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POULTRY COOP.

APPLICATION FILED OCT. 9, 1915.

1,276,723.

Patented Aug. 27, 1918.

2 SHEETS—SHEET 1.

Fig.1.

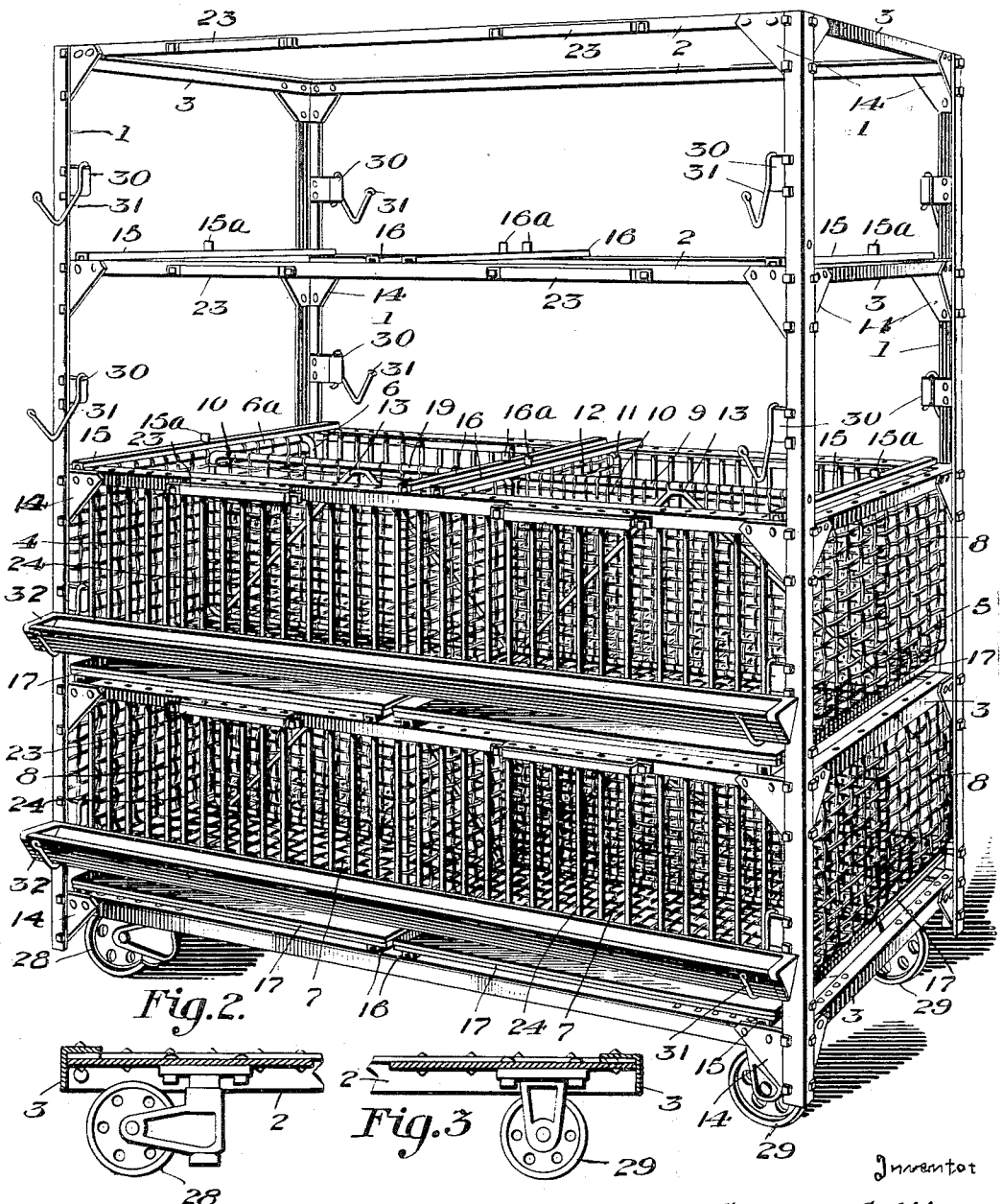


Fig.2.

Fig.3

Witnesses

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2 SHEETS—SHEET 2.

Fig. 4.

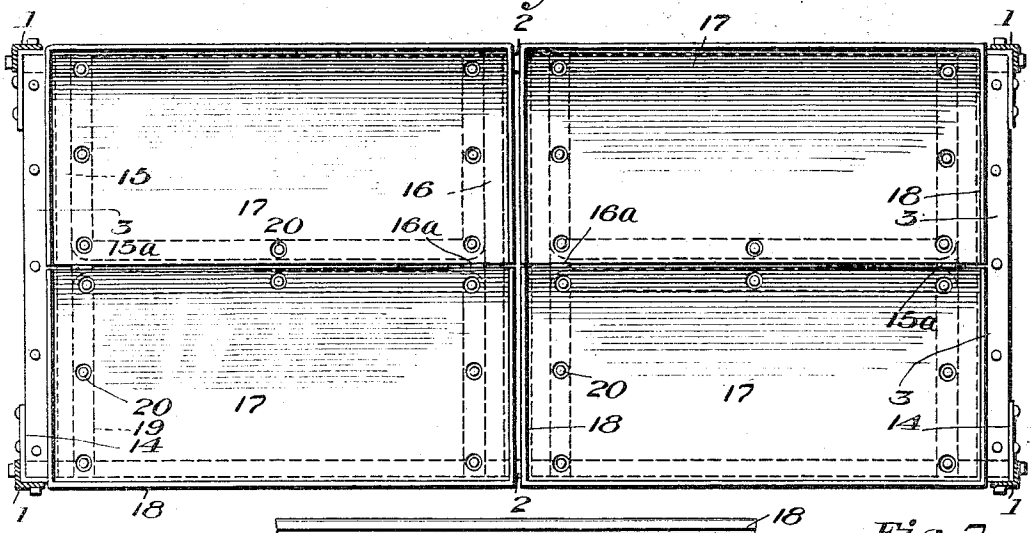


Fig. 6.

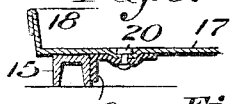


Fig. 5.

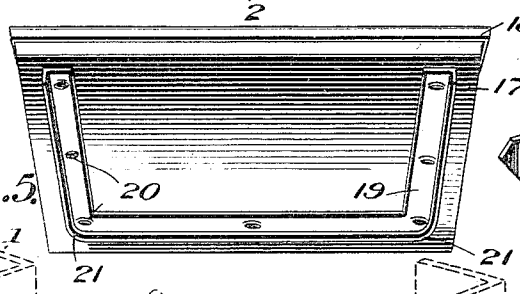


Fig. 7.

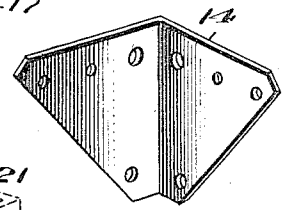


Fig. 8.

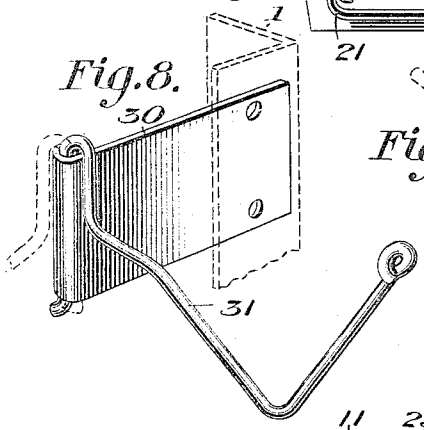
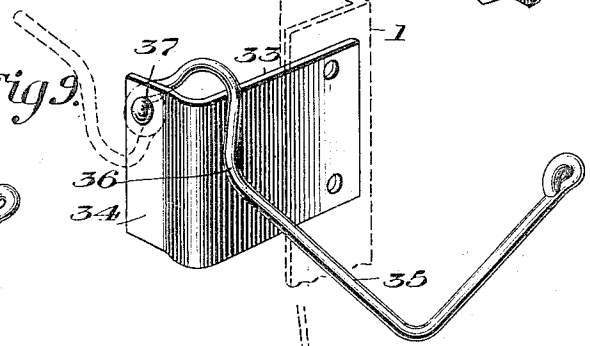


Fig. 9.



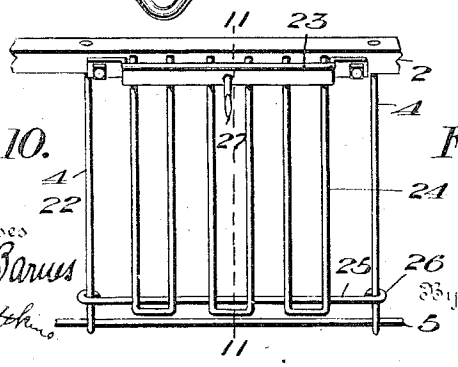
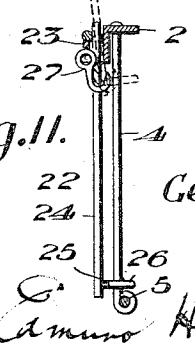


Fig. 10.

Fig. 11.



Witnesses

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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

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POULTRY-COOP.

1,276,723. Specification of Letters Patent. Patented Aug. 27, 1918.

Application filed October 9, 1915. Serial No. 55,036.

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, GEORGE COLLIS, a citizen of the United States, residing at Clinton, in the county of Clinton and State of Iowa, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in Poultry-Coops, of which the following is a specification, reference being had therein to the accompanying drawing.

This invention relates to poultry coops and more particularly to chicken feeding coops.

In an application heretofore filed by me on November 1, 1913, Serial No. 798,750, patented on August 1, 1916, No. 1,192,867, I have disclosed a chicken-feeding battery, so-called, which comprises corner-members horizontally disposed cross-pieces attached to the corner-members one above the other in spaced relation, a plurality of cage-structures each of which is suspended from a set of cross-pieces and independently of the corner-members and, also, in spaced relation, and each of which cage-structures consists of portions formed of woven strands, vertical side wires depending from the cross-pieces, and a cage-sustaining frame to which the side wires are attached at their lower ends and to which the strands of certain of the portions are attached at their upper ends, and a droppings-catching element disposed beneath each cage-structure and in spaced relation to the cage-structure which overlies it.

In the practical use of the structure, points of weakness have developed, and certain objections have been found to exist therein, which it is the object of the present invention to eliminate.

It is, therefore, one of the purposes of this invention to provide a structure which is essentially characterized by the features of stability and rigidity at all points.

A further object within the contemplation of the invention is the provision of more convenient means for supporting the feeding-troughs in exterior juxtaposition to the cages.

Still another object of the invention is to aggroup a series of cages in such manner that the entire structure is sanitary and also is practically indestructible, wherefore it can be moved from place to place conveniently and without danger of injury to itself or to the contained chickens preparatory to their being killed for the market.

Still another object is the provision of convenient means for affording access to the different compartments in each cage.

The invention, therefore, seeks to provide a poultry coop or feeding battery which is particularly adapted for use when chickens are being fattened, as by the so-called "milk-fed" method, preparatory to being killed for the market and which coop, from an operative standpoint, has been found to possess a high degree of efficiency, stability and durability and which, structurally considered, is of great simplicity.

There are other objects and advantages inherent in the structure, and these will be set forth hereinafter.

The invention resides broadly in the several features of construction and in the correlative aggroupment of the components thereof, all as exemplified in the structure hereinafter set forth, and the scope of application of which will be indicated in the appended claims.

In the accompanying drawings, I have illustrated a preferred embodiment of the invention and which has, to a greater or less degree, the attributes which I desire for my improved construction. As the invention permits of the utilization of various modifications of the several instrumentalities employed for producing the desired results, it is to be understood that, in disclosing a particular form of structure, I confine myself thereto only in so far as the principles of the invention are capable of being thereby carried into effect.

In these drawings:

Figure 1 is a view in perspective of my improved chicken-feeding coop, two of the cages and certain parts being omitted, more clearly to disclose the various features of the construction;

Figs. 2 and 3 are detail views, in vertical section, of the coop-supporting wheels or rollers;

Fig. 4 is a view in horizontal section, taken between two cage structures and showing a portion in top plan;

Fig. 5 is a view in bottom plan of one of the droppings-catching elements;

Fig. 6 is a fragmentary view in vertical section thereof;

Fig. 7 is a detail view, in perspective, of one of the reinforcing-plates employed in connection with the securement of the cross-pieces to each other and to a corner-member;

Fig. 8 is a detached view, in perspective, of one form of trough-sustaining bracket;

Fig. 9 is a similar view of a modified form of bracket;

Fig. 10 is a fragmentary view in front elevation of one of the gates; and

Fig. 11 is a view in vertical section, on the line 11—11, Fig. 10, showing in full lines, the gate in its closed position and, in dotted lines, showing the gate in its elevated, tilted position.

Referring to these drawings, it will be noted that the reference-numeral 1 indicates corner-members which, in this instance, constitute (with other components presently to be mentioned) the general supporting-structure of the coop. These corner-members are, preferably and as shown, formed of angle-iron, and there are four of them.

Attached to the inner surfaces of these corner-members are a plurality of sets or series of longitudinal cross-members or pieces 2 and transverse cross-members or pieces 3, each set or series being arranged in spaced relation to each other. These cross-pieces constitute supporting instrumentalities for a cage which will hereinafter be described. The cross-pieces, like the corner-members, are preferably formed of angle-iron.

Suitably secured to and depending from each of the sets of longitudinal cross-pieces 2, at each side of the structure, are vertical strands 4. These strands, at their upper ends, are secured in the horizontal portions of the angle-iron cross-pieces 2. The lower ends of the strands are connected to the lower elongated portions 5 of a cage-supporting frame 6. Also attached to the portions 5 of the frame is a mesh bottom-portion 7. Depending from the upstanding portion 6ª of the frame 6 is a woven mesh 8 which extends downwardly and then horizontally to form a section of the bottom-portion 7.

The woven mesh 8, in conjunction with the strands 4 and the bottom-portion 7, form a basket or cage which, as shown, is suspended from the longitudinal cross-pieces 2 and from the upstanding portions 6ª of the frame 6. In each cage-structure there is a longitudinally-extending frame 9, rectangular in form, and secured to the ends of the cage. It is formed with a mesh 10. Disposed between the ends of each cage are transverse partition-frames 11 provided with woven mesh 12. These instrumentalities divide each cage or basket into four separate compartments. The longitudinal partition is strengthened by brace-members 13.

As the general supporting-structure of the coop, comprising the corner-members, aforementioned, are subjected to considerable strain, by reason of the weight of the parts suspended from or attached thereto, etc., I have found in practice that it is desirable to reinforce the securement of the cross-pieces 2 and 3 to the corner-members and to each other. To this end, I provide an angular plate 14, which, as shown in Fig. 1, is bolted at two points, preferably, to the cross-members 2 and 3, and at four points, preferably, to the corner-members. This plate is shown in detail in Fig. 7.

Suitably secured upon the upper faces of the longitudinal cross-pieces 2 are pan-supporting strips 15 and 16, there being one of these, 15, disposed adjacent the ends of the cage, and two, 16, toward the middle portion thereof. Each of the strips 15 and 16 is provided with an upstanding limit-stop 15ª and 16ª intermediate of its ends.

Slidably supported by each pair of strips 15 and 16 are droppings-catching pans 17, two of these being shown in operative position in Fig. 1, and a full set appearing, in top plan, in Fig. 4. One of these pans, detached, is shown in Fig. 5, while, in Fig. 6, a fragmentary portion thereof is also shown, in section. These pans are provided with an upstanding flange 18 on three sides. On their lower faces, the pans are provided with a three-sided angular flange-element 19 which is secured to the bottom of the pan by bolts 20, the heads of which are, as shown in Fig. 6, flush with the upper surface of the bottom-portion of the pan. The end portions of this flange-element are adapted to slidably engage the sides of the supporting strips 15 and 16. To facilitate positioning of these pans upon the strips, the corners 21 of the flange 19 are rounded, as shown in Fig. 5, or otherwise formed so as not to present a square corner. When these pans are placed in position, they are held against inward movement by the stops 15ª and 16ª, as shown in Fig. 4.

To permit access to each of the four compartments of each cage-structure, I provide a gate 22 (Figs. 1, 10 and 11). To this end,

each longitudinal cross-piece is provided with a guide-piece 23 offset so as to provide a space in which the gate is adapted to slide. The gates include vertical strands 24 and a horizontal strand 25, the ends of which are bent to form eyes 26 adapted to encompass two of the strands 4 of the cage-structure. As shown particularly in Fig. 11, the guide-pieces 23 are sufficiently offset to provide a considerable space between the inner face of the guide-piece and the outer face of the cross-piece 2. In consequence, when the gate is in its elevated or open position—as shown in dotted lines in Fig. 11—it will tilt forward, and the eyes 26, by their frictional engagement with the strands 24, will serve to hold the gate in its open position. To secure the gate in this position, I may, as shown in Figs. 10 and 11, provide a gate-holding hook 27 pivoted on the cross-piece 23 and adapted to engage the lower portion of the gate.

Any suitable supporting means for the coop may be provided; but, in the present instance, I have elected to provide swiveling rollers or wheels 28 at one end of the coop and rollers or wheels 29 at the opposite end thereof. These rollers are shown in detail in Figs. 2 and 3, respectively.

In these feeding-coops, means must be provided for sustaining the ration or feeding mash. To this end, there is secured to each of the corner-pieces 1 a bracket-holding element 30, and on each of these is a swinging bracket 31, angular in form at its outer portion to sustain one end of a trough 32 (Figs. 1 and 8). The particular form of supporting-bracket 31, shown in Fig. 8, is adapted to swing on a vertical axis so that the outer end of the bracket will be positioned approximately parallel with the longitudinal sides of the cage. This arrangement is desirable because, as the coops are moved through doorways and the like, these brackets can be positioned out of the way and, thus, prevented from becoming damaged.

In Fig. 9, I have shown a modified form of structure, this including a bracket-sustaining plate 33 formed with an angular portion 34 on which one end of a trough supporting bracket 35 is pivoted. The bracket 35 is so formed, as shown, that one portion, 36, will normally bear against and be held by the plate 33. When, however, a trough has been removed from the bracket 35 and the coop is to be moved through a doorway or the like, the bracket is swung on its horizontal axis 37 so that it will then occupy a position within the cage.

In each of these forms of trough-supporting brackets, the idea is to be able to dispose them so that they can be swung on their axes into a position where they are practically alined with, or disposed to one side of, the plane of the cage-structure, so that they will not impinge against anything and be damaged.

From the foregoing, it will be perceived that I have succeeded in devising a feeding-coop which is well adapted to achieve the several objects and ends in view. The entire structure is simple and compact in form and is particularly well suited for transferring chickens, which have been fattened by the so-called "milk-fed" method, from the feeding-room to the killing-room.

As many changes can obviously be made in this construction and many widely different embodiments of the invention can be made without a departure from the spirit thereof, it is intended that all matter contained in the foregoing description and shown in the drawings shall be interpreted as illustrative and not in a limiting sense.

What I claim is:

1. A traveling metallic coop including a plurality of corner-members, supporting-rollers attached thereto, a plurality of superposed cage-structures mounted on said corner-members in spaced-apart relation and comprising upper and lower cross-pieces secured to the corner-members, and means for permitting access to the interior of each cage-structure comprising a slidable and tiltable gate having a bar at its lower end formed with eyes, a guide-element secured to the upper cross-piece, and vertical cage-wires embraced by said eyes.

2. A traveling metallic coop including a plurality of corner-members, rollers connected to the lower portions thereof, a cage-structure mounted on said corner-members and comprising upper and lower cross-pieces and provided with an opening to afford access to the interior of the coop, a guide-element on the upper cross-piece, vertical wires extending between said upper and lower cross-pieces, and a gate for closing said opening and mounted in said guide-element and comprising a bar at its lower portion provided with eyes embracing said vertical wires; said gate being movable to engage said bar with the guide-element, the gate then being tiltable outwardly.

3. A traveling metallic coop including a plurality of corner-members, rollers connected to the lower portions thereof, a cage-structure mounted on said corner-members and comprising upper and lower cross-pieces and provided with an opening to afford access to the interior of the coop, a guide-element on the upper cross-piece, vertical wires extending between said upper and lower cross-pieces, a gate for closing said opening and mounted in said guide-element and com-

prising a bar at its lower portion provided with eyes embracing said vertical wires; said gate being movable to engage said bar with the guide-element, the gate then being tiltable outwardly, and a hook-member engageable with the bar for holding the gate open.

In testimony whereof I affix my signature in presence of two witnesses.

GEORGE COLLIS.

Witnesses.
FRIEDA E. SVITSCHLER,
ANNA C. BLAAS.