

in a house. This house will accommodate fifty chickens of about four or five pounds weight, or until large enough to be fattened or put into laying quarters. Usually some birds are sold as broilers, hence there is not much over-crowding.

(2) The chickens can be reared on a portion of the farm, where a full crop as well as a crop of chickens can be grown. This usually means new land each season for the chickens, which in turn means stronger and better birds reared with less grain. It also may mean the destruction of many injurious insects. We use the corn fields, pasture fields, and orchards, or any similar condition under which a crop of chickens, and an additional crop can be obtained from the land during the same season. Chickens grown on the same land year after year, do not thrive as well as those grown on new ground each year.

(3) Should the chickens at any time become destructive they can be moved. We have raised chickens in tomato fields, and if they develop the habit of destroying the ripe tomatoes, all that is necessary to avoid further trouble is to shut the chickens in at night, and next day draw the house to a new field and open the door. The chickens will come home to the colony house to roost.

(4) Where there has been considerable grain shelled on the field during harvest, the chickens can be easily moved to the field, and there they will gather the grain.

(5) Any vermin that might worry the chickens at night can be easily kept out by shutting the door.

(6) During rainy or bad weather, the chickens have a place for shelter. This is very important early in the spring and late in the fall.

COST OF REARING.

We were able, during the season of 1909, to keep an exact record of the birds grown in the pasture field, and of those grown in the orchard. The chickens in the pasture field were hatched during the first two weeks in May. Three hundred and forty-five birds were grown to maturity or to a size suitable for fattening. We began to remove the cockerels from the field to the fattening pens on August the 25th. The pullets and cockerels held as breeders were all taken from the field by the 22nd of October. The breeds reared were Orpingtons, Wyandottes, Plymouth Rocks, Leghorns, etc. They consumed 4,304 lbs. of grain; of this about one-third would be dry mash, nearly 300 lbs. chick feed, and the balance wheat, corn and hulled oats in the proportion of two and a half, two and one. There was five per cent. of beef scrap added to the dry mash. The birds were weighed when taken from the field, weighing 3.341 lbs., or one pound of chicken representing 3.2 lbs. of grain. Some of the breeding cockerels weighed over seven pounds, and the Leghorn pullets did not average three pounds in weight. We removed most of the cockerels at about a three and one-half pound weight, or when they would fatten most economically.