

coop, not less than four feet square and three feet high, placed, if possible, on a fresh plot of grass. In this coop there should be a muslin bag of sulphur hung so that the old turkey will touch the bag with her head, thus dusting the sulphur on herself and young. I keep the old turkey confined during the first week, but always allow the young ones their liberty. When the young turkeys are one week old repeat the dose of black pepper and allow the old turkey her liberty, one hour in the heat of the day. When the young turkeys are two weeks old give two grains of black pepper, when three weeks old give three grains, and at four weeks repeat the last dose. During this time lengthen the time of the old turkey's liberty so that she may have perfect liberty when her young are three weeks old. To encourage them to come home at night I feed them in their coop until they are six weeks old; by that time they have formed the habit of coming home, and we have no trouble with them staying away. Do not shut them in at night, but allow them to catch the early worm.

I do not feed any more until the middle of October, when I commence fattening them for Thanksgiving. Since adopting this method I have not lost one turkey.

## The Cultivation of Corn

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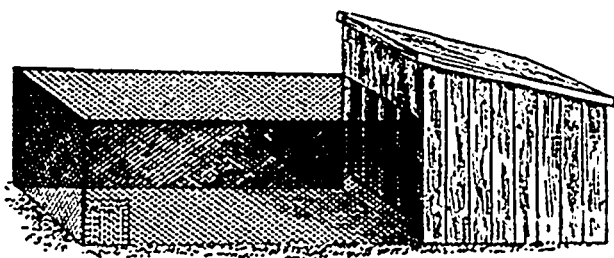
There is no truer saying than that the proper time to cultivate corn is before it is sown or planted. This fact, however, must not be interpreted too literally, as it applies forcibly only to the matter of securing a seed bed free from all other vegetation, and thereby lessening the labor of caring for the growing crop. The experience of successful corn growers everywhere is strong testimony for inter tillage and plenty of it. Moisture, so necessary to all plant growth, is especially valuable in the case of the crop which we have under consideration. We know that a bare, encrusted soil surface is very favorable for evaporation, and nowhere are these conditions more noticeable than in a cornfield for the first few days after planting, more particularly if it is on a clay soil and a light rain has fallen.

In order to do its very best, corn requires more water than is likely to fall as rain during the main period of its growth, and to properly husband the crop it is desirable to maintain a surface mulch from the very first. There are, however, more closely associated reasons for intensive tillage, as soil soon dries out in the surface layer, and a young corn plant cannot reach moisture as required unless, by maintaining a mulch, we keep down the excessive evaporation. One of the elementary points observed in the study of soil physics is the tendency for water to distribute itself in soils, moving always from moist to dry earth in the effort to maintain equilibrium. Now, if the corn plant uses water from the soil immediately surrounding it, and, by tillage, we keep the bare space between the drills moist, we have a more thrifty growth and find the teaching of science directly supporting practice. Not only this, but in the effort to improve its conditions, the plant throws out roots in the direction of the moister earth, and is thus more firmly established, in addition to having its feeding ground increased.

The proper depth to cultivate is a point on which the last authoritative word has yet to be said, but it is quite safe to state that most farmers allow a scuffer to run too deeply. There is no apparent necessity for going down three, four or five inches, and the draft of any cultivator is far greater at those depths than if the surface only is loosened. Far more stress should be laid upon the necessity for working the whole surface, and, in the writer's experience, going twice in a row pays every time for corn during the first three weeks. No risk is incurred in running quite close to the plants for the first week or so, and if "double work" is being done so that only one side is left to watch, work fully equal to hand-hoeing may be performed. As the season advances the plants will shade

more ground, and less thorough work is required. Older plants throw out their roots through the whole soil and close to the surface, so that unless care be exercised fully as much harm as good will be done. After the first of July there can be no risk of too shallow tillage, the shallower the better, by all means, so long as a loose layer of soil is maintained.

I am by no means in sympathy with the advocates of extra late inter tillage. It may be that there is logic in their argument, but there is a profit and loss point in corn growing as well as in anything else. After the plants shade the ground fairly well, especially if the drills run east and west, the soil is kept cool enough to render excessive evaporation unlikely, and the amount of moisture which can rise to be wasted through the dense layer of roots must be light enough. It is certainly true that a loss exists, but, if the plants are thrifty, I have yet to be convinced that it will pay to add to the expense of producing the crop by sending the scuffer through again.



BROOD COOP FOR POULTRY.

There was a time when men prided themselves upon getting a bank of earth heaped round each hill of corn. Just what they expected to gain by this is rather uncertain, but from the physicist's standpoint they did a positive damage. A mound offers more surface than an area of equal dimensions on the level, hence the evaporation will be increased in the same ratio, and not only this, but the lower level would obtain moisture from below first, and the soil nearest the stalk would therefore be driest in the case of the hill method.

## Docking and Castrating Lambs

The season of the year has approached when this necessary piece of work has to be done. Though it is not a very difficult task when the proper utensils are at hand, yet, if it is not done in the right way, great injury and loss may result.

The age and time when this should be done are important. Different districts have different customs, but lambs are generally castrated at all ages from two to ten weeks old. The success of the operation will depend to some extent upon the weather. Frosty weather with cold east winds and very wet weather should be avoided. Moderately warm weather is preferable to excessive heat. It is advisable to have the operation performed before midday. As to the operation itself we cannot do better than quote the following from the *London Live Stock Journal*:

Keeping in view the development of the lambs and reducing the danger to a minimum, the safest age is when lambs are between three and four weeks old. When lambs are castrated before this age, the testicles are soft and flabby, which renders clean cutting next to impossible, and when much beyond four weeks the testicles become covered with fat, which increases both the difficulty and danger of castration.

The best place in which to castrate lambs is in the open fields where they are grazing, because they are cleaner than any enclosures about farmsteadings. Occasionally, to save trouble, lambs are driven into fold yards and there operated upon without the least consideration being given to sanitation, with the result that a high death rate follows.