

1939

EC1198 Merry Christmas for the House

Rizpah Douglass

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COMMUNITY NESTS

W. F. Aubol

Community nests have both advantages and disadvantages which should be considered. This type of nest, probably because it is darker than conventional type nests, may reduce egg breaking and egg eating. Losses from prolapsus and cannibalism may also be reduced.

Some disadvantages are the possibilities of broken eggs resulting from crowding and also from eggs becoming covered in the deep litter and being overlooked when eggs are gathered.

A community nest of two compartments, each two feet wide and four feet long, is sufficient for about seventy-five hens. The nest may be constructed with a separate platform or have the base fastened to the wall like a wide shelf. This permits removing the nest from the base for ease of cleaning. The most convenient height for the nest is 24 to 30 inches above the floor of the house. The outside openings may be either in front or in the ends of the nest.

Litter that is about six inches deep gives best results. Absorbent materials such as ground cobs, shavings, or fine straw may be used for litter and can be kept loose if stirred occasionally.

Since community nests may become excessively hot in summer, it may be necessary to leave the large hinged door open.

Community nests should be installed prior to housing pullets since difficulty may be encountered if the type of nest is changed after pullets have become accustomed to other nests.

