

10-1927

EC1443 Score Card for Modern Poultry Houses

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Nebraska
COOPERATIVE EXTENSION WORK
IN AGRICULTURE AND HOME ECONOMICS

Extension
Circular
1443

Oct. 1927 U. of N. Agr. College & U. S. Dept. of Agr. Cooperating
W. H. Brokaw, Director, Lincoln

SCORE CARD FOR MODERN POULTRY HOUSES

Is your poultry house modern? _____
Will your poultry house score a passing grade of 80? _____

Division & Score of a Fully Modern Poultry House Points Score

Floor Space: (Allow 4 square feet per bird, heavy breeds, and $\frac{3}{2}$ square feet per bird, light breeds)
Deduct 3 points for each $\frac{1}{2}$ square foot less than required. 15

Weather Proof: Warmth in winter. Coolness in summer. Deduct points as follows if temperature within the house does not remain sufficiently above a zero outside temperature. When outside temperature is zero inside temperature 20°--no cuts, 15°--cut 4 points, 12°--cut 5 points. Deduct 2 points if there is more than 25 cubic feet of air space within house per bird. 7

Ventilation: Without drafts and no frost forming within the house any time when outside temperature is above zero and weather is clear. (Allow 1 square foot of opening or muslin ventilation for each 25 square feet of floor space.)
Cut 5 points when only half of space is provided and in proportion. Where commercial ventilators are used cut five points if frost forms within house when temperature is above zero and the weather is clear. 10

Windows: (Allow 1 square foot of glass or glass substitute for each ten square feet of floor space.) When there is only $\frac{1}{2}$ square foot of glass per each 10 square feet of floor space cut $\frac{1}{2}$ of score and in proportion. Deduct 4 points if windows cannot be opened to allow direct sunshine on floor of house or if glass substitute is not used in tight windows. 15

Floors: All floor space available for scratching. Deduct $\frac{1}{2}$ point for each square foot of floor space not available for scratching. When permanent floors are moisture proof and vermin proof allow the full 5 points. Deduct 3 points for dirt floors and 2 points when foundation would allow rats to burrow under. 5

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Score Card Cont'd.		Points	Score
Drop Boards:	Deduct 2 points if drop boards are not treated to make mite proof.	5	
Roosts:	(Allow 8 inches for each bird.) Deduct $\frac{1}{2}$ point for each inch less per bird. Deduct 2 points if roosts are not level. Deduct 2 points if roosts are not treated to make mite proof.	5	
Nests:	(Allow 1 to each 6 hens) If 1 nest to 7 hens deduct 1 point, etc. Deduct 2 points if chickens can roost on or in nests.	5	
Feed Hoppers:	(Allow enough hopper feeding space so that $\frac{1}{3}$ of hens can eat at one time.) For 2 four foot feed troughs per 100 hens allow full count. Deduct $\frac{1}{2}$ point for each foot less than the required 16 feet.	10	
Water Supply:	Protected against filth. Deduct 3 if waterers are not protected or if droppings get in them. Deduct 2 if water is not elevated and if litter is scratched into vessels.	5	
Alfalfa Racks:	Deduct 3 points if hay or any other green feed is fed on the floor.	3	
Equipped for artificial lighting		2	
Grain storage bin within chicken house		1	
Broody coop for holding broody hens.		3	
	Deduct 2 points if not provided for the feeding and watering of broodies.		
Catching coops		3	
Catching hook		1	
Total Score		100	

This score card for poultry houses has been prepared with the aim to help 4-H poultry club leaders, members of 4-H clubs, as well as producers to analyze the trouble they have with the unsatisfactory poultry houses. We suggest that users first score their poultry house. A study can then be made of bulletins and books which describe the methods of constructing poultry houses.