June 23, 1931. H. A. TRULLINGER 1,811,338

HEN'S NEST

Filed May 29, 1929

Fig. 1.

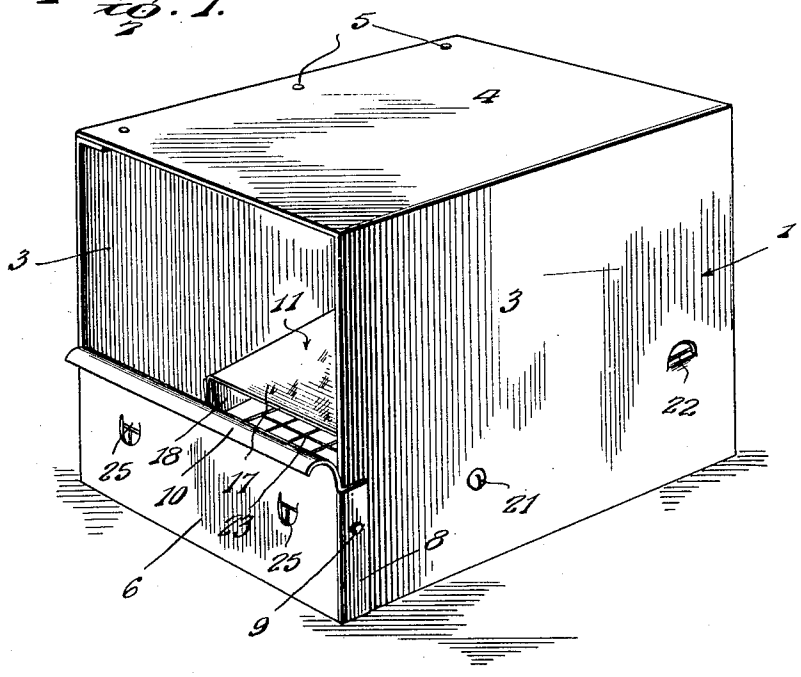


Fig. 2.

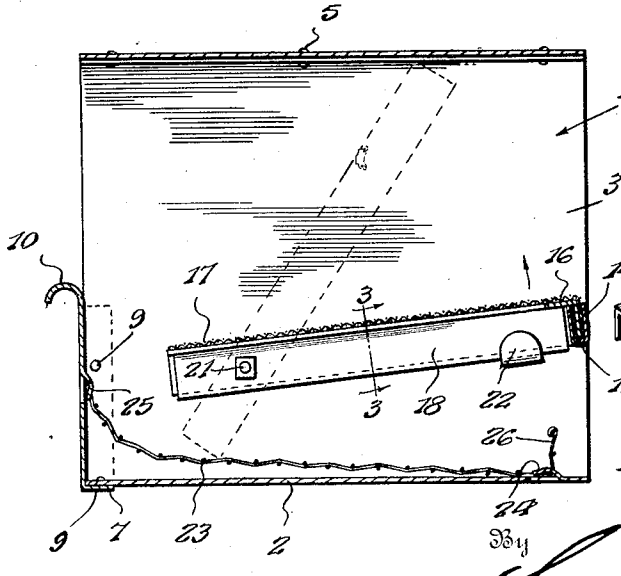


Fig. 3.

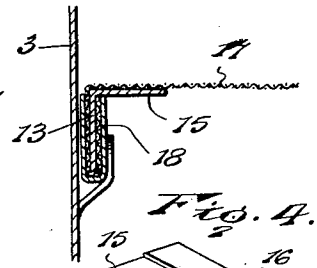
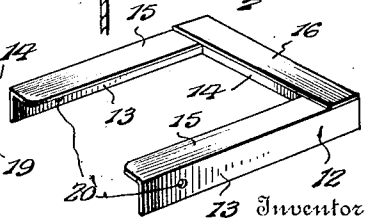


Fig. 4.



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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE

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HEN'S NEST

Application filed May 29, 1929. Serial No. 367,095.

This invention relates to animal husbandry and more particularly to a nest adapted to be occupied by hens for laying purposes.

One object of the invention is to provide a nest including an open-ended housing having a laying tray or platform so mounted therein that after an egg has been laid it may roll from the platform into the lower portion of the housing and beneath the platform to a position near the open rear end of the housing where it may be easily removed without disturbing a hen occupying the nest.

Another object of the invention is to so mount the tray or platform in the housing that it may be swung upwardly when not occupied in order to allow eggs to be easily removed from the lower portion of the housing and also allow the platform to be held in a raised position and thereby prevent the nest from being used if so desired.

Another object of the invention is to provide a laying tray or platform including a frame and strip of fabric which is very firmly secured to the frame but may be released therefrom when it is necessary to replace the fabric.

Another object of the invention is to provide the nest with a shield in its lower portion upon which the eggs fall and to provide improved means for releasably securing the same in the housing.

The invention is illustrated in the accompanying drawing, wherein

Figure 1 is a perspective view of the improved nest,

Fig. 2 is a longitudinal sectional view through the nest,

Fig. 3 is a fragmentary sectional view taken transversely through the laying tray or platform on the line 3—3 of Fig. 2, and

Fig. 4 is a perspective view of the frame for the platform.

The housing 1 of this nest is preferably formed of strong sheet metal. This housing is open at its front and rear and is provided with a bottom 2, side walls 3 and top 4 formed from a strip of sheet metal bent to form the same and having its ends overlapped, as shown in Fig. 1, and secured by rivets or equivalent fasteners 5. The front wall 6 is also formed of sheet metal, and this wall has a lower flange 7 and side flanges 8 which overlap the bottom and side walls of the housing and are secured thereto by rivets or equivalent fasteners 9. The upper end portion of the front wall projects upwardly above the side flanges 8 and is rolled outwardly to form a ledge 10 upon which hens may step when entering the nest without injuring their feet or being liable to slip and fall.

Within the body is mounted a laying tray or platform 11 which extends longitudinally therein, as shown in Fig. 2. This platform is provided with a frame 12 which is also formed of sheet metal. The strip of sheet metal from which the frame is formed is bent in spaced relation to its ends to provide side bars 13 connected by a cross bar 14 and the strip is further bent to provide inwardly extending flanges 15 and 16 for the side and end bars. A sheet of strong fabric 17, which is preferably canvas, extends in covering relation to the frame and has its marginal portions extended downwardly against the side and end bars and then folded upwardly, as shown in Figs. 2 and 3. After the marginal portions of the sheet have been folded about the side and end bars of the frame securing strips 18 and 19 which are also formed of sheet metal and U-shaped in cross section are applied in straddling relation thereto, as shown in Figs. 2 and 3, and since the metal from which the clamps are formed is resilient they will firmly bind the fabric to the side and end bars and hold it in engagement with the frame. Openings 20 are formed in the side bars 13 and in these openings are received bolts 21 which are passed inwardly through openings in the side walls of the housing. These bolts serve to support the forward end portion of the platform and allow it to be swung upwardly from the operative position shown in full lines in Fig. 2 to a raised or inoperative position indicated by dotted lines in this figure. Tongues 22 are struck from the side walls of the housing and bent inwardly and these tongues are adapted to engage side portions of the platform near the rear end

thereof in order to support the platform in its operative position. It should be noted that, when the platform is resting upon the tongues or abutments 22, it slopes downwardly toward its forward end and, therefore, an egg will roll forwardly along the canvas and drop off the forward end of the platform down into the lower portion of the housing.

In order to prevent an egg from being broken when it drops into the lower portion of the housing, there has been provided a false bottom or buffer 23 formed of wire netting and having its rear end engaged beneath one or more tongues 24 struck upwardly from the bottom of the housing and its forward end portion curved upwardly and engaged by tongues 25 struck from the wall 6 and bent inwardly. In view of the fact that the forward end of the strip of netting 23 is loosely engaged beneath the tongues 26, this strip will have sufficient give in order to prevent an egg from being broken when it drops upon the upwardly curved forward end of the false bottom. The rear portion of the false bottom is bent upwardly at opposite sides of the tongue 24, as shown at 26, in order to prevent an egg from rolling out of the open rear end of the housing.

When the nest is in use, it is placed in a hen house and may rest upon a shelf or other suitable support. A hen steps into the housing through the open front and sets upon the platform. When the hen leaves the nest, the egg will roll along the sheet of canvas and drop upon the forward end of the false bottom along which it will roll until it strikes the up-turned rear end portion thereof. A person collecting eggs approaches the nest from the rear and can remove an egg through the open rear end of the housing without disturbing a hen occupying the nest. If the nest is unoccupied, the platform may be swung upwardly so that easy access may be had to eggs in the lower portion of the housing. The sides of the platform have sufficient frictional binding engagement with the side walls of the housing to permit the platform to remain in a raised position and, therefore, a nest may be blocked if it is not desired to have it used. When it is necessary to remove a sheet of canvas and replace it, the bolts 21 are removed, thereby releasing the platform so that it can be withdrawn from the housing and after the clamps have been removed in order to release the canvas the old canvas can be detached from the frame and a new one substituted. The clamps will then be replaced and the platform again mounted in the housing.

Having thus described the invention, I claim:

1. A nest comprising a housing open at its front and rear ends, and a laying tray in said housing pivotally mounted adjacent its front end and having its side portions bearing against side walls of the housing, said tray being adapted to be swung upwardly from an operative to a substantially vertical inoperative position and held in the raised position by frictional binding with the side walls of the housing.

2. A nest comprising a housing open at its front and rear ends, a laying tray in said housing and having side bars pivotally connected with side walls of the housing adjacent their forward ends to mount the tray for swinging movement from a substantially vertical position to a lowered position for use, and abutments extending from side walls of the housing to engage beneath rear portions of the side bars of the tray when the tray is swung from a raised to a lowered position and support the tray in position for use.

3. A nest comprising a housing open at its front and rear ends, a laying tray in said housing having side bars and a rear end bar, a sheet having its marginal portions folded about the side and end bars, clamping strips extending longitudinally of said bars and straddling said bars from their lower edges and gripping the marginal portions of the sheet, fasteners passed through side walls of the housing and through said side bars adjacent the front end thereof to pivotally mount the tray for vertical swinging movement into and out of an operative position, and abutments extending from side walls of said housing to engage beneath side bars of said tray and support the tray in an operative position.

4. A nest comprising a housing open at its front and rear, a front wall for the lower portion of said housing, tongues extending inwardly and downwardly from said front wall, other tongues extending upwardly and forwardly from the bottom of the housing, a laying tray in said housing sloping forwardly with its front end spaced from the front wall, and a sheet of yieldable material in said housing beneath said tray with its rear end engaged beneath the tongue of the bottom of the housing and its forward portion curved upwardly and overlapped by the tongues of the front wall.

In testimony whereof I affix my signature.

HERBERT A. TRULLINGER. [L. S.]