

In a separate apartment in a stable, or under a shed, make as many nooses of strong cord as you have pickers, and sling each bird by the feet as high as will be convenient for handling. With a sharp-pointed penknife stick the turkey as close to the head as possible, and let him flutter. Or, you may stick them in the mouth by making a gash across the roof near the top of the neck bone. As soon as the bird is dead, work lively at the feathers with both hands, and pick clean, pin feathers and all; cut off the neck as near the head as possible; cut off the wings and draw the crop and entrails. The bird should be taken out of the slip-noose ready for a ket. As fast as the birds are dressed, they should be put upon a clean board or table to cool. If the weather is very severe the picking of the pin feathers and the drawing may be done in warmer quarters. Great care should be taken not to break the skin, and not to leave a feather. When the turkeys are thoroughly cooled and ready for packing, place a layer of clean rye straw upon the bottom of the wagon and pack them in rows upon their breasts. Clean the necks as thoroughly as possible, draw the skin over the end and tie firmly. Strict attention should be paid to cleanliness in every part of the process, to keep up your reputation for sending only finished products from your farm to market. It will make a great difference in the long run with your bank account.

#### ROOSTS FOR TURKEYS.

Nothing is more common than to make the turkeys roost upon apple or shade trees near the house or barn, or even upon the shed and barn roofs, or other farm buildings. But this is a slovenly practice, and open to several objections. The roosting of the young birds upon small limbs is liable to injure the breast bones of the chicks while they are in the gristle stage of growth, and in zero nights the feet of adult birds are much more liable to get frozen upon a small limb than upon a stout pole, broad enough to balance the bird without clasping. The toes are more completely covered with feathers and protected from the frost. The roosting of birds upon the roofs of buildings is a filthy practice that no thrifty farmer should tolerate. The manure is necessarily wasted. A properly constructed and located roost guards against these evils, and makes an important addition to the manure heap. The wild turkey, of course, lodges in trees during the winter, but they have the choice of location, and seek the shelter of thick woods, which modifies the temperature.

One of our best poultrymen, who raises some two hundred turkeys yearly, has located his roost at the south end of his horse barn, where there is partial shelter from the north-east and north-west winds in winter. Forked posts form the support of the scaffolding—two front posts about eighteen

feet high, and two rear posts about fourteen feet high. The front and rear post at each end of the scaffold are connected by a stout heavy pole four or five inches in diameter, kept in place by the forks at the top of the posts. Upon these side poles, which slope like the roof of a shed, smaller poles three or four inches in diameter are spiked at each end, forming the roost for the turkey. These roosting poles are about two feet apart, of red cedar, and are very durable, with a strong odor, which is said to be a safeguard against insects. The white cedar of the swamps, or the arbor vitae, or any of the resinous woods would answer the same purpose. A board is put up at the lower scaffold and the young turkeys mount the roost by this board, until they are old enough to fly. The advantages of such a roost are the following: There is a fixed place for the birds where the person who has the care of them can look for them at morning and evening, and learn by counting if any are missing, by straying or by theft. By putting a few loads of peat, muck or headlands, under the roost and adding to it occasionally, an excellent compost can be made. The food of turkeys is grain, and in summer very largely insects, and the droppings are rich in nitrogen. Any thrifty farmer will understand the value of this item. The scaffold being fourteen feet high is protected from the foxes at night and the turkeys are much less liable to be stolen by thieves. Turkeys that roost upon fences by the wayside, or upon apple trees, are very tempting to low bred people with indistinct notions of the eighth commandment. On the roost, turkeys can only be approached by a ladder. In the zero nights of winter, if the roost has the shelter of a building, or of a belt of evergreen trees, the turkeys are saved from frost bitten feet.

#### THE SECRET OF RAISING TURKEYS.

One of our more successful breeders remarks upon this point: "One great secret of raising turkeys is to take care, and take care all summer; and even then you cannot always raise them, for sometimes they will not lay, or they will not hatch, or something will befall them. Sometimes we raise turkeys without much care, when the season is specially favorable, but generally the measure of care is the measure of success. A boy ten or twelve years old, with a little direction from his father, can easily take care of one or two hundred young turkeys, and he cannot earn so much money on the farm in any other way. It is an old maxim that if a thing is worth doing it is worth doing well. Some may think this constant care is too much trouble to raise turkeys. This is a free country, and you can omit any part (or the whole) of these suggestions. If you know a better course, by all means pursue it. This pains-taking has made turkey raising about as sure as any other branch of