

# A Summer Range Shelter

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PULLETS often develop unevenly because of being crowded during the summer growing period. If 350 or less chicks are started in a 10- by 12-foot brooder house, the cockerels removed at ten weeks of age, and roosts put in the brooder houses 12 inches apart, there should be sufficient roosting room for all the birds. If more than 350 chicks are started, it is desirable to provide more roosting space. The summer range shelter is designed to provide additional room for the pullets and thus relieve the congestion in the brooder house. The shelter may also be used for getting pullets out on range that have been started in permanent brooding houses.

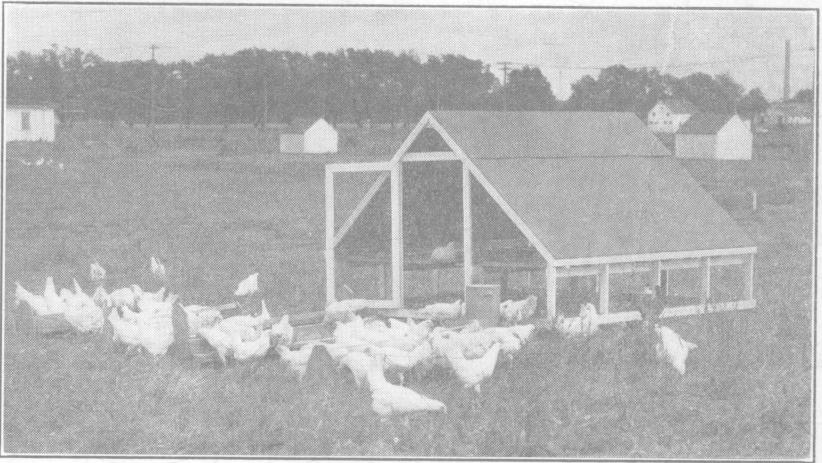


Fig. 1.—An 8-foot summer range shelter in use on the Ohio State University poultry farm.

It is a common practice to let the pullets roost in trees during the hot summer months. The trees are all right in some respects, but there are also disadvantages. Trees soon become infested with mites and it is difficult to treat them to keep down this infestation; bringing the pullets into winter quarters is no easy matter when they roost in trees; and, in general, conditions can be better controlled in a summer range shelter.

This summer range shelter is 9' 10" wide, and the depth may be either 8 or 12 feet. The reason for these depths is that most of the insulation boards which are used for the roof are made in either 8-foot or 12-foot lengths. The 8-foot shelter will take care of 120 pullets; the 12-foot shelter, 180 pullets.

The advantage of using the summer shelter rather than ordinary colony houses for thinning out the pullets are:

- (1) For the same amount of roosting space, the summer shelter can be built for about one-third the cost of an ordinary colony house.
- (2) The summer shelter is more easily moved.
- (3) The summer shelter provides for more ventilation than can be obtained in an ordinary brooder house.

#### CONSTRUCTION OF THE SUMMER SHELTER

We have tried several different methods of constructing the summer shelter, and found the type of construction shown on these plans to be the most simple. In constructing the frame, seven of the units shown are first built, if a 12-foot shelter is desired. (It is only necessary to build five of these units for the 8-foot house shown in Figs 1 and 2.) After the units are constructed, they are nailed together 24 inches apart with the 12-foot 1"  $\times$  3" pieces which run lengthwise.

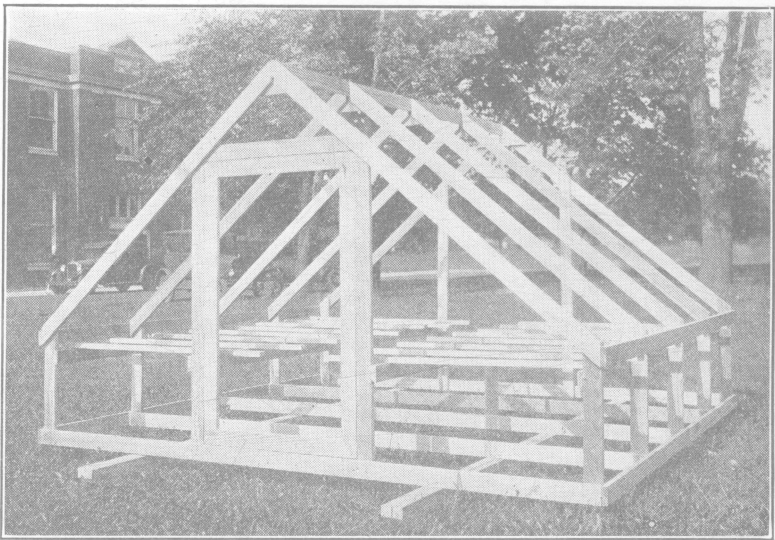


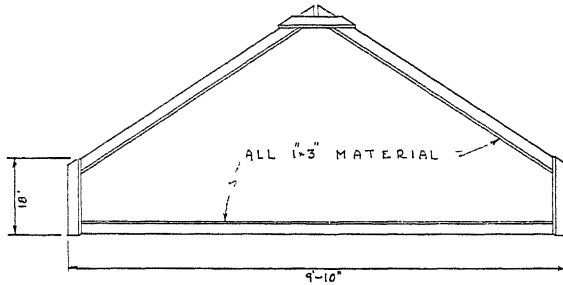
Fig. 2.—Frame construction of an 8-foot summer range shelter

The floor of this shelter is made of 1-inch poultry netting. At first, the shelters were built without wire floors, but it was found that water would run in under the house and make a dirty, insanitary place for the pullets. The wire floor keeps the pullets off the droppings and also makes it impossible for rodents to get to the birds.

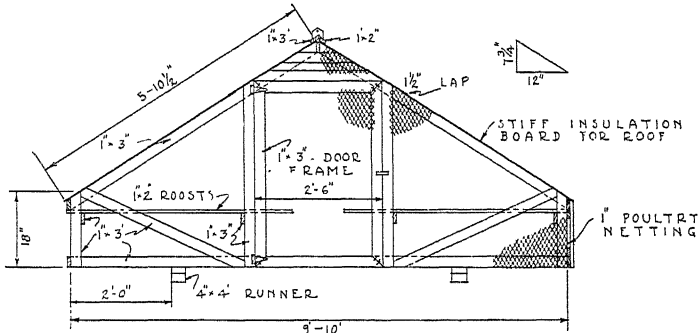
Although the shelter is built of light material, it is too heavy to be carried from place to place. For this reason, it is constructed on runners so it may be easily pulled with a horse, automobile, or truck. If the house is too high from the ground, difficulty is encountered with pullets going under it and getting into the droppings. Boards should be set up against the sides to prevent this.

A 12-inch alleyway is left in the house to enable the attendant to walk through and handle individual birds (See End, Fig. 3). In case the poultryman finds it unnecessary to go into the house except to run the pullets out into the catching crate, the roosts may be extended clear across. In case they are extended the full width of the house, it may be desirable to put the roosts 2 inches lower than the plan calls for.

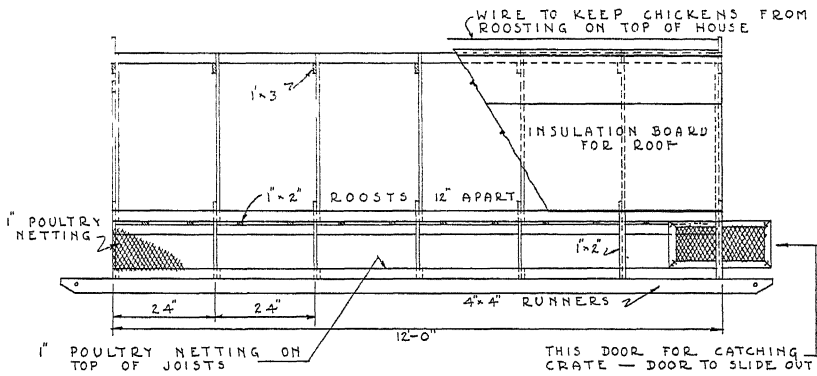
NOTE TO CONSTRUCT THE FRAME: BUILD SEVEN OF THE UNITS SHOWN BELOW. THEN NAIL THE UNITS TOGETHER 24" APART WITH THE 12 FOOT 1x3 PIECES WHICH RUN LENGTHWISE THE FRAME



UNIT OF FRAME



END



SIDE

RANGE SHELTER  
Designed by H. P. Titchell  
35.12 11 1424

Fig. 3.—Building plans for constructing a 12-foot summer range shelter

