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EC1483 Emergency Brooding

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COOPERATIVE EXTENSION WORK
IN AGRICULTURE AND HOME ECONOMICS
Nebraska Agr. College & U. S. Dept. of Agr. Cooperating

EMERGENCY BROODING AGRICULTURAL REFERENCE DEPARTMENT
by
J. R. Redditt & J. H. Claybaugh CLEMSON COLLEGE LIBRARY

In response to demands for inexpensive home made brooding equipment for use by "Mr. Back Yarder" these suggestions have been prepared.

It is hoped their use will help meet needed food production goals and at the same time help provide a good source of meat for the home table.

Successful brooding, however, still requires a certain amount of regular and detailed attention and unless this can be assured the undertaking should not be attempted.

Some Hints and Suggestions for the Beginner

Take all necessary precaution against fire. See that all electric connections are properly insulated. Have some water or a hose handy.

Don't expect miracles and all profits. The outdoor unit shown in Figure 4 will cost approximately \$20.00 to build new. Day old chicks are priced at 10¢ to 15¢ each with sexed cockerels selling for less and sexed pullets for considerable more.

Feed consumption and cost may be estimated as follows:

2# broiler - 7 $\frac{1}{2}$ " feed @ 2 $\frac{1}{2}$ ¢ - 4¢ per lb. = 17 - 28¢
3# broiler - 12 $\frac{1}{2}$ " feed @ 2 $\frac{1}{2}$ ¢ - 4¢ per lb. = 30 - 48¢

To the cost of each chick add 5 or 6 cents to cover brooding, litter, and overhead.

On the basis of these figures 3# broilers can be produced at costs of from 50 to 75 cents each, provided death loss does not exceed 10%.

Provide clean litter, sanitary feeders, waterers, feed platforms. Allow one inch of feeder space per chick.

As chicks grow they require larger feeders, more space, and can use coarser feeds.

Growing chickens will relish and thrive on table and kitchen scraps, such as stale bread, lettuce leaves, potato and apple peelings, and vegetable and meat trimming.

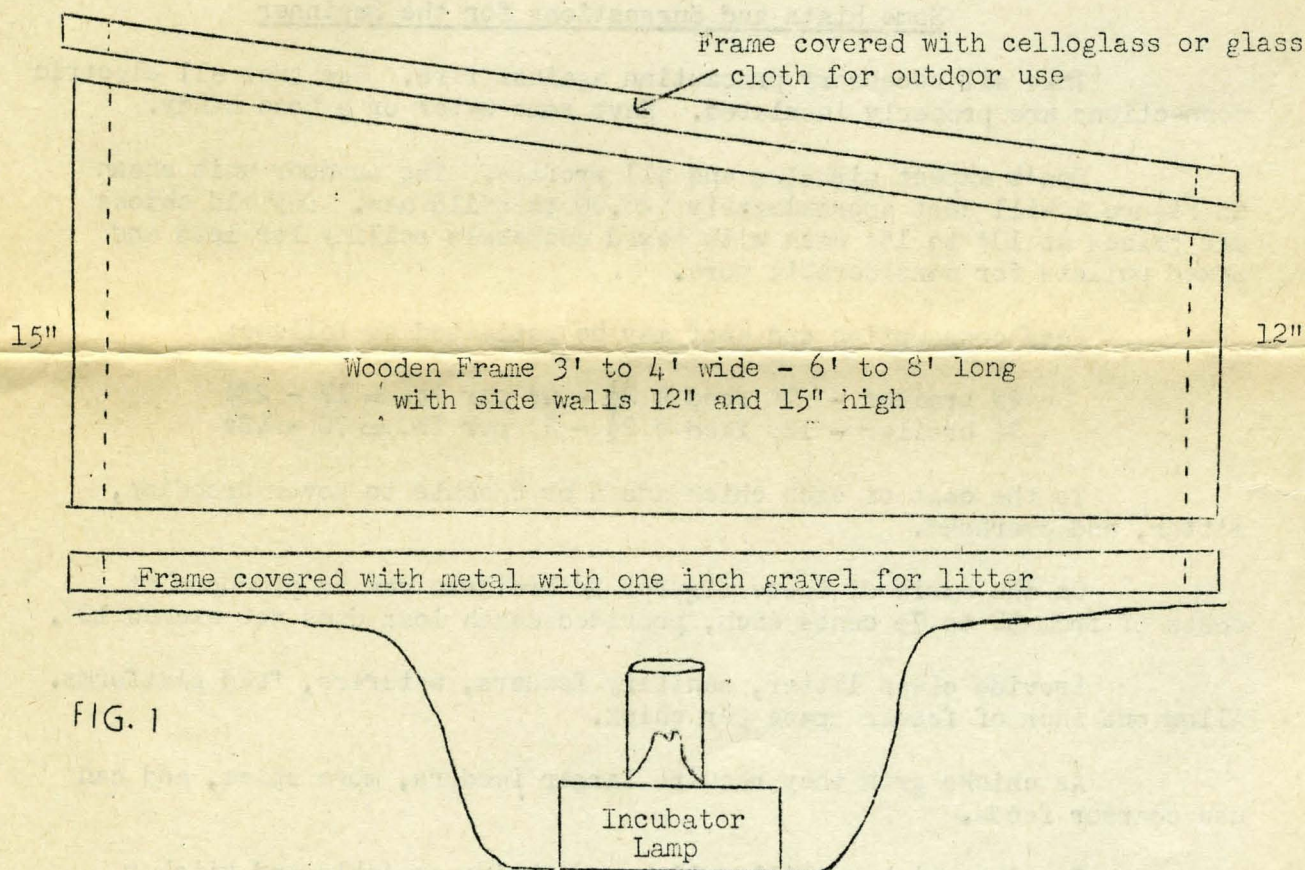
Provide a clean comfortable environment, feed complete rations, allow access to direct sunshine, provide tender green feed, and plenty of clean fresh water. Keep things clean, there is no substitution for sanitation.

For additional details secure from your County Agricultural Agent, or from the Agricultural Extension Service at Lincoln, Nebraska, Extension Circular 1400, "Nebraska Poultry Manual" and Extension Leaflet 1433 "For Healthy Chick Growth".

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BROODING CHICKS WITH OIL LAMPS (A War Time Suggestion)

The scarcity of brooding equipment, has created a demand for plans for brooding chicks without regular brooder stoves or electric hovers. Following is a suggestion for a simple home made kerosene lamp heated brooder. The frames are similar to cold frames. For outdoor use, a rain poof cover is required. When used inside a building, muslin covered frames will conserve the heat and provide sufficient light until the chicks are allowed the run of the room. Where electricity is available heat reflector electric bulb may substitute for the oil lamp. Size of bulbs depend upon season of year and area to be heated.



Incubator lamp placed beneath metal covered frame. Hole must be dug large enough for lamp, about one half bushel of dirt is all that is removed. An outside cover into hole must admit air for lamp, and keep out rain and wind. If placed on a slight mound good drainage can be assured.

A brooder 3 feet wide and 8 feet long is large enough to start 100 chicks. Capacity may be increased by placing it inside a brooder house. Its use is then similar to that of electric brooders or as the warm sleeping quarters for the chicks.

INEXPENSIVE HOME MADE ELECTRIC BROODER HEATED WITH LIGHT BULBS

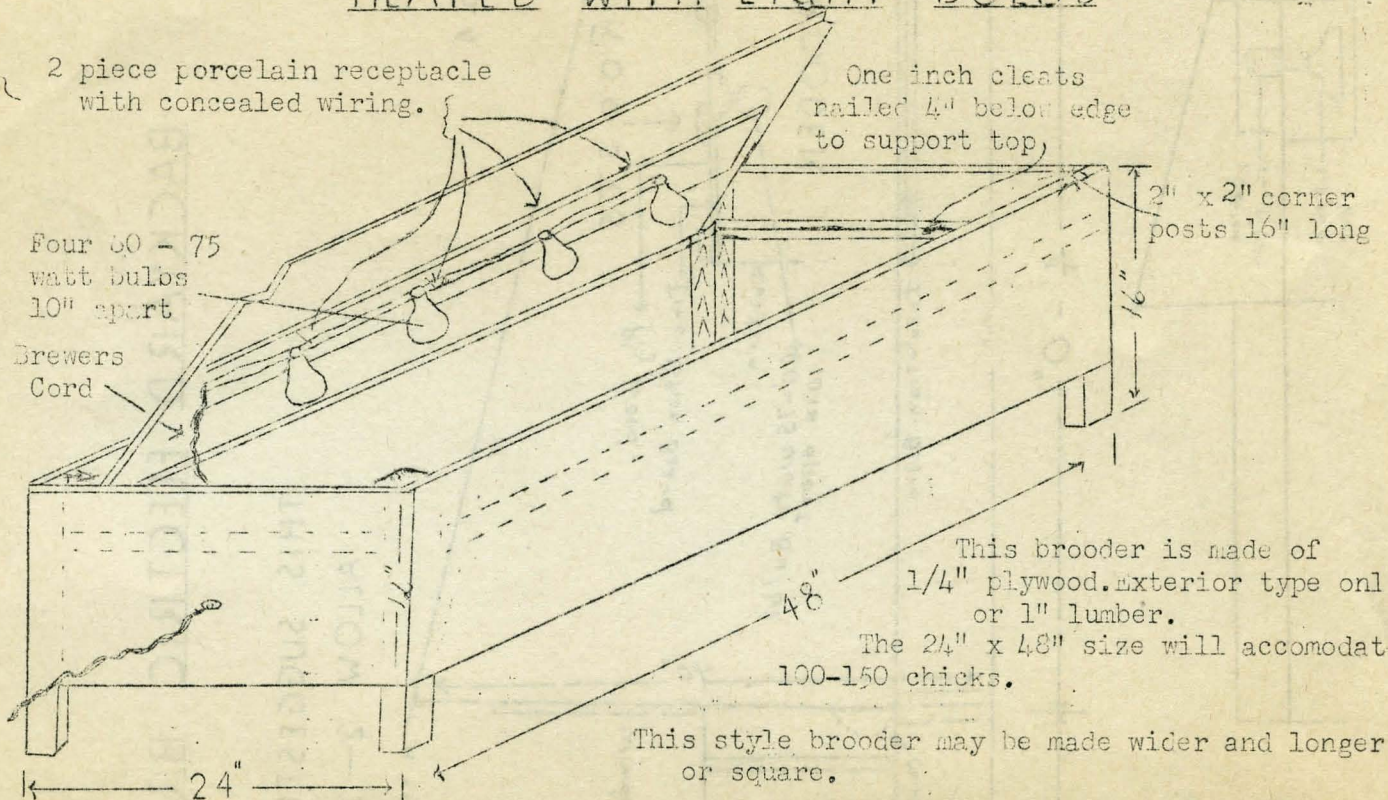


FIG. 2

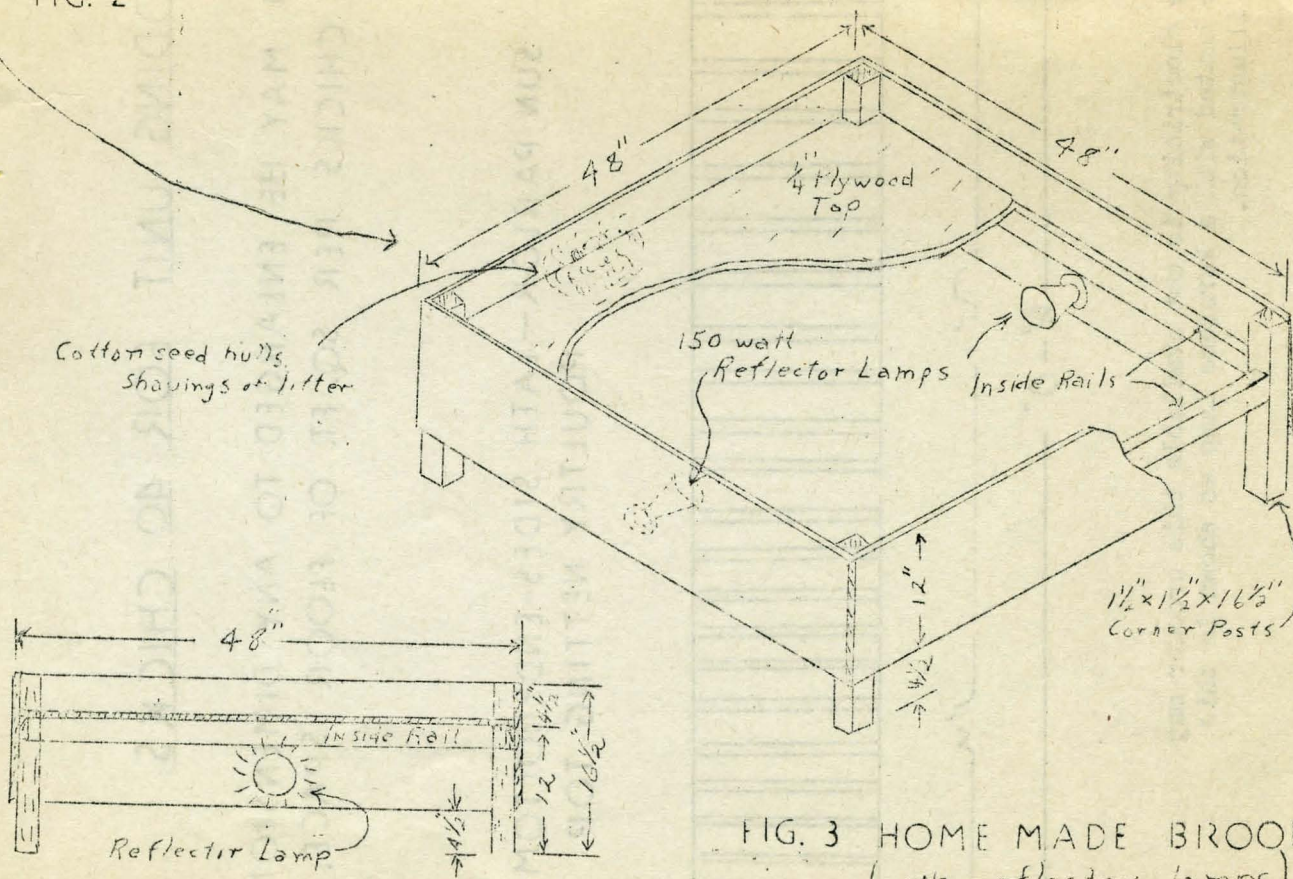
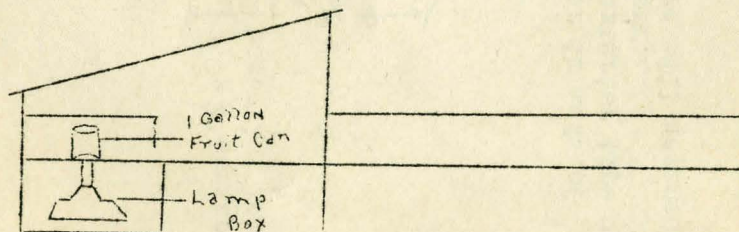
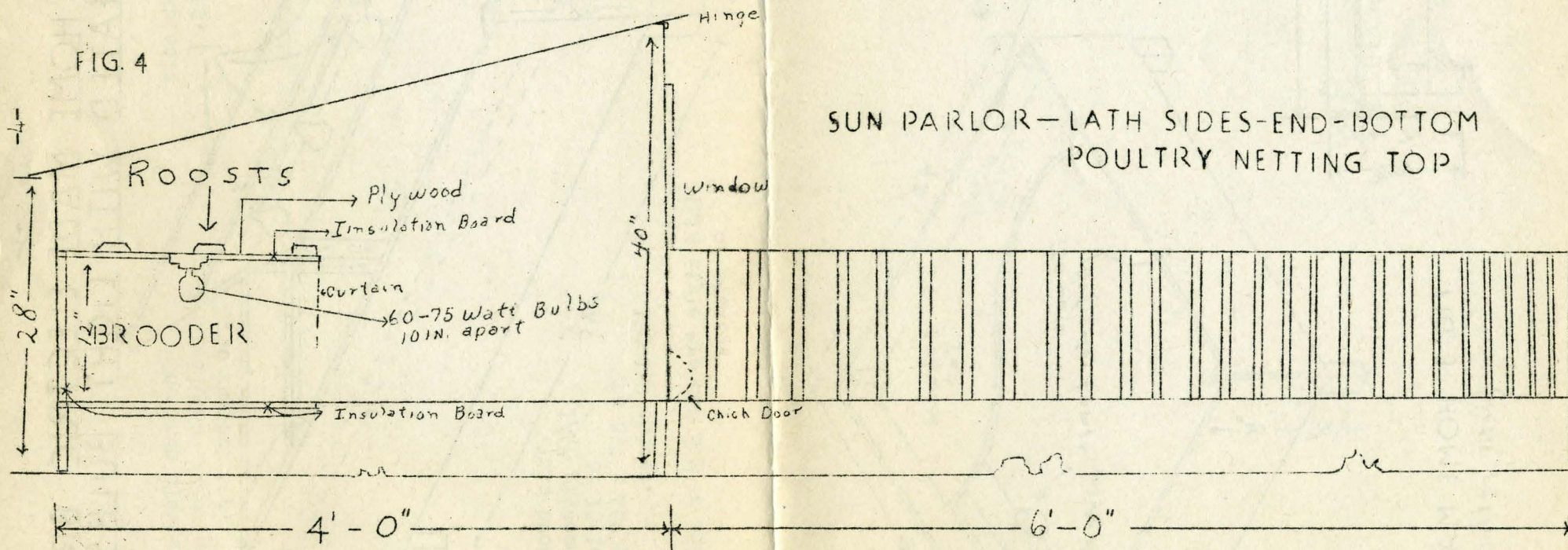


FIG. 3 HOME MADE BROODER
(with reflector lamps)

BACKYARD ELECTRIC BROODING UNIT FOR 40 CHICKS.

THIS SUGGESTION MAY BE ENLARGED TO ANY DIMENSIONS —
ALLOW 2—2½ CHICKS PER SQ. FT. OF FLOOR SPACE.



Where electricity is not available this brooder may be heated with a kerosene lamp as shown in this illustration.