

FINDING THE HENS THAT PAY

Poultry Profits Depend on Having Every Hen a Laying Hen and the Only Way to Weed Out the Non-layers is by the Use of Trap Nests

THE trap-nest fills the same place in poultry raising that the Babcock test fills in dairying. Both are intended to "show up" the "boarders." It is apparent to any rational man that it is uneconomical to pay two hired men to do the work of one man; yet many poultrymen do not seem to think it unwise to feed fifty hens, twenty-five of which do not lay. Right here is where the profits of the average farm flock are swallowed up. Our farmers do too much charity work.

The trap nest is so arranged that it is rather troublesome, but it need not be used the year round. If the trap nest is used for a month during some season of the year when work is slack, it will help wonderfully in putting the flock on a paying basis. When the period of "weeding" is over, the doors of the trap nests may be removed and the nest used like any other.

The trap nest is so arranged that each hen is imprisoned on entering

Getting Winter Eggs


LAST winter my flock of chickens consisted of sixteen hens and two cocks, most of them White Wyandottes. During January I sold fourteen dozen eggs, used four dozen, and set fifteen eggs, making nineteen and one-fourth dozen, valued at 25 cents per dozen. In February these hens laid 20 3/4 dozen eggs, and 17 eggs were sold for \$1 for incubation, leaving 19 1/2 dozen at 25 cents, or a total for February of \$5.83.

I live on a farm, and these chickens have free range, and the run of the hog lot and stables of three horses, where they pick up part of their living.

Oats were sowed around the house, which furnished green stuff for them. At hog-killing time they had fresh scraps and blood, and after that were fed cracklings occasionally. They were fed corn or corn meal every day, in moderation. From the horse stables they got peas, oats, and grass seeds. They had plenty of pure water, fresh drawn, several times a day in freezing weather, and a good roomy house to roost in.

To get eggs hens must have plenty

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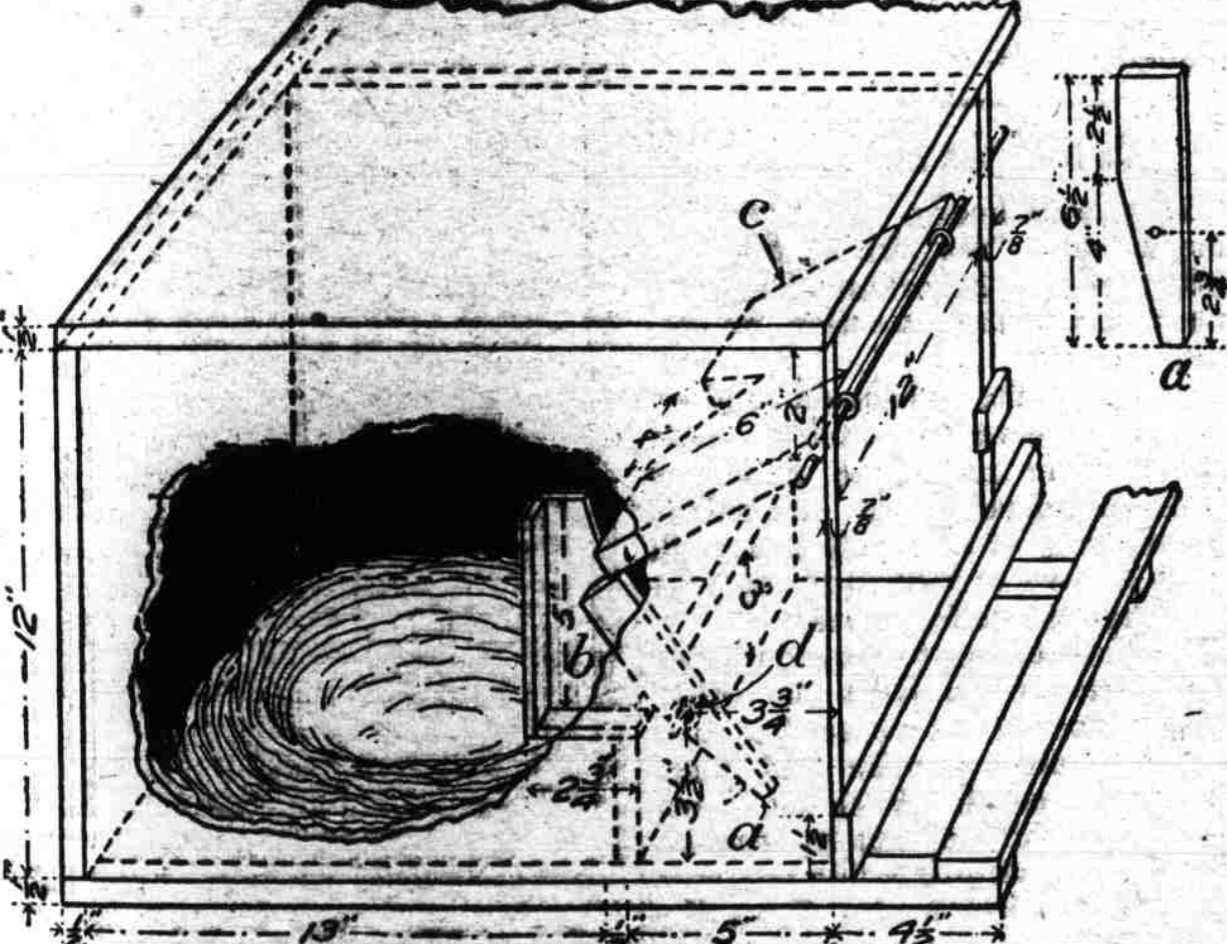
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TRAP NEST, SHOWING DETAILS OF CONSTRUCTION

the nest until someone releases her. Each hen is numbered by a metal band on her leg, her number placed in a note book, and as she is released a mark is made opposite her number. In this way you not only know how many eggs you get each day, but you know exactly which hens produced them. The cost of metal number bands will be only a few cents for an ordinary flock, and the trap nests can be made on rainy days by following the directions given below.

How to Make a Trap Nest

THE trap nest used by the United States Government is the easiest to construct, so we are giving the rules and specifications herewith:

Cut four 3/4-inch boards for ends and partitions (this is for a three section nest), 12 inches wide by 13 inches long, enough 3/4-inch boards 3 3/4 long, laid lengthwise, to cover the top, back and bottom, and one strip 3 3/4 inches long and 1 1/2 inches wide for the front of the nests. Cut three pieces of 1/2-inch board 12 inches long and 3 inches high to insert in the nest to hold the nesting material away from the door.

Nail the top, back and bottom to the ends and partitions (see cut), insert the 3-inch strips in the nests, and make the guard (b), nailing it to the left side of the nest. Bore a hole in the catch (a) large enough so that the catch will move freely when screwed into position of the side. Place a washer on the screw between the catch and the side of the nest. Place a screw at the lower edge of the catch to stop it when set so that the catch will just hold the door.

Make the door (c) of 3/4-inch material, 12 inches by 6 inches, and cut a triangular notch in the center 4 inches wide. Put two screw eyes in the top of the door and bore holes in the front of the nests 2 inches below the top (inside measurement), through which a 3-16-inch wire is run to support the doors.

Attach a narrow strip to the front of the nests. Place a button or a block of wood on the front of each partition to hold the door when the nest is closed.

This nest is simple to make and very effective in operation and it will pay you to make a few and weed out the unprofitable fowls in your flock.

to eat and a variety with meat in some form every few days. Hens on free range can be fed more corn than those penned. Wheat is better to feed than corn, but as corn is more plentiful here I feed more of it.

MRS. FRED ATKINSON.
Greensboro, Ga.

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"How is dis—dar is two niggers live down the road here a piece and they is got the same mother and the same father, and still they ain't no kin to each other, how is dat?"

"Yes, I know how it is; it's a lie."