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EC62-1405 Disposal of Dead Birds

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Disposal

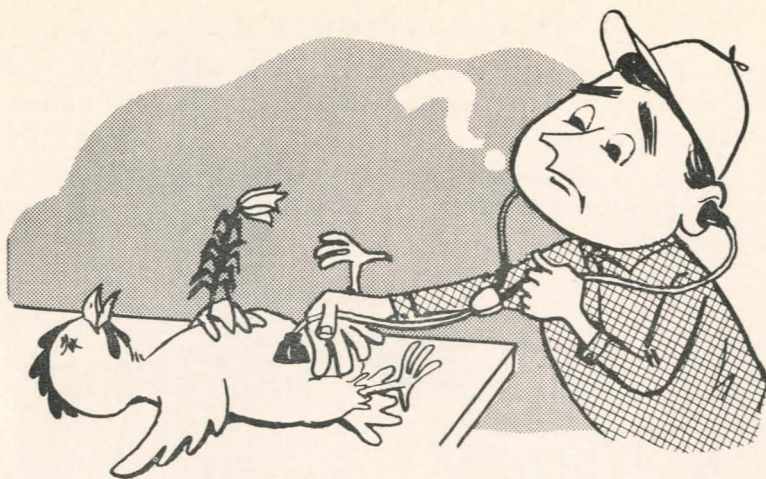
OF DEAD BIRDS

EC 62-1405

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Disposal of Dead Birds

J. L. Skinner and H. L. Wieggers

Extension Poultryman and Asst. Prof. Poultry Husbandry, Respectively

Every poultryman faces the problem of dead bird disposal. Doing this job in an efficient and sanitary manner is a part of good management. Satisfactory dead bird disposal helps control disease, flies and odors.

It is a good practice to dispose of all carcasses as soon as possible after death. In *NO* case should they be allowed to remain in or near the poultry house more than 24 hours.

You can dispose of dead birds in a number of ways. Items you can use are an elaborately built incinerator with an oil or gas burner, a well-built disposal pit, a simple device for burning with waste materials found about the farm, or you can bury them.

A good disposal unit will be:

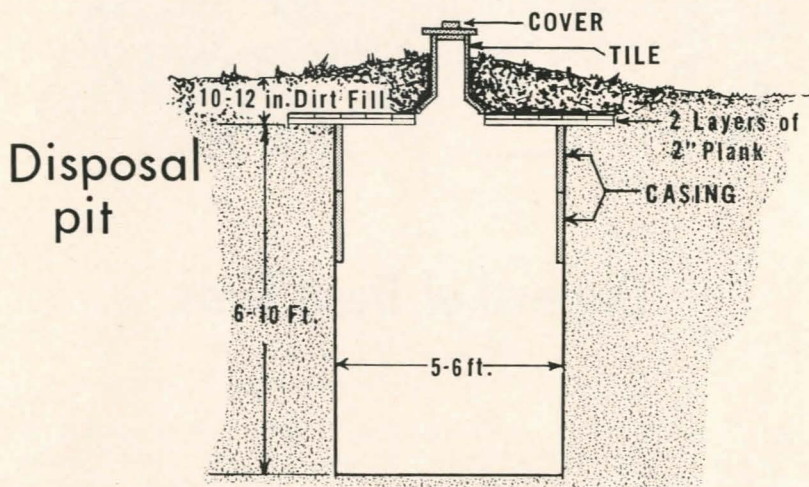
1. Easy to use (efficient and not time consuming).
2. Safe (from hazards of fire, etc.).
3. Sanitary (effectively suppressing the spread of disease, propagation of flies and production of odors).
4. Economical (not excessively expensive in initial, maintenance or fuel costs).
5. Adequate in size (sufficient to meet present needs and future plans).
6. Durable and dependable.
7. Properly located.

Issued October, 1962, 3000

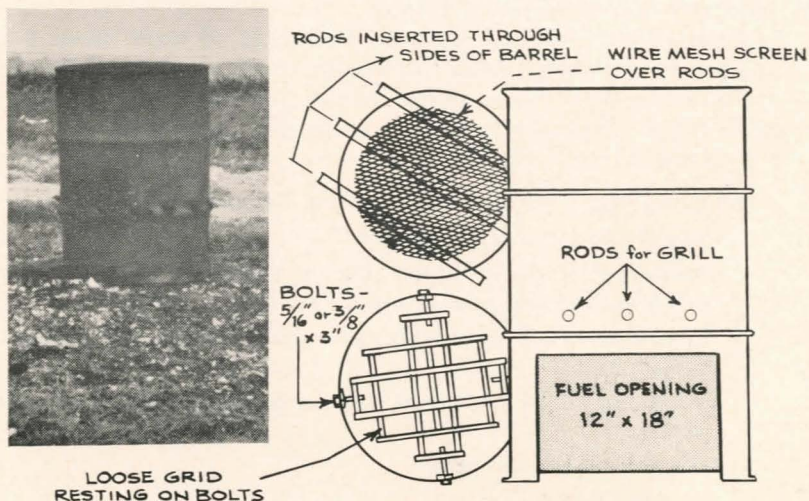
TYPES OF DISPOSAL UNITS

Disposal units vary in size, type of construction and method of operation. There are two types, based upon the method of carcass elimination. They are:

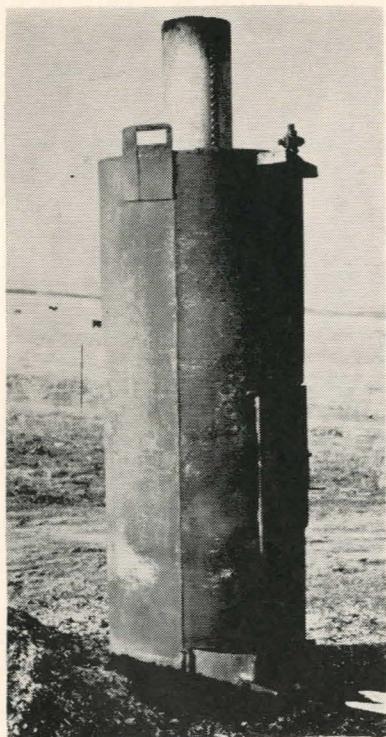
1. Pits or subsurface digestion chambers. Carcasses are consumed by bacterial action in much the same way as in septic tanks.



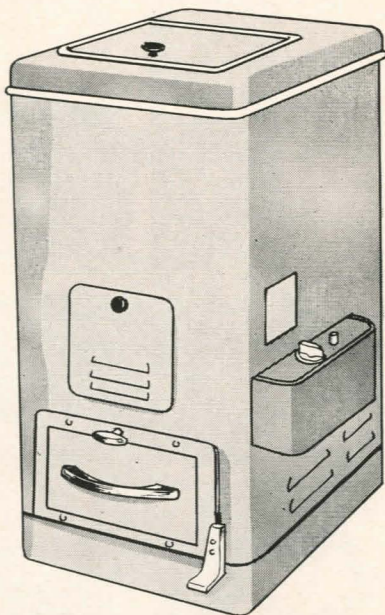
2. Incineration. Carcasses are burned.



How to build the barrel incinerator shown in insert.



Large, home-built incinerator.



Small, gas-fired commercial incinerator.

DETERMINING AND ADAPTING THE METHOD

Small Flocks. If you have a small flock (100 birds or less) you should not consider either a permanent pit or incinerator. You can bury the occasional bird that dies from a flock of this size. Bury the carcass at least two feet deep and pack the soil well over it. Protect the grave so that dogs or wild animals cannot dig up the body.

Middle or Medium Sized Flocks. If you have more than 100 birds but fewer than 5,000, where some deaths might normally occur each day, a pit or small incinerator is recommended.

If you build a pit, determine the height of the water table in order to avoid contaminating the ground water. A pit with two hundred cubic feet capacity will take care of the normal mortality from 1,000 birds for three years.

An incinerator made from a 55 gallon oil drum, or a commercial incinerator with an 18 inch diameter fire box, will meet the normal needs of a 5,000 bird flock. You also can build an adequate incinerator of masonry.

Large, gas-fired commercial incinerator.



Large Poultry Farms (over 5,000 birds). If your farm is large an incinerator is recommended instead of a pit. Or you might deliver dead birds each day to a nearby rendering plant, if one is near.

You should locate your incinerator where it is easily accessible in the normal chore routine. This will insure its use by eliminating excuses for allowing dead birds to accumulate.

Disposal of dead birds is never an enjoyable task. It is, however, an essential part of the management of any poultry flock. Overlooking this very important job, or doing it improperly, is a frequent error of many small and some larger Nebraska poultrymen.

Review your management practices. Keep levels of hygiene, sanitation and management high so that mortality will be low. When a death does occur, quickly and properly dispose of the carcass.

SECRET

OTHER POULTRY PUBLICATIONS

EC 1316	Steps to Quality Egg Production
EC 1320	Feeding Laying Hens
EC 1321	Our Egg Marketing Job
EC 1403	Features to Consider in Buildings for Poultry
EC 58-1412	Comparing Modern Poultry Housing Systems
EC 58-1413	Keeping Hens on Slat Floors
EC 59-1414	Should the Wings Go?
EC 60-1416	Egg Care is Your Responsibility
EC 60-1417	Why Oil Helps Egg Quality
EC 61-1418	Feeding Laying Hens
EC 61-1419	Should I Dub My Flock
EC 1436	Controlling Cannibalism in Poultry
EC 1442	Light the Way to Poultry Profits
EC 1497	Managing the Pullet Flock

Publications are available at your County Agent's office or order direct from the Department of Information, College of Agriculture, University of Nebraska, Lincoln.

A Good Disposal Unit

1. Easy to use
2. Safe
3. Sanitary
4. Economical
5. Adequate in size
6. Durable and dependable
7. Properly located