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## Protection Against Skunks

E. F. Eaton, Colchester Co., N.S. Skunks and weasels are serious enemies of the poultry men in this section, and unless the poultry house is well constructed against their entrance they are always a great cause of loss.

The diagram herewith will give an idea of the style of protection that I and some of my neighbors have adopted in combating these vermin. The floor is of cement, two or three inches



thick, lying on the top of gravel. Under the wall the cement extends down to a depth of 18 inches to two feet. This prevents skunks or weasels from burrowing under and getting into the poultry house at night.

## Bad Advice for Beginners

Editor, Farm and Dairy.—One of the great lessons that beginners in poultry keeping need to learn is that it is absolutely necessary to start with a few birds and learn something about the business before a large plant is put up. Around Toronto I know of many poultry farmers who made the big mistake of starting out large and they lost hundreds of dollars before they finally found out how to run a poultry plant successfully. I believe that their rashness in so starting is largely due to the advice handed out so freely by the editors of some of our big dairy papers who would not know a hen from a goose. Here is a sample taken from the columns of one of Toronto's most influential papers:

"It is matter for surprise that poultry farming is so little followed in the environs of Toronto. Assiduously and intelligently managed, a poultry farm may easily be made to pay a handsome profit on the capital invested. The work is light, the occupation is attractive, the returns are sure, the investment is short. The life of the hen should not be allowed to outrun two years; it may be that it would be found most profitable to cut it down to one year. The tendency with live stock farmers is to keep their animals too long. One of the advantageous conditions of poultry farming is that very little land is required, and that the capital invested in stock is very small. Vacant land will soon be obtainable at a reasonable rental, if it is not so procurable just now."

Now a person thoroughly believing in the politics of that paper and knowing nothing about poultry keeping would be liable to take that paragraph for gospel truth when, as a matter of fact, it is miles from the truth in the picture it paints of easy profits from poultry. Such results are possible only to the experienced poultryman.

Another mistake that some of us have made, and this includes myself, is that after having had great success with a flock of 15 or 20 birds and making profits of \$2 a bird, we begin to figure that if we had 1,000 birds we would make \$2,000. We forget that we are not counting the labor of looking after the small flock which receives many attentions or the table scraps they get from the house. This, I believe, the reason why many of my friends who have embarked in poultry keeping on an extensive scale have been disappointed in the

## To Prevent Egg Eating

How can I prevent hens from eating their eggs?—A. S. Northumberland Co., Ont.

Hens that are properly fed will seldom acquire the habit of eating their own eggs. When plenty of grain and lime is supplied in addition to liberal grain rations, the only method by which the hens will learn to eat eggs is by finding one broken in the nest or elsewhere. Where the necessity of doing the latter is seldom accumulated. The best methods, therefore, for stopping the eating of eggs are preventative ones.

Where the habit has become well established in the flock, two or three eggs might be blown and the shell filled with a mixture of Cayenne pepper and mustard. One dose of this is generally enough for the hardest of egg eaters.

I am pleased to say that I have received my pure bred Berkshire one which you sent me as a premium for securing six new yearly subscriptions through Mr. Joshua Lawrence of Oxford Centre, Ont. She is a little dandy.—Joe Goodrich, Middlesex Co., Ont.

## Buff Orpingtons

At East York and Toronto Poultry Shows my birds won cups for best color, over 75 entries at each show. Retail \$5.00 each.  
Eggs, \$3.00 per 15 for 15.  
Incubator Eggs, \$5.00 per 100.  
W. G. RENNIE, ELLESMERE, ONT. (Agriculture Station.)

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When you buy eggs from me you may receive them in ten years of care, breeding of the best blood in Canada, the back of them.

Rock eggs, pr. 15..... \$3.00  
Pekin eggs, very large, pr. 15..... \$3.00  
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## The Dust Bath

In every poultry-house there should be a dust-bath, where the hens may get rid of lice. Poultry-lice breathe through pores in their sides, and fine dust fills these pores and suffocates the vermin. Road-dust, hard-core ashes, or dry dirt of any kind, will accomplish the purpose. Wood ashes, if damp, may stain the feathers and otherwise harm the fowls. Sometimes, if the hens are badly infested, Persian insect powder may be added to the material in the dust-bath.

A tight box, three feet by three feet and one foot deep, is a good receptacle for the dust. It should be placed where the sun can shine on it, as many hours as possible; for, when the hens are not exercising by scratching, the dust-bath, they will spend a good deal of time in the dust-bath, which induces exercise. The hens will not use the bath freely unless the air is warm, for they dislike to open their feathers and expose their bodies to air below 60 degrees.

One end of the box may be put on the window-sill, and the other supported on legs, with a canopy of denim or duck, open on one side and toward the window. This will confine the dust, and make the temperature in the box many degrees higher than in the atmosphere of the house. The canopy should slant down from the upper part of the window, of course, and be closed up on all sides but one, so that there will be no draft to carry off the heated air.

Such a dust-bath can be easily and cheaply made and will add much to the health and happiness of the hen. The hen that is comfortable is the one that makes money for her owner.