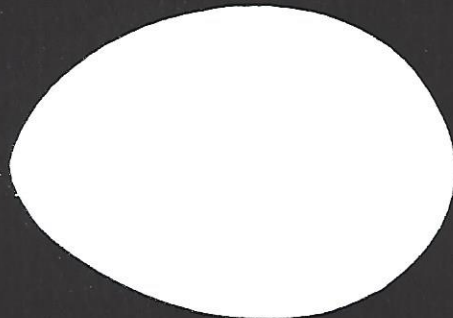
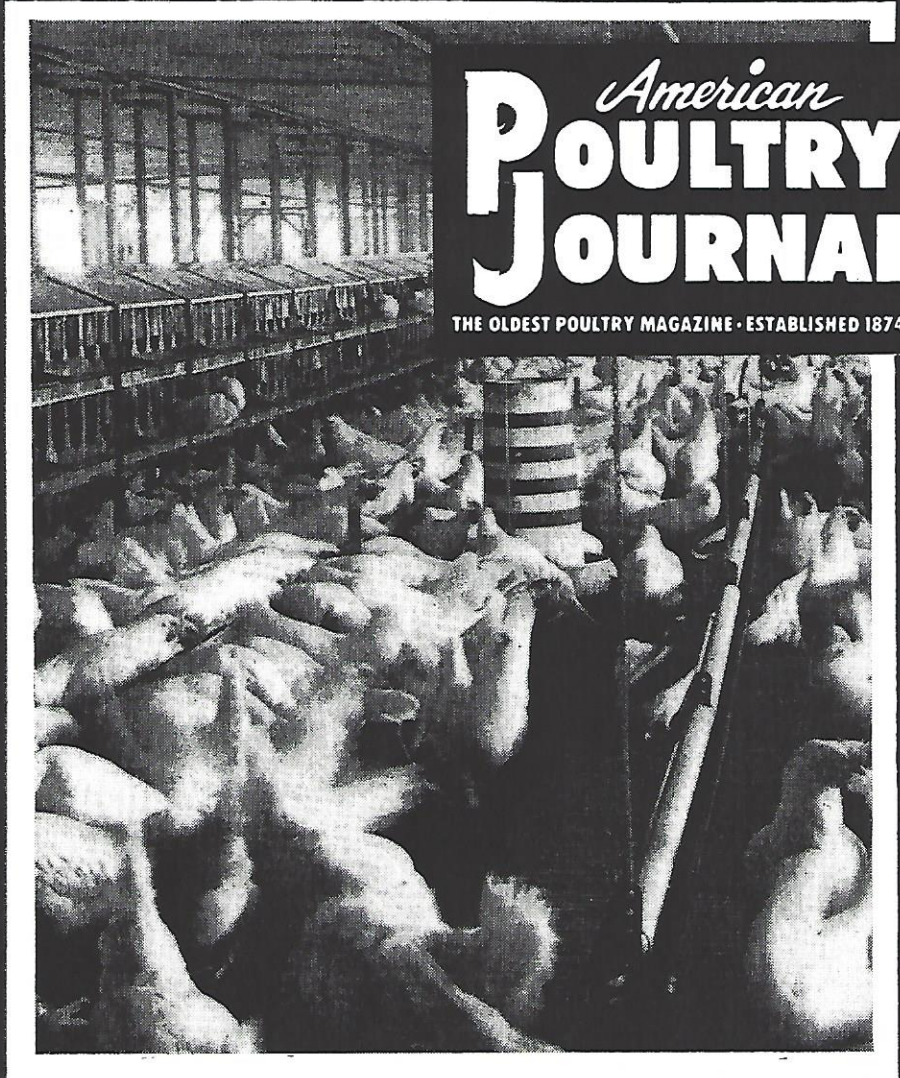
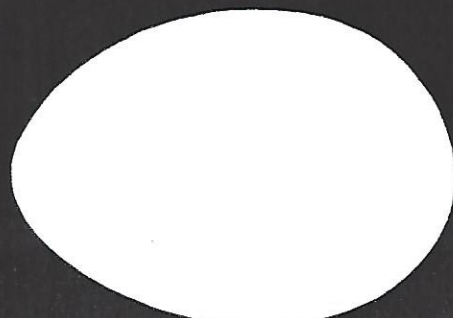


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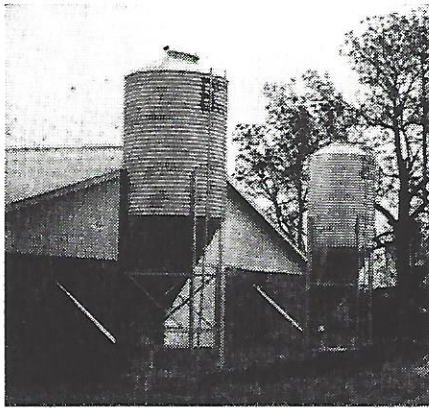
In This Issue;  
"Making Slatted  
Floors Work"



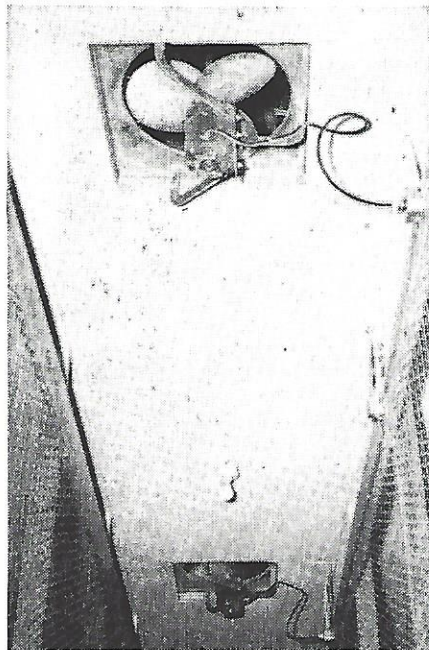
**20 CENTS**

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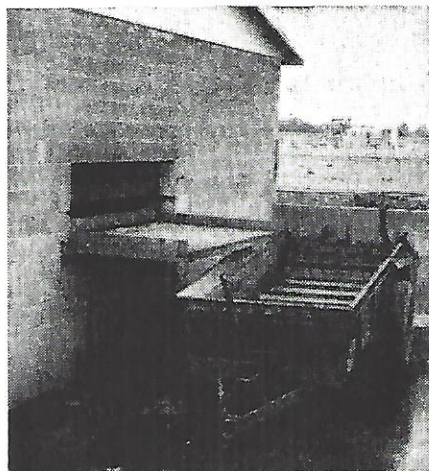
**SEPTEMBER • 1959**



Showing two bulk tanks located outside of Creighton Brothers laying house feeding two mechanical feeders inside.



Fans in the ceiling for ventilation. When all fans are on, there is an air movement of 6 cu. ft. per bird per minute.



Litter removing area at one end of 70 ft. house showing spreader under manure aperture. This area is depressed below ground level having drain for carrying out excess water.

# A Labor-Efficient House

**One Man Cares for 13,200 Hens**

By **ROBERT L. HOGUE**

Indiana

**C**REIGHTON BROTHERS POULTRY FARMS, Warsaw, Ind., have long been known as just about the largest commercial poultry farm operation in the Middle West. Starting as a result of low hog prices in the mid 1920's, they converted a hog farrowing house to commercial layers, shipping the eggs to the eastern market.

Today, they house 100,000 layers on 7 different farms located within a 10-mile radius of Warsaw. Hobart and Russell Creighton still take an active part in the management. However, John Frederick is general manager, and Eddie Creighton, son of Hobart, is in charge of general farm operation—about 1,000 acres of corn, livestock, and other activities, and Gale Creighton, son of Russell, in charge of feed mill operation for manufacturing feed for the layers, hogs and sheep operation.

Creighton Brothers are known throughout the Nation for their adaptation of the 30 ft. gable type house which had a 6 ft. height at the eaves, solid sheathing, and insulation board on top of the sheathing with a built up roof. Along the front, usually facing south, was a solid row of windows. Nests were located at the rear and droppings pits to the rear half. Thousands of these houses have been constructed throughout all poultry areas.

As to the need for a new house, John Frederick put it briefly: "It was necessary to find some type of housing requiring still less labor, housing a larger number of birds in one area, and reducing the cost per bird for equipment."

After looking over many different houses and checking with various housing engineers they decided to follow the basic design that has been developed in Michigan; several houses have been constructed which are 70 ft. by 240 ft. with a 10 ft. feed room at the end.

What's new in this house? Additional width, depressed gutter litter removing area and a depressed egg gathering aisle 4 ft. wide through center. The aisle is approximately 12 inches below floor level, thus permitting the lowering of nests by this much to make for greater ease and speed of egg gathering from rear.

Nests are located only 12 inches off the floor, or about 8 inches from top of litter. By doing this, it is possible to get a 3 tiered nest in the same area that normal 2 tier nests had formerly taken.

Wherever possible, they tried to save on material. Instead of two purlins, 2 x 10, they used one 2 x 12. To accomplish this, they made every post a supporting member, including the aisle supports through the center 4 ft.

(Continued on page 29)

## A LABOR-EFFICIENT HOUSE

(Continued from page 25)  
apart.

Floors are all concrete, siding is concrete block, a roof pitch 3-inch rise for each foot, this is the least possible slope recommended by U. S. Steel, their roof supplier. A galvanized steel roof was used. The house is sealed inside using marine plywood with a moisture barrier behind it and a fiber glass bat insulation used above.

Automatic forced ventilation is included, and if all fans are on, will give 6 cu. ft. of air movement per bird per minute—about 2 to 3 times that normally recommended by most engineers; but, by increasing the amount of air movement even in hot weather, maximum comfort should be obtained by rapid evaporation from pit area. With the center aisle figured out, there is approximately 15,180 sq. ft. of floor area for 13,200 birds.

It is estimated that the house will run approximately \$24,000, and equipment approximately \$11,000. This does not include plumbing, since pipe from ranges are being used.

### Economy in Labor

In the original plans, it was envisioned that the 4 houses would be set in a straight row. After construction of the first 2 houses, it was decided to group the second 2 immediately side by side thus creating a 4-house cluster; thereby, using only one hydraulic system for the operation of litter-removing equipment. Thus, economy was achieved by central loca-

## HOUSING

tion with no need for roads to other units. All bulk tanks for houses are in close vicinity. Economy in pick up of eggs will be achieved, and supervision of labor or trading between houses can be achieved with a minimum of travel.

All lumber is pre-cut according to jigs set-up at the supply shop of Creighton Brothers, the same as they have done on all previous house construction. The lumber is bought in car lots.

At the present, the main complaint registered on this type of housing is the large number of floor eggs experienced. Nests are located in the dark area along the aisle, and a number of the birds do not move across the roosting area to the nesting area. Steps are being taken to correct this and some progress is being made.

The chief advantage is that a minimum of labor will be necessary to care for these birds. One automatic feeding unit per side, 2 to the house, 3 feeders high, seem to be sufficient to care for the approximately 7,500 birds.

John Frederick mentioned that it is very important that sufficient height of the troughs from the roosts be achieved to reduce feed wastage. Approximately 12 inches from top of feeder to the roost underneath at about 8 inches back seems to be advantageous. Also, they have found that a guard over the feeder may be beneficial.

Raising of birds is entirely a separate operation carried on at different farms.

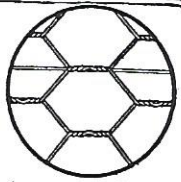


This 34' x 300' building has recently been completed as a brooder house. It contains 15 pens, each 20 x 34, with a capacity of 9,000 birds. The completion of this building, in conjunction with recently remodeled laying houses, allows for testing a greater number of birds in the Honegger breeding program at Forrest, Ill. About 300 visitors at Honeggers' recent field days, July 19 and 20 saw this new house and got many up-to-date management ideas.



### Coming Events for the Midwest

- Sept. 2-3—Kansas Selecting And Testing School, Poultry Dept., Kansas State Univ., Manhattan.
- Sept. 8—Missouri Egg Day, Univ. of Missouri, Union Bldg., Columbia, Mo., E. M. Funk, Poultry Improvement Ass'n.
- Sept. 9—Flock Serviceman's School, Univ. of Missouri, Columbia, Mo. E. M. Funk, Poultry Improvement Ass'n.
- Sept. 15-16—Iowa Poultry Hatchery Ass'n. Convention, Veterans Memorial Auditorium, Des Moines, Iowa. LeRoy Kruskop, Secy., 409 1/2 Douglas Ave., Ames, Iowa.
- Sept. 21-24—Flock Selecting and Testing School, Poultry Bldg., College of Agriculture, Lincoln, Neb.
- Sept. 25-27—National Poultry, Butter & Egg Assn. 53rd Annual Convention and Trade Show, Hotel Sherman, Chicago, Ill. George E. Witteried, 110 N. Franklin St., Suite 913, Chicago 6.

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- Oct. 6-7—Wisconsin Hatchery Ass'n Annual Convention and Exposition, Hotel Loraine, Madison, Wisc., S. C. Zellner, Secy., RR 2, Box 180, Jamesville, Wisc.
- Oct. 21-23—Nebraska Poultry Improvement Ass'n Convention, Hotel Lincoln, Lincoln, Neb.
- Oct. 29—Nebraska Feed & Nutrition Conference, Univ. of Nebraska, Lincoln, Neb.
- Nov. 4-5—Illinois Poultry and Hatchery Federation Convention, Springfield, Ill. Clarence Ems, Div. of Poultry Husbandry, Emerson Bldg. #8, Fairgrounds, Springfield, Ill.
- Nov. 4-5—Kansas Poultry Ass'n. Silver Anniversary Convention, Broadview Hotel, Wichita, Kans.
- Nov. 17-18—Missouri Hatchery Convention, Hotel Continental, Kansas City, Mo.  
1960
- Feb. 12-14—Fact Finding Conference, Municipal Auditorium, Kansas City, Mo. Institute of American Poultry Industries, 59 E. Madison St., Chicago 2, Illinois.