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ber 15, 1916

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GRASSES

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HEAT, PEPE OF

# Some Poultry Experiences

On this page we are publishing two letters received in reply to our Poultry Experience Competition. We received a large number of very good letters describing various aspects of the poultry business. The winners of the first and second prizes of \$10 and \$5\$, respectively, were Nels Linden, Wetaskiwin, Alta., Mrs. Alfred Vilson, Lumsden, Sask.

Their letters will be a light later. Other letters, such as those on this page, will be paid for at our main rates.

VARIOUS POULTRY HOUSES

VARIOUS POULTRY HOUSES

It is a mistake to suppose that any particular type of poultry house is the one and only proper type for profitable production. Poultry are kept profitable in such a variety of structures, from straw sheds to nicely painted hen palaces, that no hard and fast rules need be laid down in this particular. It is however, very necessary that certain conditions be adhered to, and these conditions are chiefly of a sanitary nature. Houses must be clean, light, and well ventilated, but positively not draughty. Comply with these requirements, then build according to your means. One of the buildings we used one winter, was a shed of poles, such as is often built to shelter the stock wintering out, covered with a straw pile. We threw the straw away from the south side and put in glass windows all along the side and then built a frame of poles on the sides and packed straw in to keep out the wind and snow. It did nicely for the stock to be kept over for next season's breeding and had we put in a curtain in front of the roosts, this could have been used for laying pullets for winter. The birds were healthy, and we had no frozen combs, as the air, tho cold, was quite dry. Such a building would not do for summer as the roof is not rain proof, and I would not advise the use of such a building for permanent purposes, but mention it merely to illustrate what can be done in an emergency. I handler of our buildings was of sod. This was the shed roof type and was built for warmth, with walls five feet thick, and fittle or no provision for ventilation.

We were going to have winder eggs. We had five large glass windows in

We were going to have winter eggs. We had five large glass windows in the fifty feet of south wall. The building was sixteen feet wide and we had burlap curtains hanging in front of the roosts at night to keep the birds warm. Well, the house was good and warm, but frost would gather on the roof poles on the roof poles at night and thaw when the sun was bright, and run down the poles

the back above the roosts. We got eggs, but the birds didn't look good, got pale and started sneezing, and to make a long story short, we soon had a beautiful epidemie of roup. That saved us the trouble of feeding over 200 birds. This illustrates the other extreme. In the case of the sod house we remedied the grievance before me got the roup stamped out. We tore out the sod walls between the windows and down to two feet above the floor and to keep the birds in, substituted poultry neeting. For the winter we tacked burlap over the netting and found that the house was perfectly satisfactory, being in a well sheltered place with poplar bluff out west, north and east sides and plenty of straw covering the snow in front of the building. There were very few days when the sun was shining that the birds were not outside, as the door was left open.

Another of our houses was built of lumber, shed roof type four feet, six inches at back, eight feet at front, fourteen feet deep, front alternate glass and cotton, each window and each cotton frame four feet square and hinged at the top, so as to open up and fasten to the ceiling on fine days and in the summer, two feet from the floor to the bottom of the windows and cotton frames. The drop hoards

were two feet six inches from the floor, three feet wide with two roosts ten inches above the drop boards and with cotton covered frames to hang in front of roosts on cold nights. This house was right in the open, absolutely no protection from the north or west. Frost gathered on walls and ceiling or roof. We overcame this in the following way:—Four feet from the building on east, north and west we built a rail fence two feet higher than the building at each point, and every fall after threshing, we hauled a few loads of straw and packed it between the building and fence and right over the roof, so the house looked like a straw shed, which is practically what it was. In spring, generally at the end of March, we hauled the straw away, and we had a neat little lumber chicken house for the summer. This was the best house I ever used or saw on the prairie for practical purposes. It was absolutely dry, light and well ventilated, with never a particle of frost on walls or roof.

Inside Appliances

Our inside appliances were of the simplest. During the winter we used no water, but kept a block of snow for the birds to pick at. After they get used to it, and it takes just a few days, they do better than with a drink in the morning and a pan of ice the rest of the day. A grit and shell hopper hung on the wall, with trough for wet mash, nest boxes under the drop board, one nest for five hens when laying, one only for the pen when not, and plenty of straw for litter. By plenty we mean at least twelve inches deep, so that birds cannot find all the grain in ten minutes and put in the rest of the day on the roost or in

on the roost or in a corner. We used these two build-ings for a number of years nd they every way. The lumber one of course required less repairing, as a sod roof, altho it can be made waterproof, re-quires, constant

quires constant attention, as every old settler knows. Most of them can entertain you with experiences more or less amusing, with roofs of this useful, but at times aggravating material.

### FATTENING POULTRY FOR MARKET

However well adapted a fowl may be by nature for table purposes, it is always capable of being still further improved by a judicious course of fattening.

In the first place it may be observed that some of the laying varieties are altogether useless for fattening purposes, and that it would be merely wasting time and money to devote any attention in this way to them.

Not only are there many amateurs who interest themselves in preparing birds for the table, but there are many professional establishments in England and the United States where the business is carried out on a large scale. Near my old home in England, there is a little country village, Heathfield, Sussex, where twenty tons per week on an average, of dead poultry is sent to the London markets, and from the first of April to the middle of June, they average thirty-six tons. The chickens used are from eight to twelve weeks old when crated for

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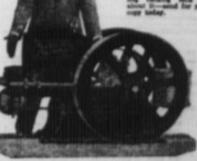
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