Oct. 18, 1949. R. E. BLAKE ET AL 2,484,927

DROPPINGS CATCHER

Filed Nov. 27, 1946

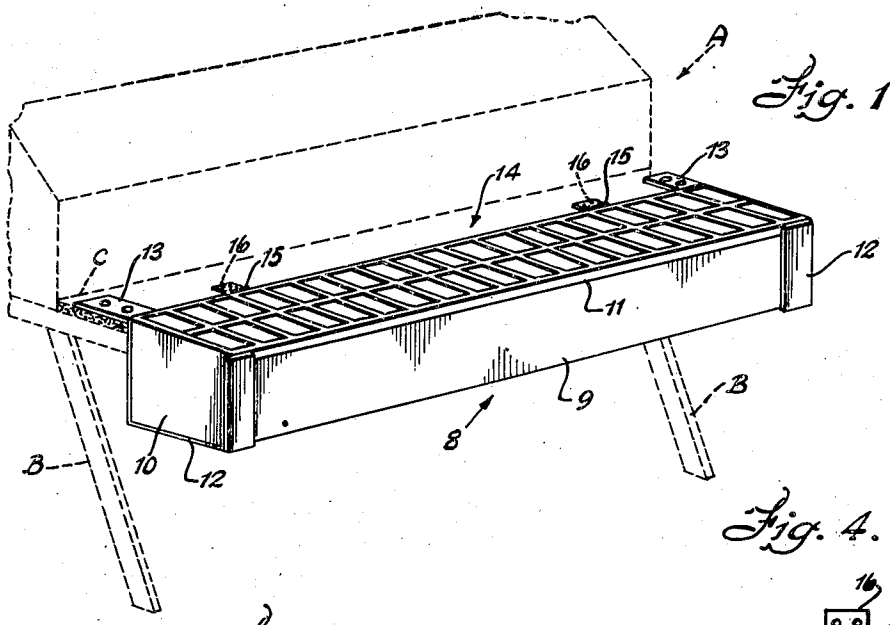


Fig. 1.

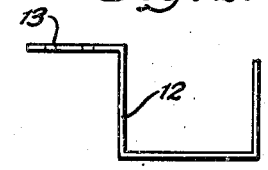


Fig. 2.

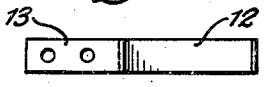


Fig. 3.

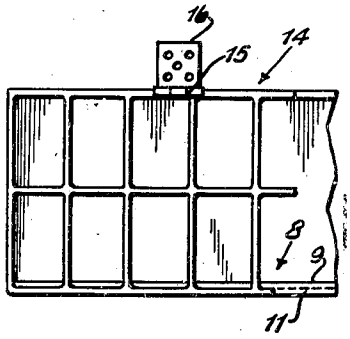


Fig. 4.

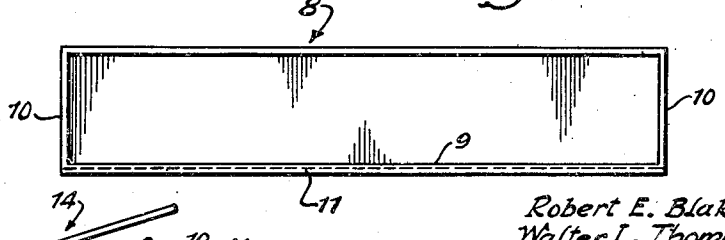


Fig. 5.

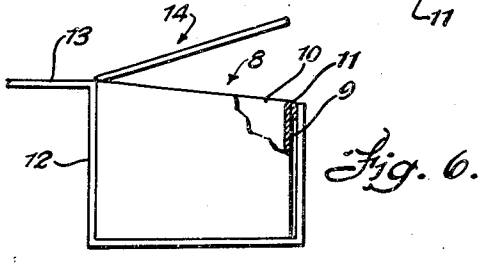


Fig. 6.

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Patented Oct. 18, 1949

2,484,927

UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE

2,484,927

DROPPINGS CATCHER

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Application November 27, 1946, Serial No. 712,592

1 Claim. (Cl. 119—51)

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The present invention relates to structural ways and means useful as an attachment to stand-type poultry feeders and adapted to catch and retain droppings, whereby to prevent an accumulation of same on the floor or other surface beneath and around said stand.

More specifically, the invention has to do with the provision of a simple and expedient feeder stand attachment characterized by an open-top, box-like droppings receiving box or trough, fixture means being provided for sustaining same removably on the usual platform board of the stand.

Another object of the invention pertains to a structural assemblage of the above type, there being a hinged grate or grill connected with the open top of the trough, this in a manner to permit the chickens to perch on portions of the grate, whereby to facilitate the step of properly catching the droppings while at the same time permitting free approach and exit steps.

Other objects, features and advantages of the invention will become more readily apparent from the following description and the accompanying illustrative drawings.

In the drawings, wherein like numerals are employed to designate like parts throughout the views:

Figure 1 is a perspective view showing in dotted lines portions of a so-called conventional poultry feeding stand and showing, in addition, the improved droppings catcher means applied to said stand.

Figure 2 is an edge view of one of the trough-attaching and sustaining brackets.

Figure 3 is a top plan view of the same bracket.

Figure 4 is a fragmentary top plan view of one end portion of the box or trough and the corresponding end portion of the grate.

Figure 5 is a top plan view of the trough per se.

Figure 6 is an end view of the assemblage seen in Figure 1 with a portion broken away and shown in section and with the grate swung partly toward an open position.

Reference being had to the illustrative drawings, and particularly to Figure 1 thereof, it will be seen that the so-called conventional type of poultry feeding stand is denoted by the reference character A, the same comprising a cellular box arrangement on a leg-supported base structure, the legs being denoted by the letters B. On both sides and below the feed box, the structure is provided with boards or similar runways C which serve as platforms on which the fowls stand while eating from the cellular pockets of said feeder A.

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We found it expedient and practicable to use droppings catchers on both sides of the stand and to attach same to the end portions of the platform board C, whereby to coact with said board. A description of one such catcher will suffice for both and, to this end, it will be seen that the catcher proper is in the form of a rectangular, box-like trough 8, the same being of sheet metal or similar material. The front wall 9 is slightly shorter than the rear wall and the end walls 10 have their upper edges slanting downwardly and outwardly to the approximate degree illustrated in Figure 6. The upper edge of the front wall is bent down and upon itself, as at 11, to provide a reinforcing lip. The trough is of a length substantially commensurate with the length of the platform board C and has its end portions fitting removably in U-shaped portions 12 of the end attaching brackets. Each bracket has an attaching lug 13 which is bolted, screwed, or otherwise fastened to the end portion of the board C.

In practice, we have found it expedient and practicable to provide partial covering means for the otherwise open top of the trough. To accomplish this, we have adopted for use an open-work or grill-like grating, the same being denoted by the numeral 14. It constitutes an open-work closure for the open top of the trough and fits down on the top as shown in the drawings. It is hingedly connected, as at 15, to hinging leaves 16 which are suitably fastened to adjacent edge portions of the board C. This closure 14 may be swung open and the box 10 bodily removed from the suspension brackets or fixtures 12 for cleaning the collected contents from the box 10. In large boxes, say six to eight feet long, the box is rigidly secured in said fixtures and is cleaned out with a shovel or hoe.

Briefly, the invention comprises a pair of U-shaped end fixtures attached to end portions of the board or plank C, an elongated box with its end portions fitting removably in the saddle-like fixtures, and a grill-like grating forming roosting means for the fowls, while, at the same time, permitting the droppings to be satisfactorily collected.

In view of the foregoing description taken in conjunction with the accompanying drawings, it is believed that a clear understanding of the construction, operation and advantages of the device will be quite apparent to those skilled in this art. A more detailed description is accordingly deemed unnecessary.

It is to be understood, however, that even

though we have herein shown and described a preferred embodiment of our invention that the same is susceptible to certain changes fully comprehended by the spirit of the invention as herein described and within the scope of the appended claim.

We claim:

In a structural assemblage of the class described, in combination, a poultry feeder of a substantially conventional stand-type comprising a stand structure, an open top feed box mounted thereon, and a horizontal board associated with said box and constituting a combined runway and poultry roost; a U-shaped bracket situated at each end of said board, the end portions of the respective brackets adjacent to said board having horizontal attaching lugs, said lugs being secured transversely to end portions of said board; an open top box having end portions saddled and thus seated removably in and embraced by the respective U-shaped brackets; and a grill-like grating closing the open top of said box and

having hinges connected with said horizontal board.

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