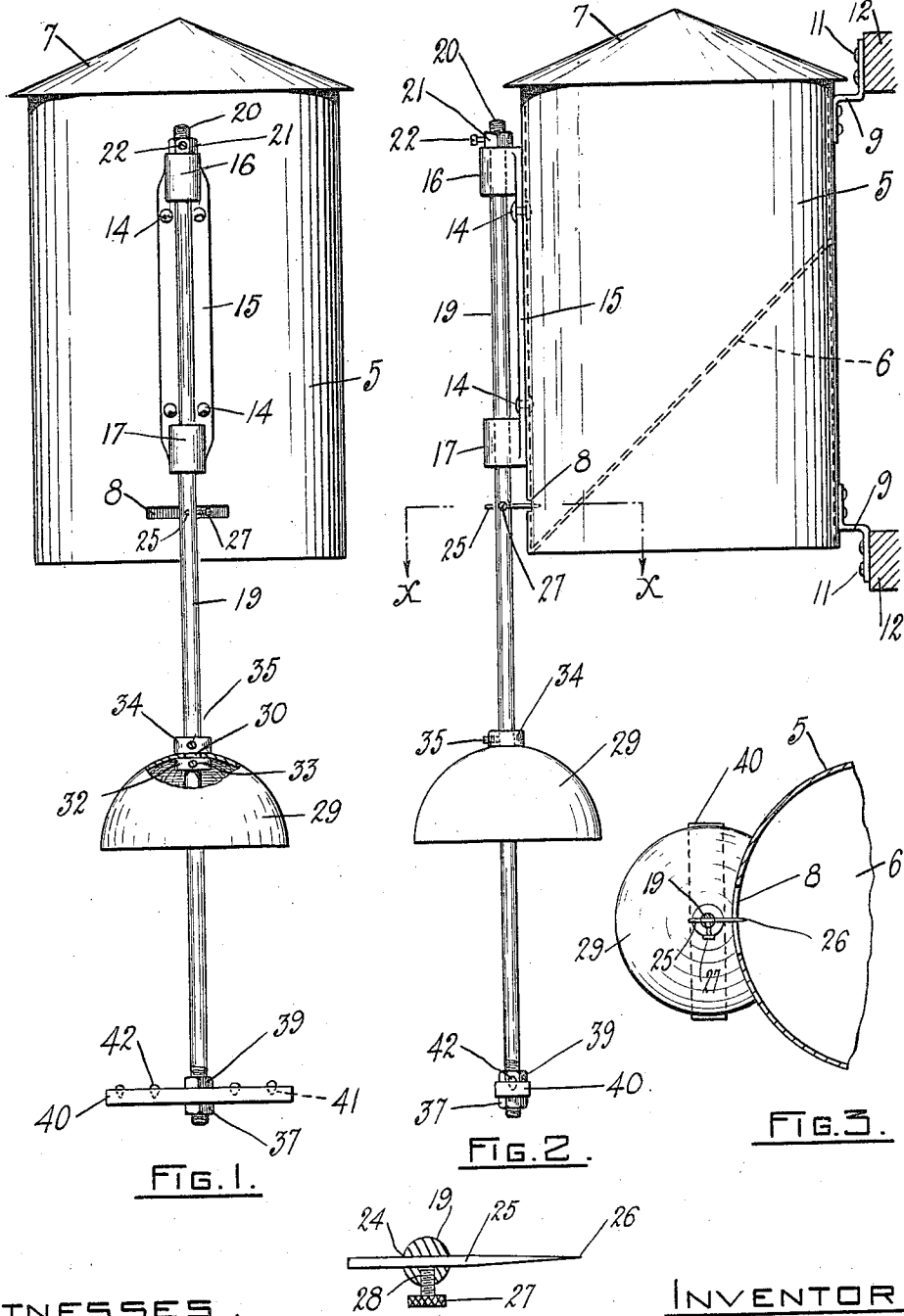


G. K. GILLETTE.
POULTRY FEEDER.
APPLICATION FILED FEB. 8, 1912.

1,045,783.

Patented Nov. 26, 1912.



WITNESSES.

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POULTRY-FEEDER.

1,045,783.

Specification of Letters Patent.

Patented Nov. 26, 1912.

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To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, GEORGE K. GILLETTE, a citizen of the United States, residing at Central Village, in the county of Windham and State of Connecticut, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in Poultry-Feeders, of which the following is a specification.

My invention relates to poultry feeders, and particularly to that type wherein the grain is automatically fed to the poultry from time to time.

The essential objects of my invention are to prevent the clogging of the grain in the feed receptacle, thereby insuring a continuous flow and uniform distribution of the grain and a perfect control of the quantity of distribution; to vary and govern the area of distribution of the grain in its discharge from the receptacle; to avoid the necessity of the use of gates, valves, and like devices; and to simplify and cheapen the entire construction of the apparatus.

To the above ends essentially my invention consists in such parts and in such combinations of parts as fall within the scope of the appended claims.

In the accompanying drawings which form a part of this specification,—Figure 1 is a front elevation of my feeder, Fig. 2, a side elevation of the same, Fig. 3, a section of a portion of the feeder taken in line *xx* of Fig. 2, and Fig. 4, a detailed enlarged section of the shaft taken on line *xx* of Fig. 2.

Like reference characters indicate like parts throughout the views.

My device in its improved form of embodiment comprises a cylindrical receptacle 5 for grain, having an interior inclined bottom or floor 6, and carrying a suitable cover 7 of any preferred construction. The receptacle 5 is provided at the lower part of its forward portion at the deepest part of the receptacle with an oblong, horizontally disposed slot 8. The receptacle may be supported in any desired manner. In the present instance, angle arms 9 riveted to the rear of the receptacle near its top and bottom are fixed by screws 11 or otherwise to portions 12 of a building or other structure. Fixed by rivets 14 or otherwise to the front of the receptacle is a vertically disposed bracket plate 15 provided at its upper and lower ends respectively with bearings 16, 17, in which bearings is loosely mounted an oper-

ating shaft 19, provided with a threaded upper end 20, carrying a nut 21, which rests upon the upper end face of the bearing 16. This nut is held in any adjusted position upon the shaft 19 by a set screw 22, mounted in the nut. The shaft 19 extends downwardly past the center of the opening 8 and terminates some distance below the receptacle. As shown in Figs. 3 and 4, the shaft 19 at a point immediately opposite the opening 8 is provided with a transverse opening 24, in which is slidably mounted an arm 25, provided with a point 26. The arm 25 is adjustable in the opening by means of a thumb screw 27, mounted in an opening 28 in the shaft 19 and contacting with the side of the arm. The pointed arm extends normally some distance through the opening 8 in the receptacle, wherein its point travels in an arc when the shaft 19 is rotated, and serves to separate the individual grains therein and prevent the same from clogging, and assists in impelling the grain outwardly through the opening 8. Hence, the grain falls by gravity upon the hemispherical deflector 29, provided with a central opening 30 to admit passage therethrough of the shaft 19. The deflector rests upon a nut 32 clamped by a set screw 33 to the shaft, and is held upon said nut by a second nut 34 engaged to the shaft by a set screw 35. It will be observed that by virtue of the screws 33 and 35, the deflector may be moved longitudinally upon the shaft and thus brought either nearer to or farther away from the opening 8 in the receptacle, thereby varying the angle and extent of distribution of the grain from the surface of the deflector. It is found by experiment that the hemispherical shape of the deflector produces a more extensive distribution of grain than is the case when a conical deflector is used. Fixed to the bottom of the shaft 19 by nuts 37 and 39 or otherwise intermediate its length is a bait bar 40 preferably of wood, provided with cavities 41, in which are fixed interspaced grains of corn 42.

The operation of my device is as follows: The fowl approaches the bait bar 40 and pecks at one of the kernels 42, and in so doing imparts a rotary movement to the bar and thence to the rotary shaft 19, which impels the pointed arm 25 to swing in an arc through the opening 8 and the grain within the receptacle 5 thereby dislodging

grains of the latter which fall down upon and are scattered by the deflector 29, and when upon the ground are sought by the fowl. The deflector 29 performs the additional function of a fly wheel in this operation. It will be observed that by virtue of the adjustable character of the arm 25 in a horizontal plane, the point 26 is made to penetrate the grain any desired distance in accordance with the character of the grain, and governs the quantity of grain to be discharged. More than one arm may be used if desired.

What I claim is,—

1. In a poultry feeder, the combination of a grain receptacle provided with an opening, bearings upon the receptacle, a shaft loosely mounted in the bearings and extending below the receptacle, an arm upon the shaft extending into the opening, a deflector upon the shaft below the arm, and a member upon the shaft below the deflector adapted to support the bait.

2. In a poultry feeder, the combination of a receptacle provided with an opening in its side, supports upon the side of the receptacle, a shaft rotatably mounted in the supports extending below the receptacle and near the opening and transversely thereof, an arm in the shaft extending within the opening, means for horizontally adjusting the arm, a deflector mounted upon the shaft below the opening, and a member upon the shaft below the deflector adapted to receive the bait.

3. In a poultry feeder, the combination of a receptacle provided with an opening in its side wall near its bottom, an inclined floor in the receptacle extending from a point below the opening upwardly, bearings upon the side wall of the receptacle in vertical alinement with the opening, a shaft rotatably mounted in the bearings and extending below the receptacle, an arm adjustably mounted for horizontal movement in the shaft extending into the opening, a deflector upon the shaft below the opening, and a bait bar upon the shaft below the deflector.

4. In a poultry feeder, the combination of a receptacle provided with an oblong opening in its side, bearings upon the side

of the receptacle, a shaft rotatably mounted in the bearings and extending past the opening, an arm mounted upon the shaft and provided with a point extending within the opening, a deflector upon the shaft below the opening, and a bait bar upon the shaft below the deflector.

5. In a poultry feeder, the combination of a receptacle provided with an opening in its side, bearings upon the side of the receptacle in alinement with the opening, a shaft rotatably mounted in the bearings and extending near the opening, an arm mounted upon the shaft extending within the opening, a hemispherical deflector mounted upon the shaft below the opening, and a bait bar upon the shaft below the deflector.

6. In a poultry feeder, the combination of a receptacle provided with an opening in its side, bearings upon the side of the receptacle in alinement with the opening, a shaft rotatably mounted in the bearings near the opening, an arm upon the shaft extending into the opening, a deflector mounted upon the shaft below the opening and longitudinally adjustable upon the shaft, and a bait bar upon the shaft below the deflector.

7. In a poultry feeder, the combination of a grain receptacle provided with an opening, bearings upon the receptacle, a shaft loosely mounted in the bearings and extending below the receptacle, an arm upon the shaft extending into the opening, a deflector upon the shaft below the arm, and a member below the deflector adapted to support the bait.

8. In a poultry feeder, the combination of a grain receptacle provided with an opening, bearings upon the receptacle, an operating shaft rotatably mounted in the bearings, an arm upon the shaft extending into the opening, and a bait member upon the shaft.

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

GEORGE K. GILLETTE.

Witnesses:

FRED W. PERKINS,
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