

Sunflowers or corn can be grown, and even potatoes or cabbages, on range at the same time as the chickens. Sunflowers or corn make splendid shade, and are a great protection against hawks, owls, blue-jays, etc. The constant cultivation needed by crops of this kind afford the chickens every facility to secure the abundance of worms and insects turned up by the cultivator. An orchard is also an ideal location, especially if clover or alfalfa is available.



A good type of colony house. Measurements, 6 feet long, 8 feet deep, 6 feet 6 inches in front, 4 feet 6 inches rear. Colony houses can be hauled to any part of the ranch, thus giving young or old stock opportunity to range on clean soil. Can be used as cockerel, pullet, or breeding houses after chickens are matured. The top shutter or board window makes a splendid hood or rain-shield and can be changed to a muslin-curtain screen if desired.

The mortality amongst brooder-chicks can be greatly reduced if the chicks are given all the range possible. The soil needs to be ploughed occasionally, before doing which, slaked lime should be sprinkled thereon.

Where vermin abound it is advisable to shut chickens up at nights, and set traps to catch the marauders. For skunks, minks, and weasels, a portion of chicken carcass, sprinkled with strychnine crystals, is recommended. This should be placed near coop at night, and remains carefully removed before letting out the chicks. Dogs and cats should be kept shut up when this remedy is used.

For hawks, owls, and crows, an ordinary mink-trap, securely fastened to the top of a pole some 20 feet high, is recommended. The trap need not be baited. A rusty trap is more effective than a bright new one.

White strings festooned across the front of houses on sticks are successful in warding off hawks. It has been stated that the presence of guinea-fowl will scare hawks from the poultry-yards. In the writer's experience this has proved a complete failure. Hawks were seen to repeatedly seize chicks within a few feet of a flock of guinea-fowl.

Fireless brooders have not given universal satisfaction. One poultry-breeder in California used the fireless brooders with excellent success for two years, though the chicks were hatched later in the season than usual. It was tried again last year, early in the season, and was a total failure. The great difficulty is to keep the