

Classified Page for People's Wants

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Poultry Diseases Responsible for Big National Loss

At least fifty per cent of the chickens young ducks and turkeys, and ten per cent of the adult birds, die each year from diseases, many of which are preventable. This is an annual national loss of probably millions of dollars that should be avoided to a large extent.

War conditions make it imperative that farmers and poultrymen as far as possible should stop this enormous leak. To do this, every breeder should pay strict attention to the general conditions of his flock. When anything unusual is noted in a fowl it is advisable to place the affected individual in separate quarters. If within a short time recovery does not take place, it is unwise to destroy the fowl without first ascertaining the cause of the disorder. The prevalence of disease is more often the cause of failure than the lack of practical knowledge and the extreme importance of keeping the quarters clean. Isolation of all ailing fowls and immediate action in regard to finding out the cause cannot be too strongly impressed upon the poultryman.

Brake for the Gang-Plow

When moving a gang plow from one field to another over hilly ground, it will run up on the horses' heels, as the tongue is made for guiding the plow, not for holding it back. I hit upon the scheme of looping a stay chain about the frame of the gang just above the back wheel with the hook end of the chain hanging free. When going down hill I hook the chain to one of the spokes of the wheel and cause it to drag and act as a brake. Hang the hook up on the gang frame when not in use.

Poultry Chat

H. E. Vialoux, Charleswood

These splendid autumn days usher us towards our Manitoba winter, which is never "a joke," and the proper housing of our flocks of fowl is a matter to be carefully considered. The backyard poultrykeeper may be loth to part with all the family pets that have been raised by the good wife and family. If these birds are well bred the wise person will keep the pullets over the winter and arrange to build a neat little house or fix up the existing colony house with a roll of building paper or some shiplap or boards to make it comfy. It should be well banked with earth and located to face the southeast to get as much sunlight as possible and be sheltered from the north winds.

Should a new house be decided upon, I would advise sending for the bulletin sent out by the extension department of the Manitoba Government, No. 15, "Poultry Houses for Town and Country," or circular No. 49, "Backyard Poultrykeeping." Both of these bulletins have working plans of excellent poultry houses of different sizes. The cut shown here is a splendid house for 100 hens. Has a gable roof, size 14x23 feet, and can be built at the cost of \$1.25 per hen. The man with the large flock of laying hens should follow this plan. Two yards neatly fenced with real poultry fence are shown in the design, one yard faces south for the spring days, and the other yard is on the north side of the hen house to be used in hot weather. This is a new idea and a good one. In this way the ground in the yards can be kept clean and sweet, as it is an easy matter to grow some grass in each yard. This house and yard has been tested at the Manitoba Agricultural College and found a success. In regard to the price of the house, if a farmer can manage to do the work of building himself, the cost will be considerably less, though the lumber should be of good quality: 2x4 scantling can be used for the framework. Poplar poles laid across the joists will do for a ceiling. If strong enough to hold the two feet of straw needed to make the straw-loft, which is quite an essential in a good hen house for the roosts, I always use straight poplar poles, peeled and free from knot-holes, and the bulletin also advises the use of poplar pole perches. The most sensible floor, one of concrete, costs a good bit these days, but is really the best in the long run. No rat or other "varmint" can possibly gnaw his way into the house through concrete. Board floors are now too expensive to use, though I find them durable enough. A double floor with tar paper in between has lasted well for 16 years in my hen house—is now as good as new. The inside plan of poultry house No. 1 in the bulletin is very simple indeed, as it should be to make cleaning an easy matter. Busy folk on the farm have little time to fuss over their chickens, therefore I do not advise the trap nest for the ordinary farm flock, as it entails too much work. Leave trap nesting to the fancier and secure some good laying stock from him in the fall when he is reducing his flock before winter.

All poultry houses should now get their fall cleaning before winter really sets in, while the flocks are out of doors. Tuberculosis seems on the increase among farm flocks in particular, so the thorough cleaning and white-washing of the old hen house is most important. Izal sprayed with a force pump into every crevice of the house will disinfect it when once cleaned. The ladder style of roost should be discarded forever from our hen houses as no doubt this careless method of making the roosts spreads the disease. The droppings are scattered into the litter on the hen house floor, where the hens are fed in winter, and presently the whole flock are picking up disease germs with their food. Prices of chickens are very high so far, and there are few birds being shipped, but no doubt this is due to the busy season on the farms. All foodstuffs are so high priced that the consumer of spring chickens must be prepared to pay well for them. After Thanksgiving the chicken trade will open up a good deal, as farmers can fatten up their fowl when threshing is done and plenty of feed available.

Bulletin No. 7 on "Fattening and Marketing Chickens" is a particularly good one and any farmer can get a copy on application to the Extension Department, Winnipeg. The author, Prof. Herner, has gone into all the details of this business fully and clears up a good many questions in regard to shrinkage of the birds en route to market, etc. Apparently the busy man or woman with a flock of good chickens to sell, had better fatten them as per directions, secure crates from reputable dealers, and ship them alive to the market.

The gain in price for dressed poultry does not pay the grower for the extra work entailed, unless time is no object, as the tables in the bulletin show only an increase of \$365 in price in a shipment of 20 dressed chickens, when all expenses are paid, including the express charges. Rather a small profit in killing and dressing 20 fowls. If these fowls are not dressed and packed perfectly, the sender will be docked in price, as well as having to supply his own crates. Dealers all supply shipping crates of live poultry. From present indications there is little chance of wheat in our war ration for our laying hens this winter. However, by using good judgment in feeding the oats, barley, etc., we are allowed, I maintain hens can be kept laying. Next month I shall take up winter feeding in particular.

Keeping Up the Tone

One mistake often leads to another—and sometimes to a third—as it does in a story that the Secretary of War told in the course of an address not long ago when he was speaking of United States army regulations.

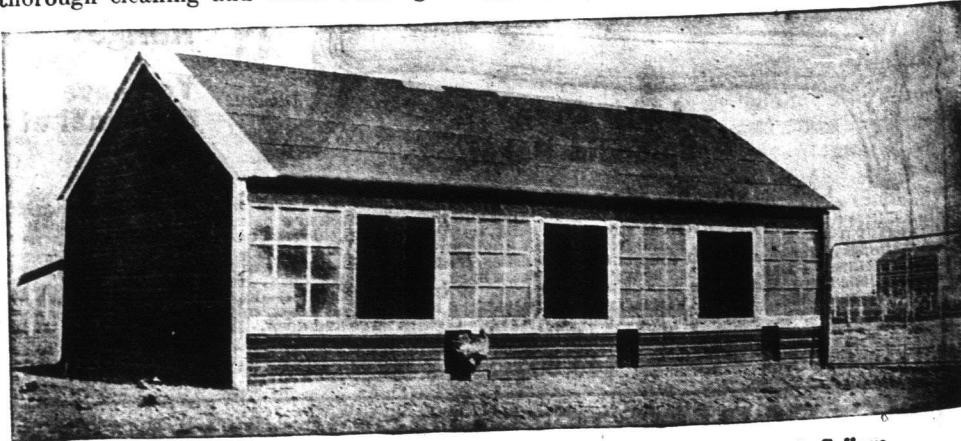
One hot day recently a private sat in a train with his tunic unbuttoned. Presently a sergeant strode up to him and said: "Button up that tunic! Did you never hear of by-law 217, sub-section D? I'm Sergt. Winterbottom."

A gentleman in the seat behind tapped the sergeant sternly on the shoulder.

"How dare you issue orders," he said, "with a pipe in your mouth? Go home and read paragraph 174, section M, part IX. I am Maj. Carroll."

At that a gentleman with a drooping white moustache interposed from the other side of the aisle.

"If Maj. Carroll," he said coldly, "will consult by-law 31 of Section K, he will learn that to reprimand a sergeant in the presence of a private is an offense not lightly to be overlooked. I am Gen. Atchison, retired."



Sample of House for 100 hens recommended by Manitoba Agricultural College