COLORADO FARM FLOCK
POULTRY HOUSE

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By O. C. Krum and O. C. Ufford

Proper housing is essential to winter egg production. Several types of house have given satisfaction in different sections of the State. The type shown in this circular is in use in many places and is giving good results with the farm or town-lot flock. This plan, however, is not recommended for the commercial poultry plant with several hundred birds.

Construction.—Two pens are provided, each sixteen feet square. A considerable improvement can be made in farm poultry by selecting yearly a breeding pen of the best, giving them range and confining the pullets and ordinary layers by themselves during the breeding season.

The combination type of roof shown here gives protection from storm and extremes of temperature and is recommended for narrow houses. Shingles are most economical in the long run, particularly for the eastern part of the State, where they should be dipped in creosote to prevent curling, and laid over a tight roof.

The concrete floor is ratproof, sanitary and permanent. If properly constructed it is dry and warm. Eight to ten inches of straw should be maintained on any type of floor to induce exercise and protect the feet of the birds from injury. Dust from dirt floors irritates the respiratory system of the fowl and such floors eventually harbor disease. Intestinal troubles result from eating grain out of the accumulated filth.

The back wall is ceiled above the droppings board. Drafts are the most frequent cause of diphtheritic roup. If the siding does not make tight joints when laid, if it is green or if the house is exposed to high winds, two-ply roofing may be applied to the back and ends of the house on the outside. When properly stretched, cemented and nailed, this will not blow off. Rear ventilation is not needed on a sixteen-foot house with this type of roof and if used is likely to admit drafts.

Adobe construction is excellent for the walls of the house, being warm and tight. It should be plastered to keep out vermin.

Light and Ventilation.—Light induces exercise and sanitation. The upper sash of each window is intended to tilt in at the top with boards at either edge to keep drafts off the floor. The lower sash is held in place by a stop. The two sashes are hinged
together with four-inch straps so that both may be pulled out together, folded up and stored above cleats on the rafters during the summer. The sash in the east wall is made tight to avoid drafts. In locations where the west end is not exposed to the wind a sash can be used here to advantage also.

The ventilators are covered with the lightest grade of un-bleached muslin, tacked to frames which slide to the floor and are adjusted with a nail pushed into one of several holes bored into the stud below the curtain.

**Equipment.**—The appliances of the poultry house should be: First, above the floor so as not to hamper working space; second, easily got at for cleaning and disinfecting; third, removable wherever practicable; fourth, easily and quickly cared for; fifth, should provide space for all birds, to prevent crowding. They will include roosts and droppings board, nests and a coop for sick or broody hens, mash, grit and shell hoppers and a water bucket.

The roosts are made in sections seven feet, six inches long, hinged to the back wall with six-inch heavy straps, so that they may be hooked up while cleaning. The droppings board should be of seasoned tongue and groove material and should run from front to rear to facilitate scraping.

The nests are made dark to prevent egg eating, the hens coming into them from a runway at the back. Wall nests are more troublesome to install but are more easily kept free from parasites and do not darken part of the floor as do those under the droppings board. Each tier of eight nests is removable, cleaning themselves as they are pulled forward over the bottoms which do not come out with them. The double broody coops are hung from the rafters, have half-inch wire-mesh bottoms and a droppings board.

The trough type of mash hopper has been found to induce greater consumption of mash and there is less danger of spoiling than in the wall hopper. There is a grit and shell compartment in either end and a balanced board keeps the birds out of the mash. The water bucket is placed in a convenient stand.

**Capacity.**—This house is designed for 125 heavy or 150 light birds. A greater number will cause crowding on the roosts, at the hoppers, and in the nests and will decrease the activity and thereby impair the health of the birds because of limited floor space.
List of Materials

Dimension:
- Framing: 42 - 2" x 4" x 12'
- 47 - 2" x 4" x 16'
- Hoppers, nests, coops, stands: 7 - 1" x 12" x 18'
- 3 - 1" x 10" x 16'
- 2 - 1" x 8" x 16'
- 8 - 1" x 6" x 16'
- 8 - 1" x 4" x 16'
- 6 - 1" x 3" x 16' or 1" x 4'
- 6 - 1" x 2" x 16'
- 3 - 2" x 2" x 16'
- Lattice: 48 lineal feet
- Window stop: 168 lineal feet
- Casings, ties: 20 - 1" x 6" x 12'
- 2 - 1" x 12" x 12'
- 14 - 1" x 4" x 12'

Matched:
- Drop siding: 750 board feet
- Roofing and partition: 850 board feet
- Ceiling and drop board: 650 board feet

Roofing:
- 7 rolls 3-ply No. 1 roll roofing or 26 bundles shingles

Concrete:
- 32 sacks cement
- 7 yards gravel with sand (1:6 mixture)

Hardware:
- 9 sash 6 light 10" x 12"
- 4 yards unbleached muslin
- 16 lineal feet 1/2 inch hardware cloth 24 inches wide
- 85 lineal feet 1 inch hexagonal mesh 36 inches wide
- 6 pair 4" heavy strap hinges
- 7 pair 6" heavy strap hinges
- 4 pair 4" light strap hinges
- 6 three inch hooks and eyes
- 28 1/2" x 8" carriage bolts
- 2 pounds 3 d. finishing nails
- 10 pounds 12 d. common nails
- 10 pounds 10 d. common nails
- 35 pounds 3 d. shingle nails
- 100 pounds 6 d. common nails
- 2 gallons paint

WATER STAND