

12-1947

## EC1434b When Roosters Lose Weight

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December  
1947

Nebraska  
COOPERATIVE EXTENSION WORK  
IN AGRICULTURE AND HOME ECONOMICS  
U. of N. Agr. College & U. S. Dept. of Agr. Cooperating  
W. H. Brokaw, Director, Lincoln

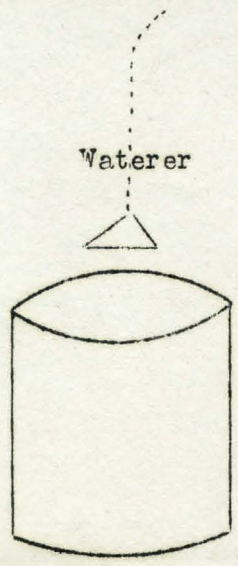
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### WHEN ROOSTERS LOSE WEIGHT

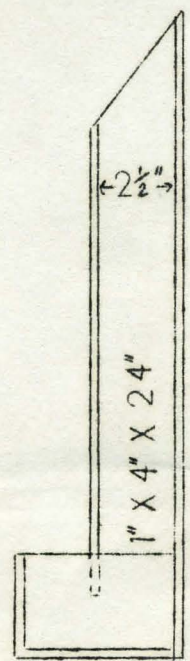
Many times when poor fertility and hatchability are reported, the breeding males have lost weight. This is the reason that records of weights of each rooster needs be kept. Since causes of weight loss varies, the precautions listed below may be helpful.

1. Too many males kept under crowded conditions where fighting is common and the whipped bird has little chance to eat or drink.
2. An excessive number of hens per male may mean spent vigor before the hatching season is well underway.
3. Too small amount of grain being consumed by roosters. This may occur when hens seem to be getting enough grain to maintain weight. A small feeder similiar to those in which oyster shells are fed can be used for grain and these raised low enough for males to reach but too high for the hens. Several of these need be placed around each room, where the more timid ones get an opportunity to eat.
4. The use of feed troughs with grids which catch the combs, make males timid, and keep them from eating as much as needed. Feeders on the roosts may become most popular for part of the males.
5. Types of coverings such as narrow or tapering grids for water vessels prevent males from getting the needed amount of water. The larger rooms that have several waterers give males more opportunity to spread out and drink what water is needed.

The use of water buckets at several places in the room is often advisable. A small weight suspended by a string immediately over the water bucket is usually sufficient to prevent chickens from spilling water from straight sided buckets.



Grain Feeder  
for  
cockerels.  
Front, back  
and bottom  
boards from  
orange box.



*discard*