

The writer, without going into more detailed figures, would advise any one keeping poultry to make a compost heap in the yard (if possible with a cement bottom), boarded on the north side, with a high roof; and where possible, make a wire around the other three sides to keep the hens from scratching in the same.

In making a compost heap, we would advise one to lay alternate layers of sandy loam and hen-manure in the following way: On top of the cement floor place a layer of sandy loam about 4 or 5 inches deep. Then lay about 1 inch of poultry-manure on top of that. From now on, build up your layers with thickness of loam about twice that of the manure. When one uses this compost heap for fertilizer, the elements of the hen-manure are well preserved by the soil, which has absorbed any gas which might be given off.

To show the real value in pounds of poultry-manure, we quote these figures as given after experiments conducted by Woods and Bartlett:—

"An absorbent of sawdust was used to take up any escaping gases, and these figures are the result: A mixture of 30 lb. of hen-manure, 10 lb. of sawdust, 10 lb. of acid phosphate, and 8 lb. of kailit would carry about 0.25 per cent. nitrogen, 4.5 per cent. phosphoric acid, and 0.2 per cent. potash, which, when used at the rate of 2 tons per acre, would furnish 50 lb. of nitrogen, 185 lb. of phosphoric acid, and 80 lb. of potash."

Such a mixture as is quoted by these experimenters shows the farmer that hen-manure in itself is one-sided, so that by mixing some other fertilizers which have a good amount of phosphoric acid and potash in combination, in conjunction with an absorbent, a better result will be given. It is well known that phosphoric acid and kailit will prevent bacterial action in a manure, which would lose the nitrogen-content if they were not present. Thus, by using these elements in conjunction with the loam which is suggested for use in the compost heap, one can easily mix the phosphoric acid and kailit elements in the proportions quoted above, with no disastrous results.

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