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EC733 Shelter Sheds for Turkeys

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Shelter Sheds for Turkeys

A Good Turkey Range Shelter

The University of Nebraska Agricultural College Extension Service
and United States Department of Agriculture Cooperating
W. H. Brokaw, Director, Lincoln
[Image of a turkey shelter and corral with dimensions and a plan of the shelter and corral with annotations indicating the use of 2x4 on edge framing and 1x2 slats.]

**Plan of Shelter & Corral**

**Slat Floor Frames**

**Turkey Shelter**

**Detail of Slat Floor Frame**
Out-Door Turkey Feeder
Bungalow Type

Bill of Material
A 1-1/4 x 14'-0" Flooring
B 1-1/4 x 8'-0"
C 1-1/4 x 14'-0" Flooring
D 5-1/4 x 8'-0" Flooring
E, G, H, I 1-1/4 x 10'-0"
F 2-1/4 x 10'-0" Flooring
1-1/4 x 6'-0" Flooring
G 1-2 x 2'-0"
K 1-1/4 x 10'-0"
L 1-1/4 x 6'-0"
M G.P.T. 3" Quarter Round
16 SQ.FT. Prepared Roofing

Note: As the turkeys grow the feeder should gradually be raised off of the ground. This may be done by use of blocks or by tacking on temporary legs.
NOTE: MEMBER "B" TO BE BOLTED TO SKIDS "A". ROOF TO BE MADE OF 4" FLOORING 10' LONG

GENERAL FRAMING

REAR CORNER SHOWING REMOVABLE FRAMES WHICH MAY BE HELD IN PLACE WITH HOOKS & EYES OR BUTTONS
Shelter Sheds for Turkeys

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The modern system of brooding turkeys by artificial methods in large units has developed a need for safe roosting quarters. A brood of poult's soon outgrows the roosting quarters provided in the brooder house. When young turkeys are old enough to be moved onto alfalfa or grain stubble fields, they have outgrown the need for brooder house protection. A simple roosting shed fulfills the requirements for shelter and protection until the time they are marketed.

REQUIREMENTS FOR A SUMMER SHELTER SHED

1. Sufficient roosting space for the flock.
2. Roost with wire screen to prevent access to droppings.
3. A night corral which serves a double purpose of protection from enemies as well as preventing stampedes following a storm or other disturbance.
4. Protection from summer storms and early fall snows. Uncovered and unprotected roosts have formerly been popular. Risks of heavy losses during storms account for the desirability of roof protected shelters.

SIZE

The 8 ft. by 20 ft. shelter shed provides roosting space for the full grown brood that is usually started in the 10 ft. by 12 ft. brooder house. The 80 feet of roosting space is crowded by 100 grown turkeys, but in practice the flock is thinned down by removal of the finer specimens for next year's breeding flock and the sale of early market birds. This circular suggests one unit for practical equipment. Multiples of this unit may be used for larger flocks.

CONSTRUCTION OF THE SHELTER

In addition to the working drawings in this circular, a few suggestions on the construction may be helpful. All the bracing should be put in as shown since there is very little else to brace the frame. Knee braces are shown in front, and the roost supports serve as diagonal cross braces. Wire corn cribbing is recommended in place of two inch poultry mesh because it is heavy enough to greatly stiffen the structure. Usually there is very little difference in the cost of the two types of wire mesh. The 4" x 4" center cross piece is bolted at each end to the center of the skid, this being more secure than spiking the members together.

The framing cut shows the method of supporting the roof braces, and the splice in the center. If desirable, the roof brace may be made of one 2" x 4", 20 feet long, instead of two 12 foot pieces spliced.
The roof is made from either flooring boards or car siding, 10 ft. lengths running the short way of the roof. The details of the center roof support that runs the long way of the shelter are shown on the working drawing. Rafters are at each end of the shelter, but none in the center. The roof supports are spliced just over the center tie rod, on a block made of two 2" x 4" blocks. Thus the need for the center rafter is avoided.

The rear wall under the roosts is made up of two removable frames covered with wire cribbing. Should the location of the shelter be more or less permanent, the removal of these frames allows the droppings to be removed very easily.

CORRAL

A non-movable shelter shed has been used for five years by the Nebraska Experiment Station. The corral has a movable floor made by nailing 1" x 2" slats onto frames made of 2" x 4" stock. Openings 1 1/2" wide are left between the slats so that filth, wasted feed, or spilled water falls through the cracks. For use with the movable shelter and temporary corral, the slat frames should be made in a size convenient to handle. Ten frames 4 ft. by 10 ft. will floor a 20 by 20 foot corral, these being convenient dimensions for both corral and frames. About 520 board feet of lumber are required for the ten frames. The covered corral floors give better results than the same floors covered with poultry netting.

The illustration shows the corral used on the Agricultural College farm, which is made of wire corn cribbing stretched over a rigid 2" by 4" frame work. This makes a very satisfactory corral, as it can be moved at the same time the shelter shed is moved. Also if it is necessary to confine the turkeys, wire can be stretched over
Feeder built along fence

the top very easily. The sides of the corral should be eight to ten feet high, but need not be as elaborate as the illustration shows. A satisfactory temporary corral can be made by setting posts 20 ft. from each front corner of the shelter and running wire mesh fencing around them to make an enclosure.

The corrals are used to confine the turkeys when they are first moved to range until they have become adapted to the shelter, and while the grass is wet from rains or heavy dew. Locking the turkeys within the corral at night protects them from natural enemies, hinders stealing, and prevents stampedes during storms.

FEEDING AND WATERING EQUIPMENT

The feeding equipment needed for a flock of 100 growing turkeys consists of two bungalow feeders and two open troughs each four feet long. Since the feeders and waterers are kept inside the corral, on the slat floor, there is no danger of the birds picking up contaminated feed or dirty water. The outdoor (bungalow) feeders should be supplied with feed at all times, and there is no waste from weather as these feeders are weather-proof. Open troughs supplement the bungalow feeders. They may be used for grain, wet or dry mash, or milk.

Watering equipment for turkeys on range consists of barrels with hog waterer attachments. The barrels should be elevated high enough above the ground as is convenient for the turkeys to drink. An inverted tub over each barrel gives added cleanliness and protection.