

BROODING CHICKS IN ARIZONA

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Chicks More Successfully Raised in Small Groups; Types of Brooders That Give Good Results; Things Not To Do

THE development of the poultry industry in Arizona along commercial egg lines has brought the poultrymen face to face with the problems of brooding chicks in large numbers. Under such conditions losses have been quite heavy during the first four weeks. This loss can most generally be attributed to poor brooding equipment and bad methods of feeding.

A roomy, substantial brooder house that can be kept clean, dry, and well ventilated is one of the first essentials of good brooding equipment. This house may be constructed of galvanized iron, lumber, or adobe. The adobe house has the disadvantage of being immovable and unless cost of construction is the limiting factor, should be discarded in favor of either of the other two. Lumber will be found most desirable in the higher altitudes, while in the southern part of the state the galvanized iron is giving excellent results.

The 12x12 foot portable combination brooding and growing house is becoming quite popular, and will accommodate 500 chicks until they are old enough to segregate the cockerels and pullets, after which it will accommodate the pullets until they are ready to be placed in the laying house. This house should be at least 7½ feet high in front and 6 feet in the rear.

The front is provided with a screen wire opening, 3 feet wide and extending the full length of the front. A roll curtain may be used for protection against rain, and in the colder sections glass substitute placed in frames are inserted in order that proper temperatures may be maintained and the ultra violet rays admitted. The door is placed in the end of the house near the front edge and the upper half of the rear wall is hinged to allow raising during the hot summer weather. As ample ventilation is of utmost importance, and in no case should the entire front be completely closed.

For larger numbers of chicks either several of the portable houses or the larger type of house may be used. It is well to bear in mind that under average conditions chicks are more

successfully raised in small groups than in the larger. Five hundred is generally considered a satisfactory sized group. Plans and specifications for the larger sized brooder houses may be had by writing directly to your County Agent, or to Agricultural Extension Service, University of Arizona, Tucson, Arizona.

Brooders

There are many makes of brooders on the market that give good results under good management. One of the first considerations is the size of the canopy. It has been observed that in some of the brooders in use, the size of the canopy is insufficient to carry the number of chicks it is rated to carry. Unless there is ample room, chicks will crowd, causing those near the heat to become overheated and to sweat, while those on the outer ring may become chilled.

Ventilation under the hover is very important. Too often sacks are tied around the edges of the hover cutting off all circulation of air. If these are to be used they should be scalloped to allow the air to properly circulate.

The heating device should be large enough to produce ample heat, and if provided with a pipe extending well up to or through the roof, will greatly assist in carrying off foul gases and used air. The thermometer should be suspended about 6 inches from the outer edge of the canopy and the bulb hanging about 1½ inches above the floor. For the first week the heat should range at about 95 to 100 degrees under the hover, the second week, about 85 to 95 degrees and thereafter about 80 degrees. The feeding room will necessarily be several degrees below this temperature. Sand should be spread under the hover, or better, over the entire brooder house floor to assist in sanitation and prevent floor drafts. Fine cut straw is placed over this outside the hover.

The brooder should be lighted two or three days before the chicks arrive in order to make sure that it is working and to have the temperature at the right degree. The heating apparatus must have daily attention

to prevent the wicks from charring or grates from being covered with clinkers, or other trouble.

Mash hoppers, drinking fountains, and the like, should be ample, and thoroughly cleaned each day.

Things Not To Do

Don't crowd chicks under too small a hover or into too small a house.

Don't fail to cull out weaklings.

Don't shut house up too tightly.

Don't allow floor to become damp.

Don't allow drafts on chicks or brooder.

Don't neglect sanitation.

Don't try to brood chicks of different ages under the same hover.

Don't depend on incompetent help.

Don't take everybody's advice.

Don't leave dead chicks under hover.

Don't fail to follow a good feeding program.

Don't use too much antiseptic in the drinking water.

THE COTTON CROP, THE BOLL WEEVIL, AND YOU

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record is on the pages of history what will be said about us in regard to the suitability of our dress? If we are appropriately dressed our attire should always correspond with the occasion. We believe that cotton materials are in perfect harmony with school and sport activities and it is in connection with such that their selection shows good taste and genuine economy. Let's work together to exterminate all menaces to the cotton crop, and make 1929 a big cotton year in Arizona!

First Californian: How old are you?

Second Californian: Three years old next September. I really didn't begin to live until I came to Los Angeles.

Friend: Do you know, old man, that's a swell looking nurse you've got!

Patient: I hadn't noticed.

Friend: Good lord, I had not idea you were so sick.