

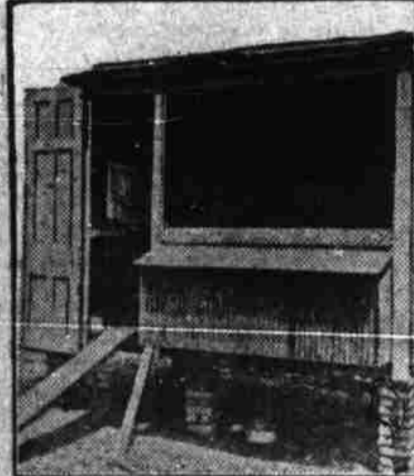


BEST HOUSES FOR CHICKENS

Several Plans and Arrangements Between Two Extremes Which May Suit Conditions.

In the manner of housing fowls there are two systems widely different in their extremes. At one extreme is the colony plan, which consists in placing small houses for small flocks far enough apart to obviate the necessity of fences, thus giving free range with but little mingling of the different flocks. At the other extreme we have the continuous house. This kind of house consists of a series of separate pens, under one roof, opening directly into a hallway in the rear, or having doors between the pens without the hallway, or opening into a hallway and also into one another. There are several plans and arrangements between these two extremes which may be built to suit varying conditions.

The advantages of the colony plan, according to poultry specialists in the



Colony Houses Allow Flocks Free Range.

United States department of agriculture, are, first, small flocks on free range; second, no expense for fencing; third, there is less need for scrupulous attention to cleanliness and providing regular supplies of animal and vegetable feed during summer months. This plan, however, has the following disadvantages: First, extra cost of labor in caring for fowls in stormy weather, when it will often be difficult to get around to feed and care for the fowls regularly; second, houses built on the colony plan, if built as well, cost more than a continuous house of the same capacity, for partitions, which may be constructed largely of wire netting, are much cheaper than two end walls; third, the colony plan allows only about 100 birds to the acre, while the continuous-house system, with suitable yards, allows 400 to 600 birds to the acre.

ROOSTS FOR LITTLE CHICKS

Difficult to Keep Youngsters Clean if They Are Permitted to Remain on Floor.

It is often advisable to teach the chicks to roost when eight to twelve weeks of age. When they are allowed to remain on the floor it is difficult to keep them clean and to keep them from crowding. If wide roosts—three to four inches—are used there is but little, if any, more danger of crooked breasts than if the chicks are allowed to remain on the floor.

The chicks can generally be taught to roost by putting the perches near the floor and placing with them one or two old hens or older chicks that are in the habit of roosting. If the plan is inconvenient or does not prove effective, the chicks may be placed on the perches after dark for a few nights, until they have learned to go there of their own accord, say poultry specialists of the United States department of agriculture.

TEST OUT BROODING SYSTEM

Greatest Loss is Due to Chilling Received While Being Transferred From Incubator.

Chickens are usually left in the incubator from 24 to 36 hours after hatching, without feeding, before they are removed to the brooder, which should have been in operation for a day or two at the proper temperature for receiving the chickens, say specialists of the United States department of agriculture. A beginner should try his brooding system carefully before he uses it. After placing the chickens in the brooder they can be given food and water. Subsequent loss in chickens is frequently due to chilling received while taking them from the incubator to the brooder. They should be moved in a covered basket or receptacle in cool or cold weather.

CULL OUT ALL LOAFER HENS

Reason Why So Many Flocks Are Unprofitable is Because of Presence of Nonlayers.

Lack of proper culling thus far has proved to be, in the majority of cases, the principal reason why a poultry flock is not profitable. Forty per cent of the hens in the average farm flock today are nonproductive and should be sold or eaten. It costs about \$2 a year taking the country over, to feed such hens. If she does not produce more than that amount of eggs she is unprofitable.

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WHALE BIT OFF TOO MUCH

Attempt to Make a Meal of Pacific Cables Proved End of Sportive Creature.

The direct descendant of the whale that swallowed Jonah flapped his huge tail through the tranquil waters of the Pacific, off Mexico. He was hungry—hungry for a new sensation. All the thrills in that neck of the ocean were on land, where the Mexicans were conquering Mexico. Idly he shot a column of water through his nose into the air. What with the submarines out of the sea, life had lost all zest for a whale. The submarine idea flashed through his brain and tickled his ambergris. What a jolly lark, to be sure? He would dive below and scare the saucer and octopus into a fit. Down he went.

Now, the All-American Cable company, which took over the Mexican Telegraph company, has some valuable rubber-wound copper wires lying on the bottom of the ocean off Mexican headlands. They met the gaze of our hero.

He seized the long thing in his mouth. It stuck. History has never recorded any whale who ever attempted to eat a Pacific cable and got away with it. Our hero was no exception. He struggled, and finally wound himself up in several thousand dollars' worth of interrupted messages. When the cable repair ships hove to and grappled for the cable to find out what had interrupted communication between Vera Cruz and Valparaiso, Chile, they dragged to the surface a very dead whale, wound up in several hundred feet of hopelessly complicated cable.

Chief Engineer James Mowat, who went ashore, and lives in New York, says this is the first whale he ever heard of that tried to eat a cable. And other members of the crew of his ship vouch for the story.

LONG A BRITISH POSSESSION

Island of Bermuda Colonized Eight Years Before the Mayflower. Sailed From England.

The island of Bermuda was discovered in 1513 by a Spaniard, Juan de Bermudez. Nearly 100 years later an English vessel with Virginia colonists was shipwrecked on the island, which had been known as the Isle of Devils because of the terrific storms on its coast, and had been shunned. Admiral Sir George Somers, leading the Virginians, died. His body was taken back to England, where the colonists told the wonders of the island. The Virginia company determined to colonize the islands, and had its charter amended to include islands within 300 leagues of Virginia. As a result, 50 colonists were sent out in 1612, eight years before the Mayflower sailed. Later the Virginians sold their rights to a Bermuda company, which so subverted the inhabitants that they formed a parliament and fought for their rights. Three branches of government were devised. Regulations were most severe, and penalties were of the most extreme nature.

Won His Honors Worthily.

First Sergeant Dan Daly, undoubtedly the best-known man in all the services, with the exception of Sergeant York of Argonne fame, has been placed on the inactive list of the Marine corps reserve. Daly won two medals of honor for valor in the Boxer rebellion and in the capture of Fort Riviere, in Haiti, and is said to be the only man in all the services who holds two medals of honor. In the world war his feats of exceptional bravery won for him the medaille militaire and the croix de guerre from France and the distinguished service cross from General Pershing. His passing from the active list to accept a position with a prominent banking house in New York removes from the marines their most picturesque of the old school soldiers.

Artificial Wool Not Much Good.

Widespread interest having been taken in a new artificial wool, an exhaustive investigation into the properties and merits of the fiber has been made by Prof. Eber Midgley, head of the department of textile industries of the Bradford Technical college, and United States Consul A. S. Ingram of Bradford, summarizes his conclusions about it as follows:

The new fiber is unsuitable for use in spinning yarn on the worsted principle. It being lacking in uniformity of diameter, strength and elasticity. When blended with pure wool the result is an uneven yarn.

Subduing the Hookworm.

Efforts of the campaign against the hookworm in Jamaica conducted by the government and an expert for the Rockefeller foundation already are felt. In Yere, one of the largest sugar centers of the colony, the laborers now work six days a week, whereas formerly they were able to work only three. On account of their improved physical condition large numbers of the workers are leaving Jamaica to work in the cane fields in Cuba.

"Dead Men's Club."

The formation of a Dead Men's club out of the 2,000 ex-service men who, while living, are officially listed as killed in action is a probability. It was learned at national headquarters of the American Legion, William Wray of Akron, O., one of the "unofficials," who was gassed and left in the field in Vicenza, has suggested the formation of such an organization.

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