

Fattening and Preparing Market Chickens

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are hard to pluck. Strip the neck first, then the sides, breast and tail, then wings and thighs. Keep the hands full of feathers while plucking. By having the wings locked on the back the two can be plucked at one time. Some dealers prefer to have the wings and hocks picked clean, while others again want the small feathers left on tips of wings, and around hocks. The feathers are always left on the head and upper part of neck. When thru plucking take carcass by the legs and give a short, sharp jerk to get the clotted blood out of the throat. Then wash the head, legs and feet.

Packing for Market

After this the carcass can be placed on a shaping board or trough and allowed to cool and shape properly. Of late this shaping process has been done away with and the carcass is suspended from a cord or hook. It is claimed this permits of more rapid cooling than being cramped up on the shaping board. The tips of the wings should be slipped over the main wing before cooling. After the carcass has been properly cooled (all the animal heat removed) the head should be wrapped in butter-paper to prevent blood from soiling other carcasses. Then pack in paper lined boxes of sufficient size to hold a dozen carcasses. A good size box is 21 in. by 19 in. by 4 in. They may be packed in breast down or breast up, or packed in sideways. The last method of packing is probably the best appearing case when opened. When dressed poultry is shipped in large quantities barrels may be used for packing purposes.

A few points to bear in mind are to starve thoroughly before killing, so



Dressed Turkey showing effects of improper cooling. Note dark spots and outer skin peeling off.

as to have no food in crop. Do not tear or bruise carcass. Bruises occur by rubbing hands on the skin of a warm carcass. Be sure to have the animal heat all out of the carcass. If it is not, the carcass will turn blue, the outer skin will also peel off. Always have the carcass neat and attractive.

So much depends upon putting the product up in attractive shape. I have often seen our own poultry put up in the proper way along side of stuff just as good in quality, but improperly killed and dressed, having dirty and soiled heads and feet, selling at ten cents a pound more than this apparently inferior product. Bear in mind the work of getting a higher price for properly fattened poultry is not finished when the fattening period is ended. A well fleshed chicken, no matter how good in quality, if it is not put up right will not sell at the highest price. I hope to see the day when our farmers will not be satisfied with anything short of the best, but before we can get this the work of fattening chickens must become a common practice on all the farms. This is, we consider, the first step towards a better dressed poultry product.

SEED GRAIN WANTED!

Any farmer who has seed grain, wheat, oats, barley, flax, timothy or any other kind of good seed grain for sale, should send a post card at once for a copy of our pamphlet: "How Farmers can Make Money." It will assist them to dispose of their seed grain at a good price, more quickly than in any other way.

Write Today.

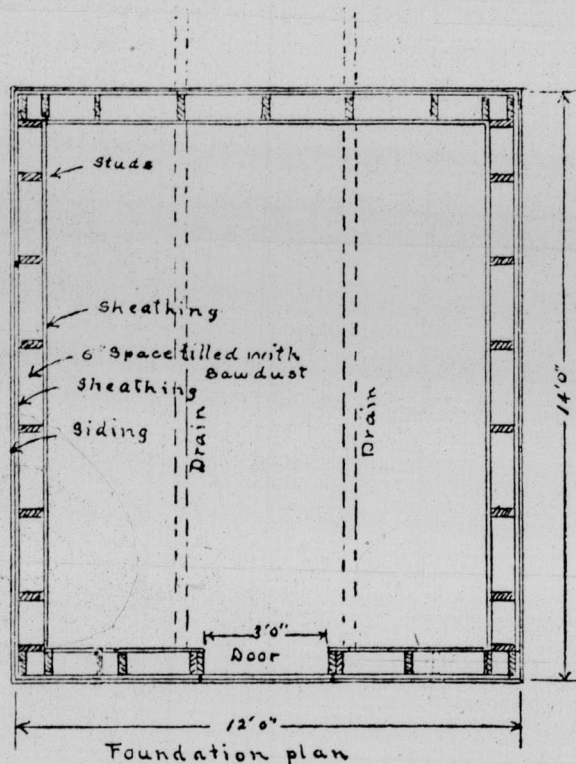
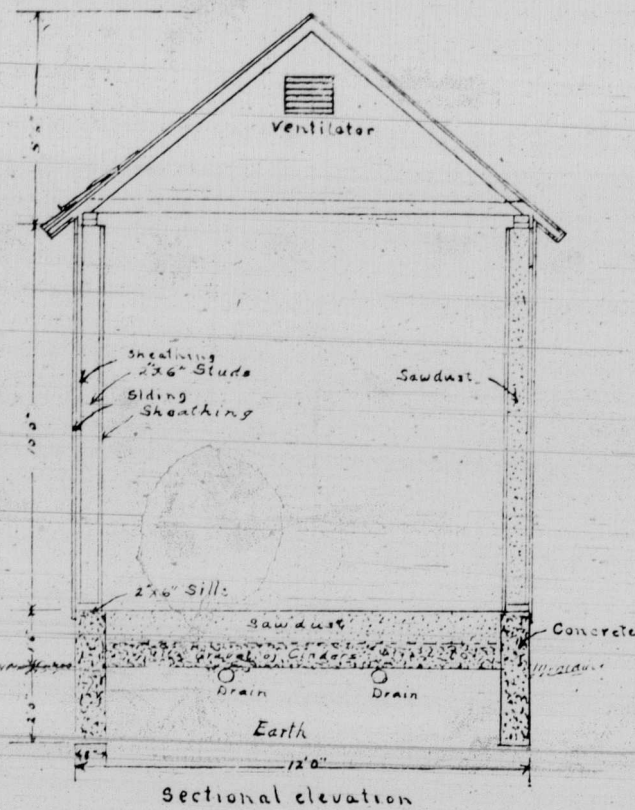
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The Ice House

Referring to a short article on the ice supply, which appeared in The Guide last Dec. and in response to enquiries relative to the construction of an ice house, if one prefers to build a more lasting house than wood, concrete can be used, built either on the level or in the side of a bank. It can be built with hollow walls of reinforced concrete, or built solid and lined with studding and lumber. Either plan will give good satisfaction, if sawdust is used to pack around and on top of the ice, or if the sawdust cannot be procured, then pack

one wants a larger or smaller house than the one illustrated, it can be made smaller or larger to suit one's circumstances.

The foundation is built of concrete about two feet in the ground, and eighteen inches above the ground, and eight inches wide. The sills of 2 in. x 6 in. plank are made fast to the foundation by half-inch bolts, placed six inches in the concrete, about three feet apart, and projecting two and a half inches above the wall. The studding is 2 in. x 6 in., covered on both sides with a good grade of lumber, the roof being shingled with



with prairie or marsh grass or chaff instead.

The accompanying sketch is of a house, built a number of years ago, and which has given good satisfaction. It will hold about seventeen tons, as a ton of ice, with allowance for the spaces between the cakes, occupies about forty-eight cubic feet, a cubic foot of solid ice weighing fifty-eight pounds, and will be enough for the average family during the six months of the year. It is always best to build a little larger than the actual needs, so as to make provision for the loss by melting, and one need not fill to full capacity, although a large body of ice will keep better than a small one. If

a number two grade of shingles. The following amounts of material will be required: 8 barrels of cement, 4 cubic yards of gravel or crushed stone, and 2 cubic yards of sand, for the foundation: two pieces 2 in. x 6 in. x 12 ft.; two pieces 2 in. x 4 in. x 14 ft.; four pieces 2 in. x 4 in. x 12 ft. for plates; 16 pieces 2 in. x 4 in. x 10 ft. for rafters; 250 feet roof sheathing, 950 feet rough siding; 500 feet dressed shiplap for siding; 2,500 shingles; two pieces 1 in. x 10 in. x 16 ft.; four pieces 1 in. x 10 in. x 9 ft.; four pieces 1 in. x 4 in. x 9 ft.; two pieces 1 in. x 4 in. x 16 ft., dressed for cornice; two pieces 2 in. x 6 in. x 16 ft. for ridge boards, and 60 lineal feet of 2 1/2 inch molding.

EXTENSION WORK IN MANITOBA

During the past few years a great deal of attention has been paid to agricultural extension work. In all of the Western provinces the departments of agriculture have in various ways sought to be of more actual, practical service to the farmer. This work has been aided to a large extent by the grant recently made by the Dominion government under the Agricultural Instruction Act. The appropriations voted under this act have made possible the organization in Manitoba of boys and girls' clubs and alfalfa demonstration fields and have widened the scope of the work to allow of several demonstration farms throughout the province being located and put into operation. These farms have been carefully chosen by Prof. S. A. Bedford, deputy minister of agriculture, with the idea of broadening their experimental value, and they cover all the different types of soil in the province. For instance, the demonstration farm at Elkhorn is on extremely hilly ground, and will require an entirely different rotation of crops to level prairie; a portion of the farm at Killarney will be used to demonstrate the growing of fruit; others will deal with special methods of eradicating weeds. The growing of clover and special fodder plants will be taken up. Alfalfa for seed purposes is an important feature, and the policy of putting bees on each farm is already producing excellent results. Robt. Muckle of the Agricultural College has been at work for some months as inspector of apiaries for the province, and there is no question that the interest in bee-keeping has received marked impetus.

District Representatives

In addition to the full program now in actual operation, the department will introduce the system of field or district representatives next spring. These representatives will be located in different parts of the province with the single object of improving conditions in their districts. They will be specialists in agriculture. These men will be at the call of the farmers of any district in the province who may require technical assistance in organizing farm work and putting into practice the most approved methods of cultivation and farm management. In addition to the work already carried on by the dairy department of the college, under Prof. Mitchell, these district representatives will assist the farmers in the marketing of their products to best advantage.

Will Help Fight Weeds

Among their important duties also will be the administration of the Noxious Weeds Act under the Manitoba department of agriculture, besides keeping in close touch with the demonstration farm work. They will address meetings and conduct demonstration work on these farms from time to time.

In connection with weeds the special work of these district representatives could not have been undertaken before the establishment of the demonstration farms owing to the fact that the farms form the very foundation of such a campaign. Now that fourteen of these have been established, with more to follow, this work will proceed vigorously next spring, and very definite progress is looked for.

The usefulness and importance of demonstration farms are very apparent. They can be used in the future for the breeding of poultry to the end that the quality of the poultry in each district may improve, and there are many other lines that may be followed consistently on these farms. The department this year will expend between \$4,000 and \$6,000 directly in giving lectures and assistance in methods calculated to encourage the livestock industry. Plowing matches have also been greatly encouraged and aided throughout the province, as well as good farming competitions. The better cultivation of the soil, seed-grain fairs to encourage the sowing of better seed, etc.—in all of these the department has been active and in all of these the district representatives will assist materially.

BONUS FOR SEED GROWERS

The war has cut off a large proportion of Canada's supply of field root and garden seeds, which hitherto have come from France and Germany, and in order to stimulate protection in Canada of clean seeds, the department of agriculture has decided to grant an unusual subvention to be paid per pound of re-cleaned