

The Poultry Yard.

WORK OF THE SEASON.

When housing the pullets for winter, do not put too many in one house. If not fully grown, the proper number will not seem to fill up as the house should, but as they grow they will occupy more and more of the space. 8 sq ft of floor space is none too much for each fowl, and 10 would be better.

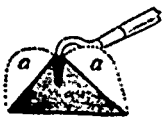
Clean out the droppings often enough to keep the house sweet and clean. Use plenty of plaster under the roosts. A sprinkling of air-slaked lime over the floor will do good, but do not put it under the perches, as it will hasten the escape of the ammonia and lessen the value of the droppings.

If the cockerels of the early hatches have not been sold, do not delay doing it any longer; they will not pay for the food which they will consume. What is saved is so much easily earned, and the feed these cockerels would need will keep nearly as many laying pullets.

The pullets should be laying well now and paying for the care and feed they have received. Keep fresh water, shells and grit before them always. It will cost no more to feed a variety than one kind of food. Corn in small quantities, wheat, oats, barley and buckwheat, both whole and ground, bran or middlings, or both, make a list from which a change can be made at nearly every meal. Green stuff and cut bone are essential to the best success after they have to be wholly or partially confined. An open shed in which the hens can scratch and sun themselves will pay a big dividend during the next 6 mos.

If any rubbish has collected in the yards or about the houses, collect and burn what can be burned and bury the rest out of sight. If any of the yards have not been plowed yet, to turn under the soiled surface, it can be done now, and early in the spring oats can be sown and harrowed in. It always pays to have plenty of green stuff provided for. The rye that was sown in Sept should make good picking for the hens now and until covered with snow [Burr Knapp, Middlesex Co., Mass.]

To Clean Poultry Roosts, feed troughs and for scraping trees, the cut



shows a handy implement. It is an old hoe with the edges cut as illustrated so as to make it of triangular shape. The blade should be sharpened occasionally to scrape easily. The points often come handy in loosening hard or sticky matter.—[R. P. Zerner, Essex Co., N. J.]

Oiler Pomace will be eaten quite freely by fowls in winter and serves the same purpose as roots or green food, at less cost. Preserve the pomace in hogsheads or tight barrels and press down the contents with jackscrews or larrel heaters.

Chickens Ten Weeks Old will weigh 1 lb dressed and in late Feb or early March will be worth 50 to 75c p lb. As a hen rarely cares to sit in the fall, an incubator must be used if one cares to raise broilers for market.—[E. M. Ripley, Huntington Co., N. J.]

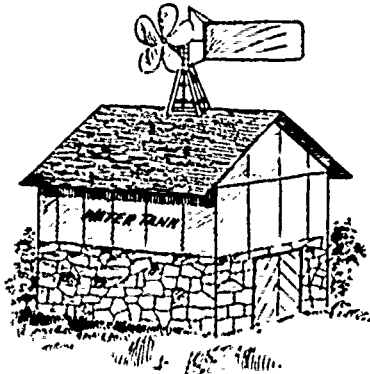
To Fatten, put the chickens in a house, feed well with corn mostly, with a little crushed bone, table scraps, etc. for a change. Do not let them out for exercise, but keep their quarters scrupulously clean, and when fat sell if the market is favorable.

The Poultry Doctor—E. E. S.: Your young chicks have indigestion. Feed less corn and meal and more oats and bran, some green food, and give plenty of exercise. Give sharp grit and pure water.—Mrs L. A.: The young chicks which die at a week old probably need fine sharp grit to help digest the food. Look for large head lice.—H. B.: We have never had any experience with chickens eating wild cherries. Your poultry have taken cold. Put them in a warm, dry place and give tincture of aconite in the drinking water, 10 drops to 1 qt water.—Mrs D.: Turkeys are liable to attacks of chicken cholera. It may not be worth while to doctor the sick ones, but remove the well turkeys to new ground, give them charcoal in

their feed, put a few drops of nux vomica in the drinking water, and sprinkle air-slaked lime where they roost.—L. R. Rankin's Duck Culture contains details and illustrations for duck raisers. It is sold by the Orange Judd Co of 52 Lafayette place, New York, price 25c, postpaid.

Late Chickens will cost 50c each to winter in localities where grain is high. Usually laying stock is the more profitable and a lot of late chickens will occupy winter room which might have been filled with layers.

Incubators and Water Supply—An enterprising Penn poultry farmer, Mrs Jennie Fairbank, sends a drawing of



HATCHING CELLAR AND TANK.

the favorite building on her large farm. It is a combination incubator cellar, water tank and windmill tower. The two-story building is 14x16 ft, with a 1000-chick capacity hatching cellar, a tank in the second story which holds the water supply for the whole farm, and a windmill on the roof to perform all the pumping. Mrs Fairbank is making a success of the business, and reports a net profit of \$2 to 3 per fowl each year, from several hundred hens.

Old Hens, if kept over, should be cooped by themselves, fed sparingly and should not be allowed much corn meal or other fattening food.

Taking Interest in Hens—I can get much satisfaction by watching my hens when they are eating. I keep cabbage and other vegetables where they can get them, and scatter fine grain or cracked corn among their litter a few times during the day, besides their regular meals. If a man studies his hens he can see more valuable qualities in them than he can in many of his other animals.—[Earl Dubois, Lee Co., Va.]

To Keep in Condition for laying, a hen should never have a full crop during the day, but should be kept hungry enough to scratch and hustle about to find the food which has been scattered about in the litter. Hungry hens keep busy and do not get too fat to lay.—[G. B. Fiske, Middlesex Co., Mass.]

Eggs from Corn—Tests at the Mass exper sta show better results in egg laying from a ration made up largely of corn than were obtained from wheat rations. The trials have been continued through several years past with similar results.

Various Queries—Mrs K. S.: The large dealers advertising in F and H keep nearly all the common breeds and are considered reliable.—A. W. I.: Successful poultry farmers expect to make from \$1 to 2 net profit per year per hen, including profit from sale of surplus chickens.—Mrs J. W.: Partridge Cochon fowls are sold by poultrymen who advertise in F & H.—Several Readers, Wright's Practical Pigeon Keeper, price \$1.50, postpaid, or Pigeon Queries, price 25c, both sold by the Orange Judd Co of 52 Lafayette place, New York, contain much valuable information on pigeon raising.

Have taken F & H 2 yrs and think there is no farm paper like it. Always glad when it comes. Experiences with hired help are timely and interesting. Worked 5 yrs steady for one man and was treated as one of the family. Did all of his marketing. Am now working for myself. It seems just like home to go and visit my old employer.—[Elmer Probert, Lucas Co., O.]

The Thanksgiving Turkey.

TO DRESS AND SHIP TURKEYS.

Different markets require different modes of dressing. Some require them dry pickled, undrawn, heads and feet on, others wish them scalded, the entrails drawn and the heads and feet off. Inquiries should always be made beforehand of the firm to which you expect to ship, as to the manner they wish them dressed.

Dry-pickled turkeys usually sell best in most markets. Dry pickling is not the difficult task many consider it if rightly managed. It is easily and quickly done if picked at once while the body is still warm. The skin is not so apt to be broken or the flesh bruised as when picking those that have been scalded. In packing be careful to assort the fowls properly and place all of the same grade together, putting the toms or any not looking so nice in boxes by themselves. Place together the hen turkeys, which always have rounder, plumper bodies than the toms, and to sell well the packages should always be of uniform quality. When different qualities are packed together they are all invariably rated with the inferior fowls.

It is best to have packages to weigh from 100 to 200 lbs, as these sizes are most conveniently handled. We always ship our turkeys to a reliable commission merchant and have always been well treated and obtained the best prices. On the outside of boxes should be plainly written the contents, gross weight and name of the consignee as well as the consignor. Care in this respect will insure prompt delivery and returns. Shippers should manage to get in all of their largest turkeys for Thanksgiving, they are then wanted as large as can be produced.—[Mary Gordon, Windsor Co., Vt.]

AMERICAN BRONZE GOBBLER.

Size, hardness and ease of management are the qualities which have combined to make the American Bronze by far the most popular of the breeds. With turkeys, a large bird will sell for a higher price per pound during holiday season, although at other seasons the medium weights are fully as popular. A mature bronze gobbler weighs 25 lbs or more, sometimes as high as 45 lbs. The hen is much lighter, reaching about 17 lbs. As shown by the typical specimen illustrated on the editorial page, the male has a long, graceful neck, broad and full breast, a deep and well-rounded body, drooping wings and a fan-like tail. The color is a dark, lustrous bronze on the back, neck and tail, with deep black breast and body, which is pencilled with white.

Thanksgiving Turkeys—Put them in a shed not too light, but with an open front to admit air. Provide broad, low perches, ample feed troughs and dishes for water and milk. Corn meal, bran, cooked potatoes, oats and buckwheat are good fatteners, also a little cheap tallow or suet in the soft food. They cannot digest their food properly without plenty of gravel or grit. Feed only what food they will eat up clean.

Feather Eaters do not like the bitter taste of powdered aloes dissolved in alcohol. Paint it on the bare spots caused by feather eating.

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