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Range Shelters for Pullets

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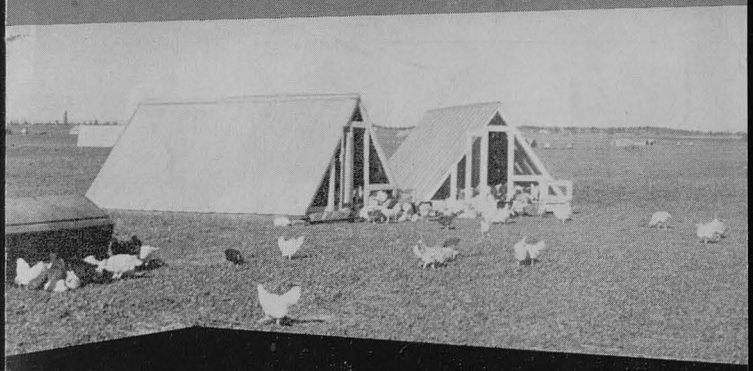

UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA
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U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

RANGE SHELTERS FOR PULLETS

Provide plenty of room for your pullets on a good clean range with a wire-floored roosting shelter. Such shelters have the following advantages:

1. They provide the extra room needed when the flock outgrows the brooder house space.

2. They are easier and cheaper to build than a brooder house. Some people use range shelters exclusively on range to enable them to use stationary brooder houses or to save the wear and tear caused by moving portable brooder houses.

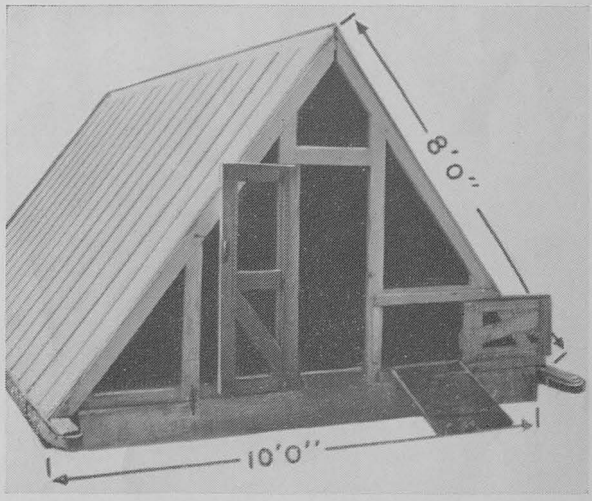
3. A given floor space in a shelter will accommodate more birds than in a brooder house.

4. They are better ventilated than a brooder house, which results in:

   a. More comfortable roosting conditions during hot weather.
   b. Less danger from overheating when birds cannot be released at daybreak (when they are kept shut in to protect against predators or when they must be kept in for vaccinating).

5. They can be used in place of a sunporch before the birds can be moved to range, thus serving a dual purpose.

6. They can be closed up and used as temporary housing for yearling hens until they stop laying in the fall and are marketed. This leaves the laying house free for the pullets to be moved in as soon as they start laying.



Front View

7. The wire floor enables you to move the shelter away from the droppings instead of cleaning.

Many different types of shelters are in use. The A-shaped shelter shown here was adopted for the following reasons:

1. It reduces framing to a minimum, thus reducing weight and giving space to accommodate more birds without making it difficult to move.

2. It is simple in construction.

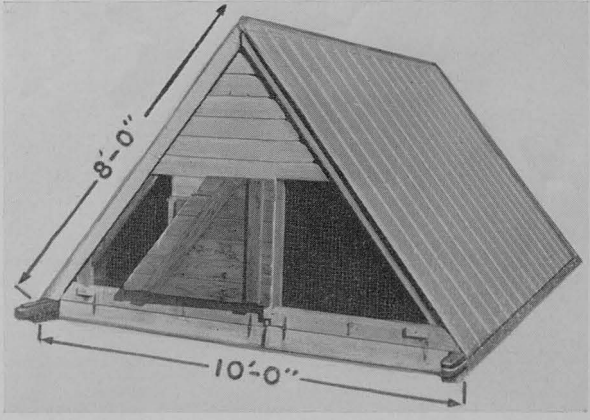
3. Birds roost on the wire, thus making full use of the floor and increasing the capacity of the shelter.

4. It is less likely than other types to be blown over.

An objection is sometimes made to the lack of head room. However, about the only time when it is necessary to work inside the shelter is when the birds are being rounded up for vaccination or for moving. There is seldom need to move off the "catwalk" running through the center of the house and the head room there is sufficient for reasonable comfort. The absence of roosts allows room to work inside the shelter and provides space for feeders and waterers when weather makes it necessary to keep the birds confined.

There are, of course, many different shelter designs. Some growers might prefer to have roosts in the shelter, in which case the most efficient type would no doubt be one with vertical side walls.

The A-shelter shown here is 10'x16' in size, for 250 pullets. It has 1"x1" 12-gauge woven wire for the floor and ends, and 26-gauge 2'x8' aluminum sheets for the roof. The 4"x6" skids have a 2"x4" renewable shoe.



Rear View

Important features of the design shown here which deserve consideration regardless of the style of shelter are:

1. Wire floor several inches above ground to permit accumulation of droppings. This arrangement saves cleaning time.

2. Provision for keeping birds from running underneath the shelter.

a. Skids are set at the extreme outside edges of the shelter.

b. Hinged boards at the ends close off the space underneath.
These boards are wide enough so that they hang at a slight angle to offset any unevenness of ground which might otherwise permit birds to run underneath.

c. Skids are enough longer than the shelter itself to keep birds from squeezing past the ends of the hinged board.

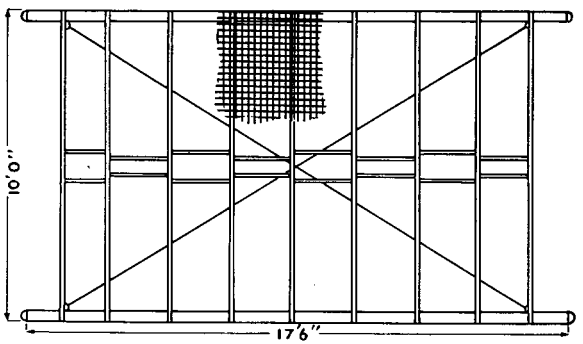
3. Features which make it easy to move include:

a. Light weight due to shape and to absence of roosts.

b. Towing irons at both ends.

c. End boards that can be raised.

4. Two solid panels on each side of the north end which make it easy to close up the shelter in cold or rainy spells.



Floor Plan

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