

In the Poultry Yard

Trap Nests and Their Value

Many poultry raisers do not appreciate the value of trap nests. Yet if they will look into the matter of egg-laying they will find them to be of very great value. It is about the only way of telling which hen is doing the laying. While there is considerable in the egg type of hens, we read about it is far from being a reliable guide to the egg laying qualities of a hen, as any one who has used trap nests will have seen. During February, one of our hens laid 18 eggs, while another almost identical, as far as style and looks goes, laid only 6 or one-third as many.

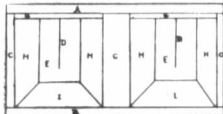


Fig. 1. Two Nests.

A, 2 inch strip nailed on the top of nests; B, 3 inch strip on bottom; C, 2 inch strip on ends, of boards dividing nests; DD, showing long end of trip wire; E, hen hole in division board between the two parts of nests; G, end of door when held up in position; H and I showing inside sides and bottom of nest when door is open.

Our trap nests are very simple and inexpensive. They are made the length of the pen, two feet wide and one foot deep, and from ten to twelve feet long, making ten or twelve nests, as the case may be. A single nest is two feet long and one foot square. A division board is placed eleven inches from the back end and twelve from the front end, with a hole cut in the middle just large enough for the hen to pass through. Instead of a close door in front, it is made so as to admit a little light at the top. It should be made of inch stuff, as it will stay shut better than a lighter one. It is hinged at the top and opens up into the box.

The trip is a piece of wire (moderately stiff so a hen will not bend it) about 15 inches long and bent as shown in the illustration. A piece of board 3 1/2 inches wide and just long enough to reach across the top of the box (inside), is nailed flat-ways in front of the division board and 1/2 inch below the top, leaving a space of 1/4 inch between the edge of the board and the division. The board is to support the trip wire. Next, slip the long part of the trip wire down through the quarter-inch slot, close to and in front of the hole in the division board, leaving the 3 1/2 inch piece of wire to rest

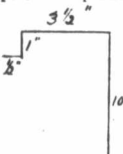


Fig. 2. Trip Wire.

on the 3 1/2 inch board. Small wire staples are driven into this board over the wire far enough to hold it in place and yet let it roll sideways easily. There is a small peg driven part way into the centre of the lower edge of the door. The small hole at the top is to allow in enough light to let the hen see her way back, and yet have it moderately dark, as a hen likes to be in seclusion when she is laying.

The hen, in passing in at the entrance (the door of which is held up by the wooden peg on the one-half piece of wire), goes into the nest proper, pressing the wire to one side in so doing, and loosens its connection with the door, which swings down in its place, and secures the hen till the owner comes to release her.

Our nests are raised so as to allow the entire floor space to the hens. On top of the nests are the roosts. The top of the nests serves as a board to catch the droppings.

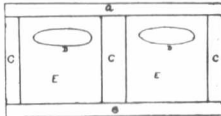


Fig. 3. Two Nests, with door closed.

A, B and C same as in Fig. 1; D, hole in door for light and E door.

While I am opposed to over-doing this question of egg-production in such strains or breeds not intended for heavy laying, yet I think, taking the egg-production in this country into consideration, there is room for a large increase before the hens are injured for other purposes. But one should go so far and no farther. The moment the limit is over-stepped, we cease to have a general purpose hen, good for both egg and meat production.

"Progressive Farmer."

Huron Co., Ontario.

The Age of a Fowl

An exchange has the following to say in regard to detecting the age of fowls. We would be glad to have the experience of any of our

THE FARMERS' EXCHANGE

One Cent a Word.

Cash with Order.

40,000 COPIES EVERY ISSUE.

Advertisements under this head one cent a word. Cash must accompany all orders. No display type or cuts allowed. Each initial and number counts as one word.

\$2000 WILL BUY 38 acres in Norfolk County, together with good frame house and barn, also store and post office in connection. Write for particulars, and ask for our Farm Catalogue. S. W. READ, Brantford, Ont.

WE MANUFACTURE thirteen styles of Incubators and Brooders, and keep all kinds of Poultry supplies. Catalogue from MORGAN'S INCUBATOR WORKS, London, Ont.

EGGS, from choicest "utility" and "fancy" strains, Brown Leghorns, Black Minorcas, Barred Rocks, White Wyandottes. Circular giving particulars free. JOHN B. PETTIT, Fruitland, Ont.

WANTED—Energetic, responsible man to sell fruit trees, ornamental trees, etc. Commission paid. Free Liberal pay weekly. Arrangements made for whole or part time. We also have a special line of seed potatoes never before offered for sale in Canada. For our terms apply NOW. FELHAM NURSERY COMPANY, Toronto, Ont.

HIGH PRICES FOR POULTRY—We are paying 15c. per lb. for broilers or spring chickens live or dressed, weighing between 1 1/2 and 2 1/2 lbs. each. Don't hold your chickens until the fall at extra expense and then sell for less per pair than we will give you for them now. Write us at once as these prices will soon drop. CANADIAN PRODUCE CO., Toronto.

IMPORTED BUFF ORPINGTONS—Another importation just arrived. Cocks direct costing \$80.00 a pair. Orange and Lemon Buff eggs, imported stock, \$2.00 per 10; Canadian bred solid Buff \$1.50 per 10. Eggs reduced after May 30th to \$2.00 and \$1.00. Also breeders of registered Shropshire sharp and Verhulst eggs, best quality. J. W. CLARK, Importer and Breeder, Chatham, Ont. Write for catalogue giving standard.

PURE BRED BELGIUM MARKS for sale cheap, all ages, or exchange for foreign stocks. Pedigreed stock. HENRY STONE, Kalamazoo, Mich. Ont.

FOR SALE, three extra good, registered Short horn bulls, from eight to twelve months, two from the celebrated imported Scotch bull, Jay Morning, the highest priced bull imported to America up to 1899. These bulls are from good milking cows. Any further information apply.

J. A. MCCLARY, Hillhurst, P.Q.

poultry readers on this point:

"The appearance of the legs is often the readiest guide. A rough, scaly condition is a sign of age. The whole body of an old fowl appears more heavy and mature, and there is an older look about the face and head readily detected by the expert. In males the length of the spur shows the age quite closely. Some poultrymen judge by the plumage. Lift up the wing and push aside the feathers of the sides when in the case of a young hen you will find a long down, light, close and arranged regularly between the other feathers which

POULTRY WANTED

ORPINGTONS
DUCKS
TURKEYS
CHICKS

Empty crates forwarded on application. Highest market prices paid. Correspondence from regular local agents solicited. Commission paid.

Denton Park Farm - COLEMAN P.O.