

to have a nest that is absolutely reliable, in that it never misses, but the nearer the nest approaches this the better.

Of the four satisfactory nests only one is described in this bulletin, as it is the final choice of the four. It is an adaptation of several nests that have been experimented with, and is of a convenient size, simple in construction, easy to handle, and the surest in trapping of any style that has been used on the Farm. In addition to this it takes only a few minutes to make and all the material that is required to construct the trap part is a piece of board eight inches square, two nails, three inches of black wire, and three small wire staples.

WHAT IS A TRAP NEST?—A trap nest is a nest upon which the door is so arranged that when it is set the hen can enter the nest but the act of entering springs the trap or door so that it falls and thereby confines the hen into the nest where she has to remain until she is released. When the hen is let out the trap is again set and is ready for another hen.

WHO SHOULD USE TRAP NESTS.—It is doubtful if the ordinary farmer who is not doing special breeding should consider the instalment of trap nests. Trap nests require considerable attention, not only in the three or four visits required each day, but if a proper account is to be kept it also means marking the eggs when they are put into the incubator, enclosing them in pedigree trays before hatching in such a way that the chicks can be identified when they come out, and also the keeping of a continual record of the chicks throughout their lives and from one generation to another.

This is too much for the ordinary farmer or poultryman to look after, but for the specialist breeder and the man who breeds for egg production and who has the time and the inclination to carry out his record work, the trap nest is absolutely essential and is the only true indication of what individual hens produce.



FIG. 2. Section of trap nest placed under drop boards. Four nests as they appear when occupied, two with the door or trap set and a hen entering one.

Farmers can breed up the laying qualities of their flocks by using the trap nests from November first to say March first or until they become too busy in the Spring, and take the birds that lay well during this time and mate them with a good vigorous male of a laying strain, and from these only take eggs for breeding, or, if this is not practicable, buy each year a