

7-1946

EC1408 Revised 1946 Summer Shelter Sheds

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Summer Shelter Sheds

J. H. Claybaugh

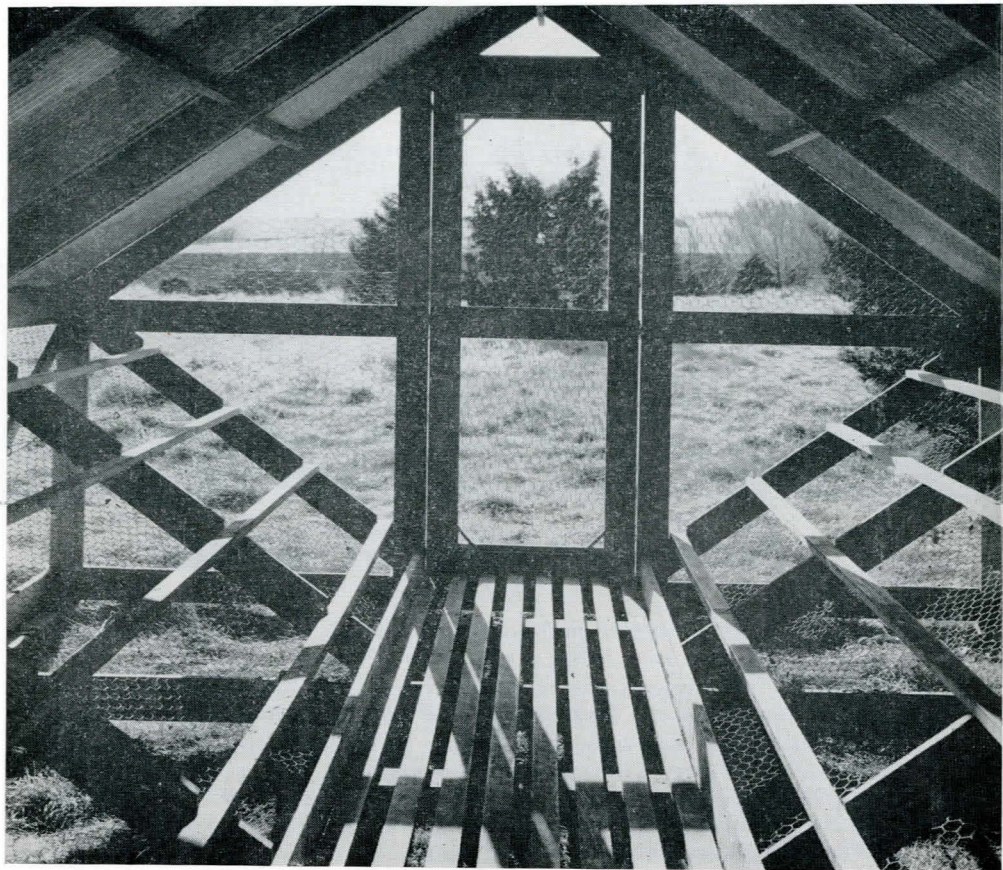
THE USE OF SUNSHINE and good pasture are two very good ways of reducing the cost of feeding poultry. In addition to the saving of expense, the use of good pasture is also one of the best methods of promoting good health, developing good sound pullets for the laying flock, and producing good hatchability in the breeding flock.

Efficient poultry management also requires that young stock be kept separated from old stock during the growing period. Range sheds permit this arrangement and at the same time make it possible to provide more favorable pasture conditions.

The success of the poultry-rearing enterprise may be judged by the percentage and quality of the pullets raised. Quality of pullets is judged by the plumpness of body and richness of pigmentation, and the age when they lay their first eggs. Range shelter sheds make it possible to increase the percentage of good pullets raised.

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 infestation, 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 eight to ten weeks old, when they are moved to range shelter sheds and clean range with adequate green feed. When the same methods are applied to pullet rearing, there will be an improvement in the market quality of chicks raised, as well as an increase in egg production of pullets during the fall months and a decrease in laying-house death loss.

A nearby cornfield may provide shade, cover, and wind protection. A few rows of tame sunflowers might be grown for this purpose.



Construction Detail

SUMMER SHELTER SHEDS are relatively inexpensive. The pictures and bill of material are all that many people need for building their shelter sheds.

The popular size summer shelter shed for 150 pullets is usually built 9 ft. x 12 ft., having an "A" shape roof.

Side walls are usually 36 inches high and peak of roof five feet. This roof is made of six-foot boards of sheet iron. Framing is made of rough, unfinished lumber. There is a door on each end of the shelter.

Two men can pick up this shelter and put it on a sled when it needs to be moved.

A slatted platform 16 inches wide runs through the center of the shelter. Two feed troughs and a waterer are kept on this platform. This platform must be strong enough to bear the weight of the attendant. The slats are not nailed to the floor frame.

The roosts slant upward from the center platform to the sides of the shelter. The most popular wire for placing beneath the roosts is electric-welded, 14-gauge wire with meshes one-by-two inches. Regular one-inch mesh poultry netting may be used around the outside. The wire should be placed to provide protection from rats, skunks, or coons.



Bill of Material

THE BILL OF MATERIAL for nine-by-twelve foot shelter shed with three-foot side walls, six-foot ridge, and door two-by-five feet.

Skids	2-2" x 4" x 12'-0"
Side Studs	8-1" x 4" x 3'-0"
Side Wall Horizontals.....	4-1" x 4" x 12'-0"
End Studs	4-1" x 4" x 5'-0"
Horizontal End Ties.....	4-1" x 4" x 3'-6"
Door Headers	2-1" x 4" x 2'-9"
Floor Joists	4-1" x 4" x 9'-0"
Rafters	8-1" x 4" x 5'-6"
Corner Braces	4-1" x 4" x 5'-0"
Roost Supports	8-1" x 4" x 4'-0"
Stringers	2-1" x 4" x 12'-0"
Ridge	1-1" x 6" x 12'-0"
Nailing Girts	6-1" x 4" x 4'-0"
Roosts	8-1" x 4" x 12'-0"
Floor Cleats	5-1" x 2" x 2'-0"
Floor Slats	8-1" x 2" x 12'-0"
Doors-2" 0" x 5'-0".....	2-1" x 4" x 16'-0"

Hardware

Nails: 5 lbs.-6d galvanized box nails

4 lbs.-poultry netting staples

Hinges and Hooks: 3 pair-3" strap hinges

2 hasps and 3" hooks

Roofing: 12 sheets-26" x 6'-0" galvanized

Netting: 24 lineal feet-48" width 1½" mesh netting or 1" x 2" welded muskrat wire, under roosts.

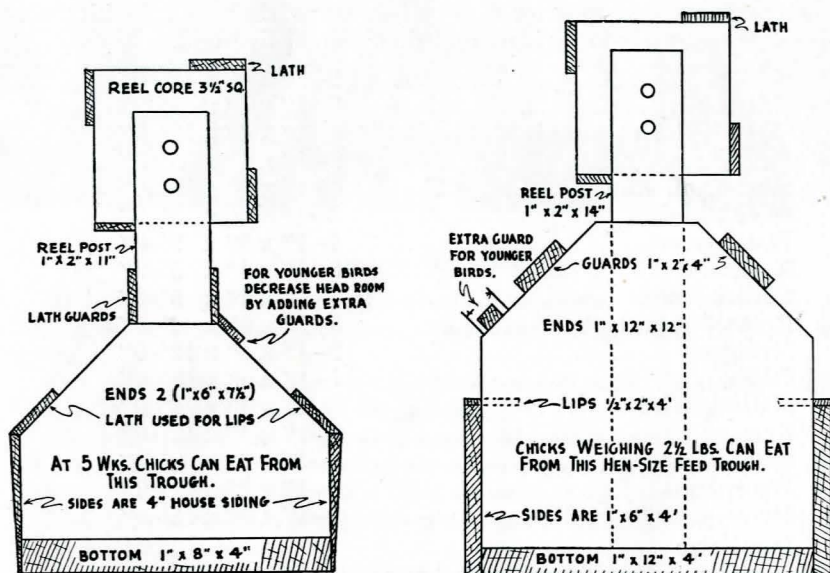
40 lineal feet-36" width netting, 1" mesh, for sides.

9 lineal feet-24" width netting, 1" mesh, for doors.

Plan for Green Range

TENDER GREEN FEED can be supplied by strip farming various crops. The crops which furnish a constant supply of green feed throughout the season vary with the time chicks go to range, as well as the location of the farm.

1. Fall-sown wheat or rye is ready to pasture earlier in the spring than other annual crops. Range shelters or brooder houses may be moved into this strip.
2. On strips adjoining both sides of the wheat or rye, oats may be sown. From the time growing oats are several inches high until the crop ripens and the grain is consumed, excellent feed for poultry is provided. Enough oats should be sown to allow part of it to ripen. In sections where rape grows well, the seed can be sown with oats.
3. One strip of sudan grass adjoining the oats is recommended for green feed after the oats have ripened. Alfalfa and brome grass mixture does equally well, and the stand is not often reduced where the chickens have access to the field but the shelter sheds are kept on the adjoining stubble.
4. An additional strip of tall growing corn, cane, kafir, or sunflowers can be used to provide shade cover and a limited amount of green feed during the late summer and fall.



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 no feed is pulled out and wasted. Two such troughs and one five-gallon waterer are needed on the floor of each shelter shed.