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2,695,006

MULTIPLE EGG TRAP NEST

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Fig. 1

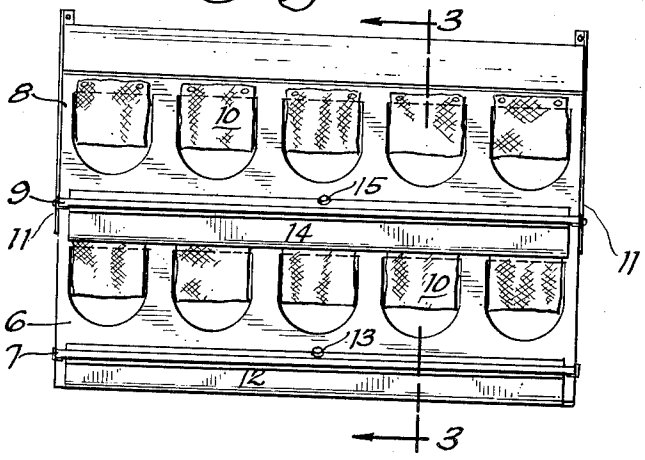
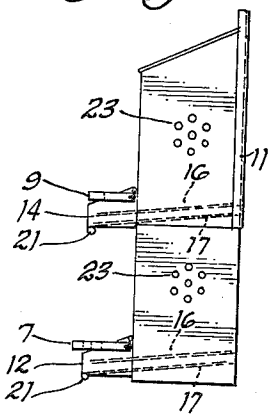


Fig. 2



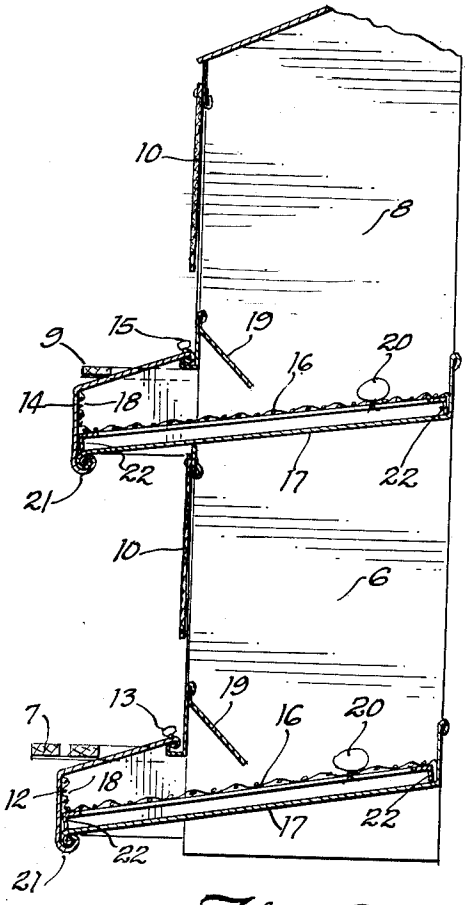


Fig. 3

Fig. 4

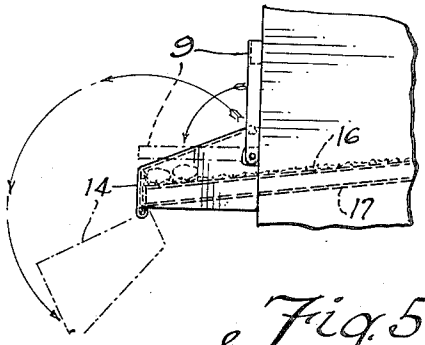
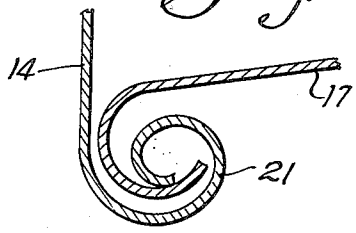


Fig. 5



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MULTIPLE EGG TRAP NEST

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9 Claims. (Cl. 119—48)

This invention relates to improved accommodations for hens to lay eggs.

It is the object of this invention to provide rows of individual nests for hens which are constructed and equipped so as to induce the hens to lay a quantity and quality of eggs better than normally are produced.

One of the features of this invention is the construction of the individual nests in rows with facilities installed in each nest to keep it clean at all times and to segregate the freshly laid eggs so as to prevent them from becoming dirty.

Another feature is the construction of the rows of nests in units that can be assembled in a continuous line, or on top of one another like sections of a book case, or even back-to-back.

In a specific embodiment this invention comprises multiple rows of individual nests, means as long as the row in any unit and in front of the nests for a perch, movable but not detached means inside each nest to attract the hens and induce them to enter, apron means inclined downward from the entrance to each nest that does not touch the floor of the nest, a wire screen that has been coated with rubber, rubber-like, or other resilient material which serves as the floor of the nest and is inclined a little from the back of the row of nests to the front, a collecting rail along the front edge of said wire screen and a scraping edge along the back edge of said wire screen, hinged means for covering the egg-collecting sections of said wire screen, openings for ventilation in the walls of each individual nest, and curtain means suspended in the entrance to each nest.

The objects and features of the device of this invention will be more apparent from a detailed description of the features and novel arrangement of parts in conjunction with the accompanying drawings in which like reference characters in the several views refer to the same items.

Figure 1 is a front elevation of two rows of nests stacked one on top of the other, which comprises a popular complete unit.

Figure 2 is an end elevation of the same.

Figure 3 is an enlarged vertical sectional view along line 3—3 of Figure 1.

Figure 4 is an enlarged vertical view of an end section showing details of the hinged perch and hinged cover to egg-collecting trough.

Figure 5 is a greatly enlarged cross sectional view through the hinging mechanism for the cover to the egg-collecting trough.

It is my idea that five nests be built in a row to comprise a unit which may be mounted on a wall of the chicken house, or layed on the floor and backed up against a wall or other flat surface, or layed on the floor or some elevated flat surface with its back against the back of a similar unit of nests with a partition between and touching each back. However, there seems to be a preference for two similar units stacked one on top of the other so that I will describe such combination in detail first. If it is intended that such combination will be set up against a wall or similar flat surface, it will not be necessary to provide a metal sheet across the entire backs of the upper and lower rows of nests. However, if the double tier of nests is to be stood in the center of the chicken house, for example, then it will be necessary to provide either one sheet of metal to partially cover the entire back areas of the two rows of nests, or back up each row of nests separately with a conventional back plate thereby making each row a complete unit in itself and not requiring placement against any flat surface. This would constitute the preferred construction in my opinion and is illustrated in the accompanying drawings.

The front view shown in Figure 1 illustrates the popular two tier unit consisting of lower row 6 of nests with perch 7 and upper row 8 of nests with perch 9. Each individual nest has a curtain flap 10 to shield a hen when laying in the nest from light and any other distractions. Strips of angle iron 11 are joined to the rows at their rear for mounting them on a wall or other flat surface, or for attaching a back plate to each row of nests. The front face of an angular hinged cover to the egg-collecting section in the front of the nests is represented by 12 and the cover is swung off by lifting the knob 13. Similarly the cover 14 is raised off the egg-collecting trough of the upper tier of nests by lifting knob 15.

Most of the features of my invention are best illustrated in the enlarged vertical sectional view of Figure 3. The wire screen bed 16 of the nest is coated with rubber, or rubber-like material such as latex, plastisol, or other resilient materials. A screen bed is preferred so as to permit dirt, gravel and any other objectionable matter to fall through, or be brushed through by the hen's feathers, onto the bottom floor 17 of the nest. The screen is coated lightly with rubber or some rubber-like plastic, or resilient material, in order to prevent scratching noises when the hen is walking about the nest or "nesting" down. The front end of the rubber coated wire screen is bent vertically to form a rail 18 for the egg-collecting section of the nest and the wire screen bed 16 is purposely set at an angle so that the rear is higher than the front, and thus when the hen rises off the newly laid egg it will roll down the inclined nest to the egg-collecting rail 18. In doing so the rubber coating on the wire screen bed 16 and rail 18 will reduce any tendency to breakage of thin shell eggs.

When the newly laid egg rolls down nest bed 16 to the egg-collecting section, it passes under a substantially immovable, rigid, downwardly inclined apron 19 and will be safe from the hen. Thereafter the egg will not be walked on, dirtied, broken or eaten. This is a decided advantage of my nest. It is a natural instinct for a hen after laying an egg to work the egg through her feathers and up under her breast. Once the egg is advanced far enough under the hen's breast any movement by the hen will result in the egg rolling gently forward under apron 19 and down to the rail 18 and the compartment for easy collection of spotlessly clean fresh eggs.

Preferably a wooden egg-shaped decoy 20 that had been painted white is fastened by rubber band to the wire screen 16. The rubber band connection enables the hen to move the artificial egg 20 around as she nestles down but within a limited range.

The rubber-coated wire screen 16 is supported up off the bottom 17 by angle iron strips 22 built into a frame with cross support strips approximately under each partition between individual nests. Periodically the row of nests can be cleaned easily and quickly by raising the perch, then raising the angular cover to the egg-collecting compartment, which by reason of the full width rolled sleeve hinge 21, will swing lower than the nest bottom 17 as shown in Figure 4, so that screen 16 can be pulled out and the rear angle iron 22 of its frame will scrape the bottom 17 clean.

The cross sectional view of the full width sleeve rolled hinge 21 is shown enlarged in Figure 5.

When collecting eggs from this clean egg factory, you first raise the perch or roost 9 back as shown in Figure 4 whereby the perch board closes across the several openings to the row of nests and keeps the hens in so that they cannot peck and scratch the person gathering the eggs. Then the angular cover 14 is raised up and swung down as outlined in Figure 4, thus exposing the egg-collecting compartment back of rail 18. A double perch board 7 is provided for the lower tier of nests in order to make it easier for the hen to fly up from perch 7 to perch 9 of the second tier of nests.

Each individual nest is ventilated by reason of the feature of the rubber-covered wire screen bed 16 being raised up from the bottom tray or floor 17 of the nest and a group of vent holes 23 in Figure 2 in each wall of the row of nests. These ventilating features and the fact that the

nest is always clean of litter greatly reduces the tendency to broodiness in laying hens.

What I claim as invention:

1. A row of identical nests suitable for fowl to lay eggs in consisting of a housing with an inclined wire screen that had been covered with rubber-like material, a similarly inclined bottom to said nests below said wire screen, means along the lower and higher edges of said inclined wire screen to support same up off said inclined bottom, means disposed rigidly above said inclined wire screen at an angle opposite thereto and removed therefrom sufficiently to permit an egg to roll down said inclined wire screen under said rigidly disposed means to a collecting rail formed by turning the lower edge of said wire screen in a vertical direction, and a hinged closing means for covering the section of said housing along said collecting rail.

2. Rows of similar nests arranged in tiers comprising a rectangular shaped housing divided by multiple partitions into multiple nests each with separate entrance, means hanging over each entrance to shield light from occupant of nests, an immovable inclined apron extending inwardly and downwardly from the entrance of each individual nest, an egg collection compartment to each row of individual nests which extends forward from said housing and along under said separate entrances to said multiple nests, said compartment having a longitudinally hinged cover which when closed over said compartment supports a perch board that is swung down on said cover, rubber covered means inclined from an elevated point at the rear wall of said rectangular housing to a lower level at the forward edge of said egg collection compartment, said rubber covered means supported by angular means up off the parallel inclined bottom of said nests but low enough from said immovable inclined apron to allow an egg to roll down said inclined rubber covered means into said egg collection compartment, and a single flat member to cover the backs of the rows of nests and close said rectangular shaped housing.

3. Rows of individual nests arranged in tiers, each tier comprising a rectangularly shaped housing divided by equally spaced partitions into multiple individual stalls, the bottom of each tier being inclined from a higher level at the back to a lower level at the front and supporting a wire mesh screen that had been coated with a rubber-like plastic material, angular means along the edges of said wire mesh screen to support same up off said bottom, the front edge of said wire mesh screen extending beyond said rectangular housing and being bent into a vertical position lengthwise of said tier for collecting eggs in a compartment that is covered by a hinged cover and an inclined immovable apron extending downward at an angle from each entrance to each individual stall towards said screen to shield the eggs in said compartment from the hen occupying the nest.

4. A row of identical nests suitable for fowl to lay eggs in as set forth and claimed in claim 1 above including a covering means extending the length of said collecting rail which covering means is swingable around said collecting rail by reason of a sleeve-type hinge extending the length of said covering means.

5. Rows of similar poultry nests that may be arranged in stacks one on top of another with a common back plate for all rows, each row consisting of a separate housing divided into multiple individual nests by multiple parallel partitions, each housing having an inclined floor sloping down toward the front of the row of nests and a similarly inclined rubber coated wire screen supported above said floor, each individual nest having an opening for the hen to enter and a flexible flap to cover the upper part of each opening, an apron-like immovable member extending inwardly and downwardly from each individual opening into each nest, said inclined rubber coated wire screen extending under said multiple aprons and forward from said housing into an egg collecting trough extending the full length of the row of nests, said collecting trough including a rail made by extending said rubber coated wire screen in a vertical direction, a hinged closing means for covering said collecting trough, and a single smooth plate to cover the backs of all nests in the stack of rows of nests.

6. Multiple individual poultry nests arranged in a horizontal row suitable for attaching said row with partially open backs of said individual nests against a vertical smooth surface, each individual nest comprising a rectangular housing with a partially open back, an opening for

the hen to enter the nest in the front having a flexible flap to cover the upper portion of said opening to shield the hen from outside light, the row of individual nests having a common floor inclined from a higher point on the partial back wall to a lower point at the front of the row of nests, a wire screen that had been coated with rubber-like material and attached to angle irons is disposed a little above said inclined floor and is co-extensive with said floor under all the nests in the row and for a short length beyond the lower front edge of the individual nests, which extended length of wire screen is vertically disposed to form an egg collecting rail, a hinged means for closing over said collecting rail, an apron-like rigid member extending inwardly and downwardly in an opposite direction to said inclined wire screen from each individual opening into each nest, and a white egg-shaped member attached to said wire screen by elastic means at a central point in each individual nest.

7. A row of poultry nests capable of being superposed on a similar row of nests comprising a plurality of partitioned stalls in a housing with individual entrances to each stall and a wire screen extending the full length of the row of nests and also protruding forward beyond the individual entrances to each stall to provide an egg collecting compartment, said wire screen having been first coated with rubber-like material and mounted on a rectangular frame, said frame being suitable to hold said wire screen up off the bottom of said row of nests so as to permit the droppings to fall through said screen, said frame and screen being of a size suitable for easy insertion on the bottom of said housing under said plurality of stalls, said bottom of said housing being higher at the back and lower at the front of said housing where it protrudes beyond the individual entrances to each stall, said frame and screen being supported by said bottom and inclining parallel to it, a closure member swingingly connected to the front end of said bottom for closing over that portion of said screen and said bottom which protrudes beyond the individual entrances to each stall to form an egg collecting compartment.

8. A row of poultry nests comprising a plurality of partitioned stalls in a housing containing a nest compartment and an egg collecting compartment, both having an inclined bottom and a parallel wire screen spaced a little above said bottom, said wire screen having first been coated with rubber and the front edge thereof extended in a vertical direction along its full length, said screen coated and shaped as aforesaid being attached to a rectangular frame suitable for insertion on said inclined bottom under said partitioned stalls, said screen having attached thereto by loose elastic means an egg shaped member disposed thereon centrally in each of said stalls in said nest compartment, said nest compartment being separated from said egg collecting compartment by a rigid apron-like member inclined oppositely to said coated wire screen and extending from each individual entrance to said partitioned stalls downwardly into said nest compartment but sufficiently short of said coated wire screen to permit eggs to roll forward down said inclined screen into the said egg collecting compartment, and a closure member swingingly attached to said bottom along its front edge so as to close over that portion of said coated wire screen which had its front edge bent vertically so as to collect eggs rolling down from said nest compartment under said apron-like member.

9. The combination of a plurality of poultry nests arranged in rows, each row being capable of being superposed upon a similar row of nests, and each row of poultry nests comprising a housing with an inclined bottom containing a nest compartment and an egg collecting compartment with a rigid apron-like member separating said compartments, said bottom being inclined downward from the back of said housing, said rigid apron-like member being inclined downward into said housing from the lower edge of the entrance to each poultry nest, said nest compartment having a single rubber coated wire screen co-extensive with said inclined bottom and spaced parallel to and a little above said bottom to permit droppings to pass through said screen, said nest compartment having a plurality of partitioned stalls with individual entrances to each in the front wall of said housing, said screen having an egg shaped decoy disposed centrally in each of said stalls and attached to said screen by loose elastic means, said egg collecting compartment consisting of a section of said inclined bottom and said parallel wire screen which ex-

tends forward through said wall of said housing and below said individual entrances to said stalls, the forward edge of said rubber coated wire screen extending upwardly from its inclined position to form a collecting rail to catch eggs rolling down said inclined screen from said nest compartment and under said apron-like member, and a closing cover to said egg collecting compartment that is hinged along the forward edge of said bottom to said housing.

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