ feet long; 8 hook clasps; 8 good sized staples; 2 pieces chicken netting (1-inch mesh) 18 inches wide, 12 feet long; 2 pieces chicken netting (1-inch mesh) 18 inches wide, 5 feet long; 1 piece wire netting (2-inch mesh) 5 feet wide, 12 feet long.

Take four of the twelve foot pieces and six of the 2-foot pieces, and make two frames 2 x 12 feet, like Figure 1. Then make two frames 2 x 5 feet, like Figure 2. Now take the hook clasps, like Figure 3 and drill and countersink an extra screw hole as in Figure 4. The house for the chickens to stay in nights is shown, rear view, in the upper figure in the cut. It is made of $\frac{3}{4}$ or $\frac{1}{2}$ inch stuff. Make the floor 2 feet square. Then take three pieces 7 or 8 inches wide for the walls. Nail the bottom to these. Then put roof on, being sure not to get it more than 2 feet from floor of coop to peak of roof. On the back side, a few inches from one end, put a 2-foot piece perpendicular. This is to attach the house to the side of the coop so that it can be lifted with it.

Now take the hook clasps and put them on corners of Figure 2, letting them project far enough to make the staples that are to be driven into the corners of Figure 1. After hooking the end and side pieces together put a board on the front of the house that will just fill the opening, hanging it with hinges from the top, so that when raised it will make a shade. Fasten a stick 2 $\frac{1}{2}$ to 3 feet long to the lower edge of the door, to project through the netting of the top of the coop. This is to open and close the door. Put the five pieces of furring across the top of coop, one at each end, one at the centre, and one at the centre of each space, and nail lightly. Spread the 2-inch netting over, and fasten with staples to the furring. After the season when you want to put the coop away take off top netting with the sticks, and roll up. Unhook the corners, take off house, and lay one of the long sides on the ground, cleats up put ends on between the cleats, put other side on cleats down, drive a few nails where they will hold all the parts together, and the whole thing can be put away in a small space.

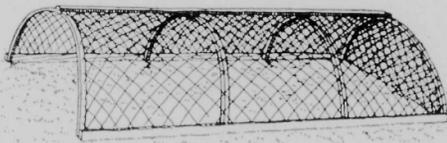
may be dealt with by giving the sick birds Epsom salts. All sick birds should be kept by themselves and when the droppings have been of a yellow color for some time, and mild measures have proved unavailing, the best plan is to kill the birds, as recovery from a very bad case is, I believe impossible, and a lingering death, after poisoning the ground for others, is the only prospect for the invalid.

All mash feeding should be stopped and put the birds on dry feed, and make them work hard for all they get, and keep the hen house clean and well aired daily. I would also advise feeding them green food liberally and lots of good clean water at all times. Feeding the birds charcoal is also a very good thing, and see that they are free from lice. They should be dusted thoroughly three or four times with a good insect powder, with an interval of about a week between each dusting. Birds will not keep busy if they have lice on them.

Busy B.

A Portable Run for Chicks

A writer in *The Standard* describes the following method of making a portable covered run for chicks, which may prove useful where it is necessary to protect chickens from the hawks and other pests:



Take four old carriage rims and fasten them together 4 feet apart, by three 1 by 2-inch strips, 12 feet long. Two strips are nailed at each end of the rims near the ground, and the other at the top. Place your wire over the rims and cut it the right length, so as to have just enough to tuck on the strips. I use 1-inch mesh wire netting 6 feet wide and 14 feet long—the extra 2 feet to close up one end. I place a coop of hen and chicks at the front or open end.

HORTICULTURE

Okanagan Fruit Union

A number of prominent Okanagan fruit growers have formed an Association for the disposal of their fruit to be known as the Okanagan Fruit Union, Limited. Among those prominently associated with the enterprise are W. C. Ricardo, John Kidston, R. H. Augur, E. M. Carruthers and W. T. Shatford. The declared intention of the Union is to handle the fruit of the valley from Sicamous to the boundary line and adjacent centres, to keep tabs on the markets and so regulate the delivery of fruit, thereto, as to prevent a glut or a famine; the development of natural markets and securing exact information as to demands; keeping a sharp lookout for all competitors and the erection at various points of canneries, cooling and evaporating plants. Later on it is proposed to erect cold storage plants at outside centres.

The promoters propose to finance the proposition by issuing stock to fruit growers at \$50.00 a share with a first call of \$20.00. There are no promoter's shares, neither is there an issue of debentures. The Union will be governed by a board of directors made up of representatives from the various centres who will have absolute control and will work through an executive of managing directors and an office manager.

Ten per cent. will be charged on fruit sold on commission and packing will be done for members at cost. After six per cent. of a dividend is paid on the stock the balance of the profits will go into a reserve. The Union will guarantee the growers against bad debts and payment will be made by the Union as follows:—fifty per cent. on the fifteenth of the month following the time of sales; twenty-five per cent. twenty days later and the balance sixty days later.

Fruit going to the canneries and drying plants of the Union will be bought at a fixed price. In this way the second grade fruit can all be disposed of.

The public naturally look with favor upon any proposition which appears to offer a solution to the problem of packing, grading and marketing fruit. But following close upon the failure of the B. C. Fruit and Produce Exchange are naturally slow to enthuse and apparently wish to be shown.

However, the men behind the enterprise are men of experience in financial matters as well as being specialists in the growing of fruit. They are men of large affairs and well known integrity and at the outset have been successful in securing the services of a man who has been engaged in handling the fruit crop of the Yakima country for some years at a very satisfactory profit to the growers there. If the Okanagan Fruit Union is a success it will go a long way toward putting the industry in the Okanagan on a firm business footing.

Following close upon the formation of this fruit selling organization comes the announcement that a company has been formed to build an electric railway through the Okanagan. If carried to a successful issue this will also be a large factor in the development of the district. In the fruit growing sections of Washington, particularly in the vicinity of Spokane, electric roads are quite common and are materially assisted in the growth of the fruit industry.

E. W. D.

Growing Onions Successfully

EDITOR FARMER'S ADVOCATE:

In starting a farm garden the first thing is the selection of a suitable piece of ground which should be near the house so that vegetables may be had without trouble at any time. There is no use trying to have a garden unless it is protected against poultry for if they ever find the patch that will be the end of gardening. My garden is all fenced with poultry netting three feet high with a board at the bottom to fasten the wire to so no fowls can get in. I think a farm garden is as necessary as anything else about the farm, for when it is properly looked after, there is nothing else which takes a person's fancy so well as a clean, well kept and properly laid out garden.

In laying out a garden I think it is best to have everything sown in rows, as that arrangement is more convenient for working. I sow everything with a Planet Jr. seeder for it sows more perfect and at a more uniform depth than can be done by hand, and if the soil is in good tilth there is no reason why all seeds should not germinate. I always use the wheel hoe for cultivating a garden; it is better than the ordinary hoe for it does not leave the surface too loose. I grow a good variety of garden vegetables such as radish, onions, lettuce, beets, early turnips, carrots, beans, peas, corn, citron, cucumber, tomatoe, cabbage and early potatoes. I always have onions for marketing and have good success, so I will just tell how I prepare the land and how to cultivate.

A deep rich loam is the best for onions. I prepare the land in the fall by applying well rotted manure and plowing very deep and harrowing well to get the land solid. Then in the spring I mix salt and ashes together and sow on the land and then harrow till I get about two inches of mulch, this will insure against the garden grub and the onion maggot, for if either of those pests are in the ground there is little