

# POULTRY WEEKLY

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EDITOR.

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## Dressing Poultry for Market.

IN dressing poultry, care must be taken that the birds do not eat of any green food for at least four days previous to being killed. If they run on grass or get green feed, they will turn color soon after being killed, and will show a most repulsive green color on a large part of the body, which gives the meat a look as if decomposition had set in; to prevent this keep the birds closed up, and give no green food if possible, for a week before killing time. This is worth knowing, and many may have wondered what made the flesh turn so quickly, knowing the birds were only just killed.

## DROPPING BOARDS.

I WONDER how many of those who own fowls use this simple and useful contrivance for keeping the poultry house clean. They are intended to catch the droppings from the birds while on the perches, and should extend each side of the perch so that no matter which way the birds heads are, there will be width enough to catch all the manure. To those who do not use them I would say just try it and see what a saving of labor there will be in cleaning the poultry house, for these boards prevent the manure going onto the floor, and very much is caught in the day time, as the birds often go onto them. The boards can be scratched off

very quickly with a hoe every few days, and the droppings put onto the manure pile. This manure as it is taken off the boards is too strong to use, and should be mixed with at least its own bulk of earth, and if this is added as the droppings are put on the pile it will make a rich compost, and the best part of the ammonia be preserved. Do not mix poultry manure with ashes or lime, as they act on it to its detriment by destroying the ammonia to a great extent.

## VENTILATION.

THE one great need of the summer season is ventilation in the poultry houses. These are often made without any thought except the one of keeping out the cold in winter, and of course, in the summer season, are much too hot, and in consequence the poor birds suffer terribly from overheating and bad air, which is *awful* when the droppings are not often removed. The inmates breathing this poisoned atmosphere are twice as likely to catch any of the various diseases common to fowl, on the slightest exposure to them, their blood being rendered so bad by the vitiated air they breathe. It is not always safe to leave doors or windows open to the tender mercies of the chicken thief, especially where valuable stock is kept, for the thief would have no compunction about killing the choicest specimen; his object is chickens and nothing else. A good ventilator can be made in the box tube fashion, of boards joined four sides and reaching from the floor to the outside of the roof; have an opening on the front near the floor and bad air will pass out freely. I use these ventilators in my own house; they can be depended upon, and give no draught overhead to