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## EC1481 The Flock Owner's Part in Pullorum Eradication

J. H. Claybaugh

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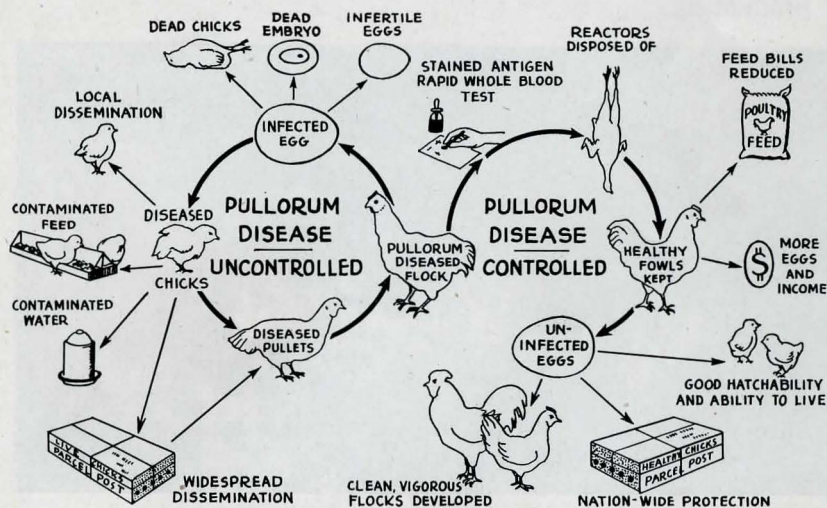
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# The Flock Owner's Part in PULLORUM ERADICATION

J. H. Claybaugh

**P**ULLORUM HAS BEEN ERADICATED from a number of Nebraska breeding flocks. Owners of these flocks have learned to avoid sources of reinfection. They have followed closely the recommendations of the National Poultry Improvement Plan. Chick losses during the first three weeks of brooding have averaged less than five per cent. No reactors have been found in the annual tests for several years. Confidence in the pullorum eradication program has developed. Without flock owner cooperation, the goals would not have been reached. This circular outlines the flock owner's part in a pullorum eradication program.



The Extension Service, College of Agriculture  
University of Nebraska, Lincoln. Ext Cir. 1481b

### To Eradicate Pullorum the Grower Should:

Purchase chicks or poults from hatcheries that operate under a well-supervised pullorum eradication program.

Use every precaution against bringing home or retaining infected stock of any age or kind.

Use brooders, feed troughs, waterers, draft shield, and tools that have been scrubbed with hot lye water and disinfected in preparation for each brood.

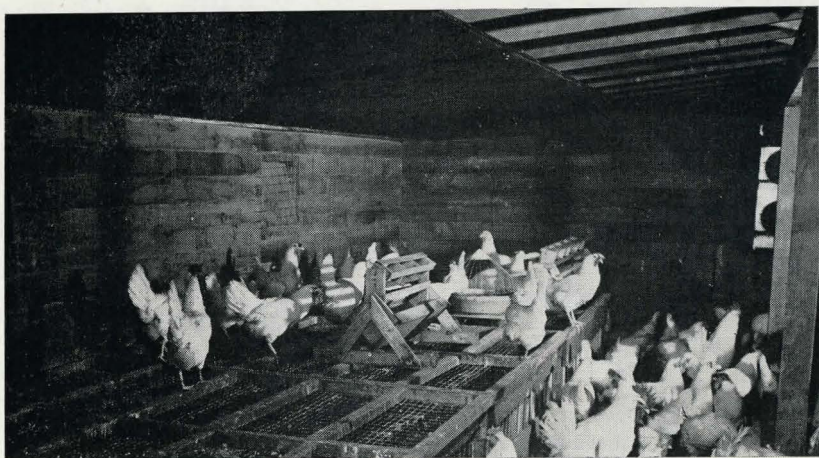
Scrub and disinfect brooder or laying houses before bringing in a new brood of chicks, poults, or pullets. Avoid housing pullets and older hens in the same room until after the pullets have laid through their first winter.

Keep chicks or poults from chilling or overheating. Poor brooding conditions increase losses, slow up growth, and decrease efficiency of feed utilization.

Prevent older poultry of any kind from running with or close to chicks or poults. Do not tolerate sparrows in poultry houses. Keep pigeons, ducks, and geese out of chicken house or yards. Where ducks, geese, or guineas are kept on the same farm, they also should be tested.

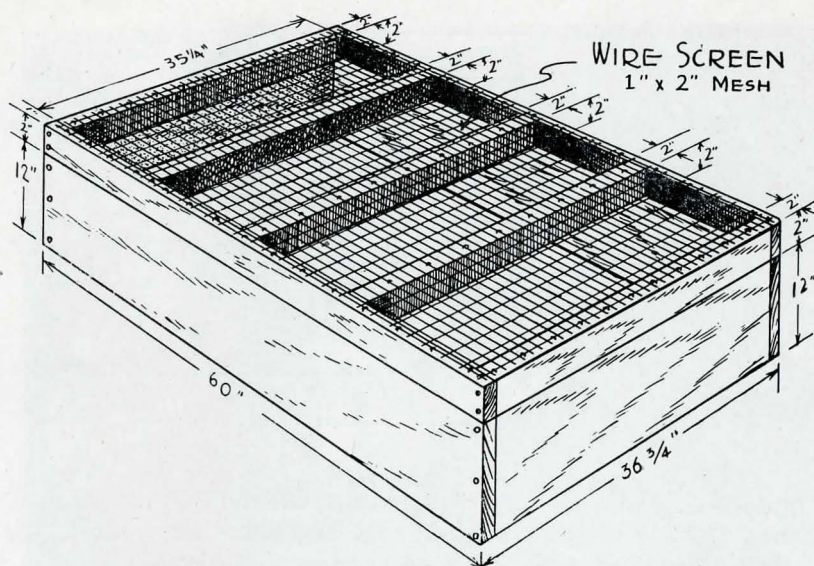
Refrain from feeding incubated eggs or egg shells of any kind. Never mix chicks or poults from different sources.

If a breeding flock is kept, cull and pullorum test during August all those hens which are to be kept over for the second year of production.

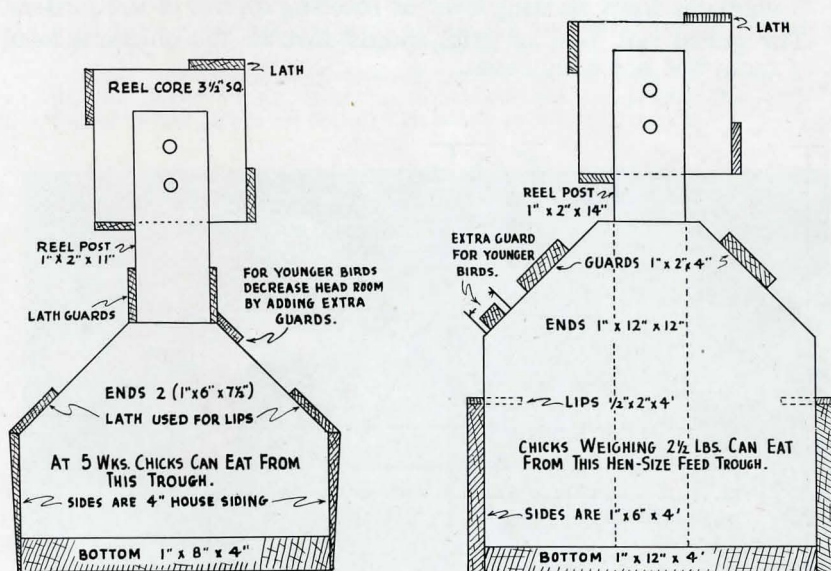


The panels for the roosting rack are each  $36\frac{3}{4}$  inches wide and five feet long. The  $2'' \times 2'' \times 35\frac{1}{4}''$  are used for the roosts. The side pieces are  $1'' \times 2'' \times 5'$ . The wire is 14-gauge electric-welded with mesh  $1'' \times 2''$ . The wire is stapled firmly to the frames. There is little clogging when this size wire is used as here illustrated. Two types of roost feed troughs and one covered water pan are shown in this picture.

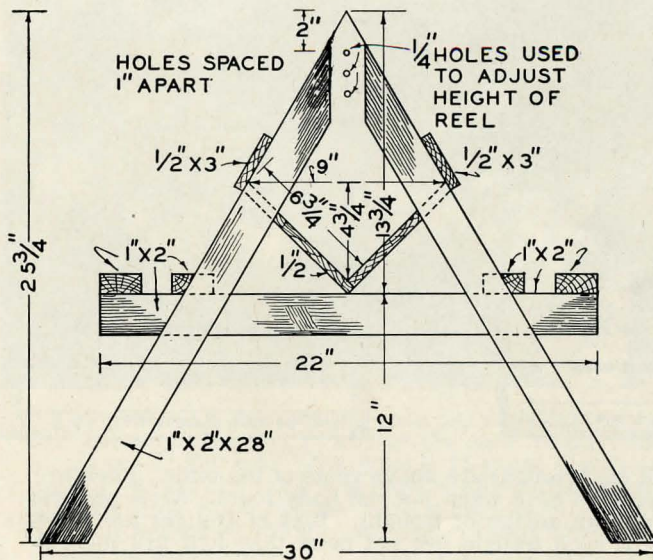
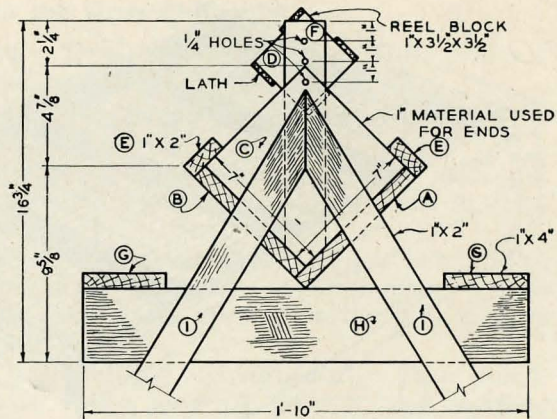




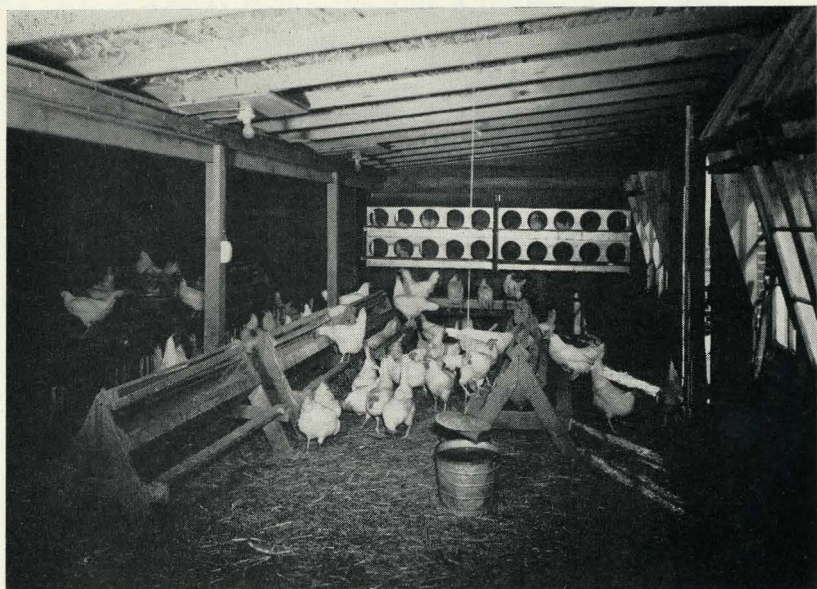
The frame is used as a feeding or watering platform with wire side up; as a roost with wire side down.



Edges of all feed troughs are above vents of the birds. Reels are adjusted to provide head room but not body room. Reels prevent birds from roosting on top of troughs. Lips of troughs are three inches wide. If such troughs are not more than half full there is no feed pulled out and wasted.

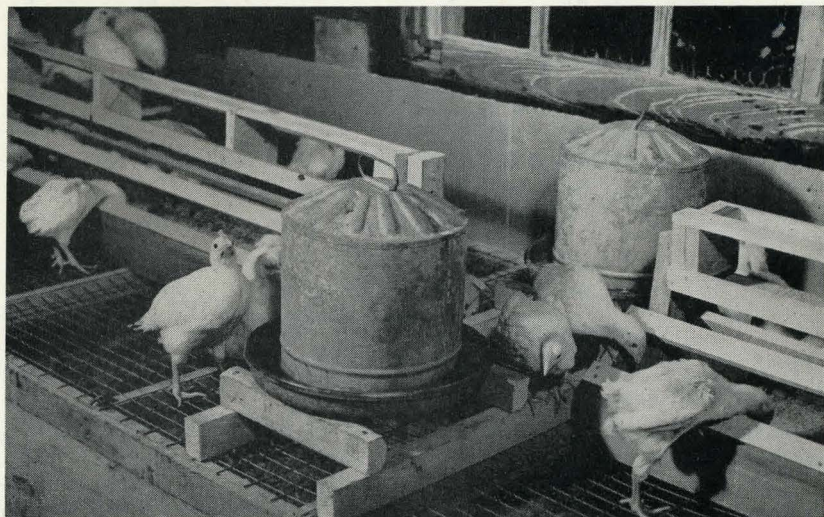


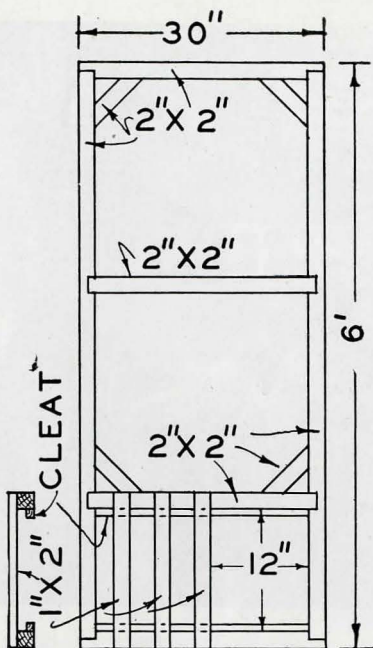




Three types of waterers are shown here. The half-bushel measure on the floor is protected by a weight suspended by a string. The metal watering trough near the nests is protected by wire grid. The watering pan on the roost sits on a platform that raises the edge of the pan above the vents of the hens.

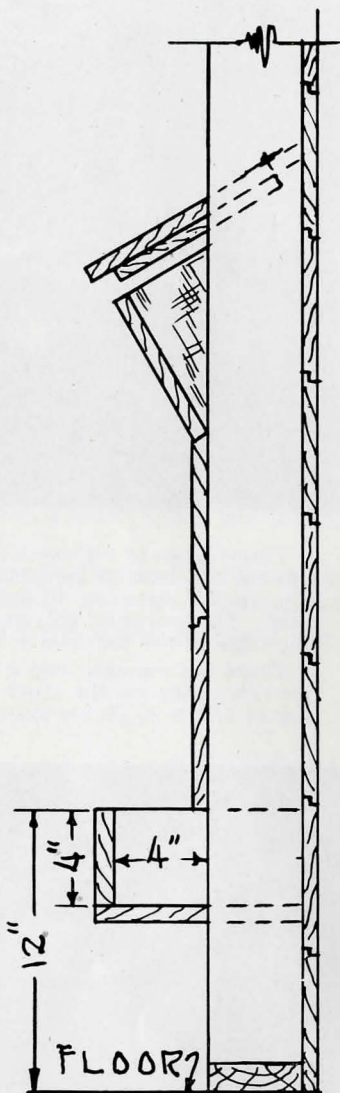
There are enough feed troughs on the floor and on the roosts to provide space for the more timid birds to eat and permit the feeding of whole grain on top of the mash in all the troughs.





Screen Door

The use of screen doors is usually the easiest way to flood the poultry house floor with direct sunlight during the winter months. When hung on the outside of the building and held in place by a spring, they prevent pigs and calves from entering the chicken house. The sliding board placed at the bottom allows hens to have free exit and entrance while keeping livestock out. It is necessary to have doors as well as windows screened if sparrows are to be kept out of the chicken house. Screen doors are usually covered with either hardware cloth or one-inch poultry netting.



Grit and Shell Hopper

A hen will eat about three pounds of oyster shell and  $\frac{3}{4}$  pound of grit a year. Relatively small hoppers can be used.

Where the hen house is not boarded up on the inside of the studding, shell hoppers can be made between two studdings.

The bottom board should first be nailed to the boards that are to be the sides and front of the feed trough. The side boards are then nailed to the studding. Cover is held in place by cleats.



**As further aids to maintenance of a healthy flock and reduction of labor costs, the following sanitary measures are suggested:**

Replace hen house dirt floors with rat-proof, smooth surface concrete floors. Concrete floors need not be over two inches thick for chicken houses. The foundations should extend 18 inches into the ground and flare outward at the bottom.

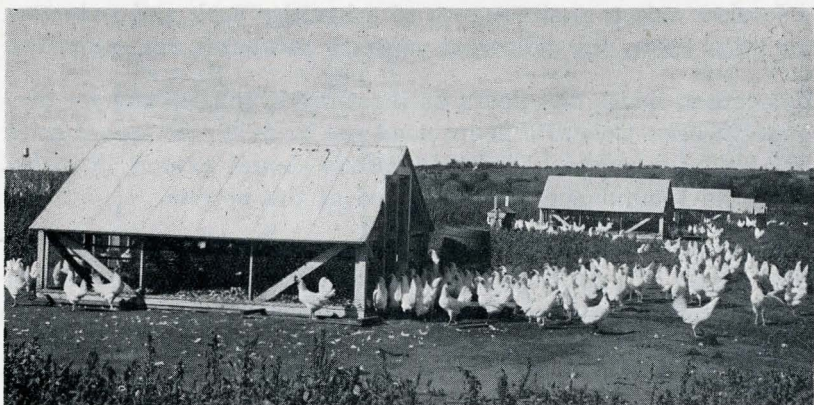
Replace open-type roosts with the closed roosting rack having a 1" x 2" or 1" x 4" 14-gauge electric welded wire beneath the roosts and a panel as the front. Roosts need to be level to accommodate roost-type feed troughs and waterers. A standard-type roost frame is 36 $\frac{3}{4}$ " wide by 60" long. Wire side up, this frame is used in the brooder house as a feeding platform, and with wire side down is used as a roost.

Repair all feed troughs that waste feed, or build or buy enough feed troughs to furnish each 25 hens with one four-foot adult-sized trough. See Extension Circular 1441 for details of feeder construction.

Discard all water devices where chickens wade through, perch on the edges, or scratch litter into them. The edges of waterers should be higher than the vent of the chickens. Straight-sided pails such as half-bushel measures can qualify for adult chickens. Where buckets with flaring sides are used, these need to be placed into a wooden box or frame. An iron weight suspended by a wire and hanging directly above an open watering bucket discourages chickens from perching on the edge. A raised platform with a wire cover for the watering vessels will help keep the chicken-house floor dry.

Screen all hen-house doors, windows, and ventilators with sparow-tight wire netting. Since the screen doors need to be kept closed during the summer to prevent other animals from getting into the hen house, small sliding doors can be made which will serve as exits and entrances for the chickens. Where cats are encouraged to sleep in the hen house at night, the rat and mouse problem is usually solved. Cats can use an opening too small for the hens. These openings can be practically closed by two strips of rubber from an auto inner tube and still provide easy access for the cats.





A change in the system of raising chickens is necessary on all farms where 40 healthy, plump, and richly pigmented pullets have not been raised per 100 chicks started. It makes little difference whether the cause of stunted, sharp-breasted, pale-pigmented pullet culls has been coccidiosis, worm infection, leukosis, or fowl cholera—the system that has failed in the past needs to be changed. Turkey growers have succeeded by keeping poults confined to the brooder house and sun porches until the young turkeys are 8 to 10 weeks old, when they are moved to range shelter sheds and clean range with adequate green feeds. The plans for building the 9 x 12 Nebraska-type range-shelter shed for pullets are illustrated in Extension Bulletin 1486.