

# Profitable Poultry Keeping on a Minnesota Farm

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Poultry keeping is an industry that has been neglected on the Minnesota farm and should receive more attention in the future than it has in the past. If as much care and attention were given the poultry on the farm as some of the other industries, greater returns would be received than at present.

Poultry keeping may be classified into two classes as; keeping for profit, and keeping for pleasure.

By keeping for profit is meant that a person invests his capital in poultry keeping and gives the industry all of his time.

By poultry keeping for pleasure is meant the keeping of poultry primarily for pleasure, but still receiving some profit. Most "family" hens are kept for pleasure, which the owners receive from producing their own eggs and poultry and having these articles absolutely fresh.

On the farm, poultry could be kept for pleasure to some extent, and a fair profit be realized from the selling of eggs and live and dressed poultry.

The location of poultry houses is often thought to be of minor importance when compared with the location of other farm buildings. This may be true when few fowls are to be kept for the sole purpose of supplying the home table, but the profit derived from keeping these few fowls is very much less than it would be if the same care and thought were given that is devoted to other farm stock.

If possible, it is best to select an elevation having a natural drainage away from the building. Damp ground usually means cold ground.

A dry, porous soil, such as a sandy or gravelly loam, is preferred to clay soil, for the sand loam is more easily kept in a sanitary condition. If you are not able to select the soil that is naturally dry, the soil should be made dry by thorough under-drainage. A pure sandy soil should not be selected, for a soil not good enough to support plant life is unfit for poultry.

If the house can be built in the lee of a windbreak or in front of farm buildings so much the better. Sunlight is essential, therefore the house should face the south, and it will be warmer and drier. When a direct southern exposure cannot be obtained, a southeastern is preferred to a southwestern exposure. In winter, especially, the early morning sun is needed to warm up the house.

Many failures in poultry keeping are a result of improper housing. Some of the effects of this are rousy fowls, resulting in low egg production and low hatching power, also resulting in high mortality.

There are many different styles of poultry houses. A poultry house, to give satisfaction, should be built with two thicknesses of boarding, leaving a four inch dead air space between the walls or boarding. The ceiling should not be made tight, but one inch should be left between the boards to allow moisture to be absorbed by the straw. Between the ceiling and the roof there should be about one foot of straw to absorb moisture. The floor should be of concrete and kept covered with dry straw at all times. On the south side there should be plenty of windows which should be so con-