

PREPARING FOR WINTER



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BE PREPARED

D

BREED SELECTION

- ◆ Think about
 - Feathering (loose or hard)



BREED SELECTION

- ◆ Think about
 - Feathering (loose or hard)
 - Feathered feet
 - ◆ Positive or negative?



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 - Crests



BREED SELECTION

- ◆ Think about
 - Feathering (loose or hard)
 - Feathered feet
 - Crests
 - Comb type and size



Chantecler

- ◆ Selected in Canada for cold-hardiness
- ◆ Mix from Dark Cornish, White Leghorns, White Wyandottes, Rhode Island Reds and White Plymouth Rocks
- ◆ Some other breeds work well, too



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FROSTBITE OF COMBS, WATTLES, FEET

- ◆ Avoid it if possible
 - Vaseline
 - Massage
 - Dubbing
 - Keep the bird warmer
- ◆ Males are usually sterile for a period after suffering from this



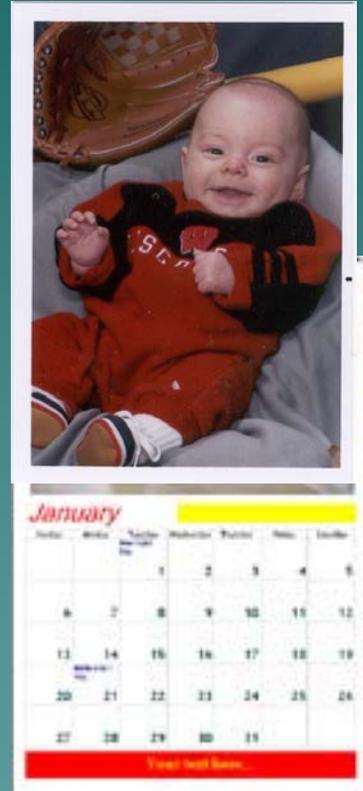
OTHER THINGS TO CONSIDER

◆ Health

- Get rid of parasites (internal and external)
- May want to consider culling unthrifty, “free boarders”

◆ Age of birds

- Plan ahead so you don't have late chicks
- Very old birds may have more problems



INDOOR BROODING

- ◆ The rest of the family may not be so willing to share!



OTHER THINGS TO CONSIDER

◆ Feed

- Balanced ration should be good
- Extra cracked corn or scratch grain
 - ◆ Adds extra energy for heat
 - ◆ Don't overdo it

◆ Water

- Very important
- Typically drink twice as much as feed (by weight)
- Need heaters or multiple trips each day



WATERERS

- ◆ Rubber pans (if not using heater)



WATERERS

- ◆ Rubber pans (if not using heater)
- ◆ Heater methods
 - Base heaters
 - Light bulb over top
 - Submersible heater



LITTER

- ◆ Deep litter is good (6-12 inches is good)
 - Start it before cold sets in
 - Insulates floor
 - May compost some
- ◆ Need to keep it dry
 - Keeps diseases down
 - Decreases ammonia production
 - Hard-packed litter loses advantages
 - Damp and cold are not a good combination



GOOD



NOT SO GOOD



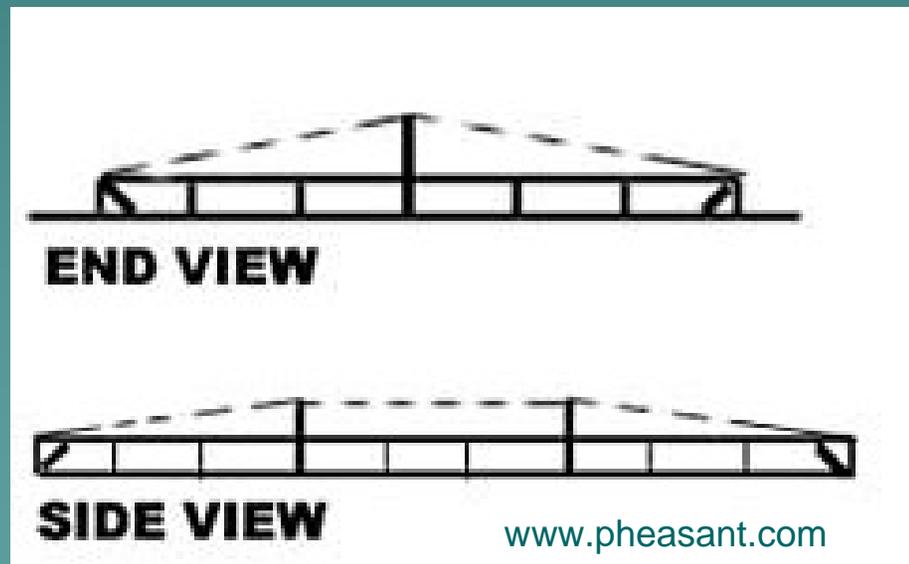
HOUSING

- ◆ Easy to clean
- ◆ Biosecure
- ◆ Able to handle snow load
 - House itself
 - Outdoor pens
- ◆ Insulation
- ◆ Ventilation
- ◆ Heat



SNOW AND OUTDOOR PENS

- ◆ Two choices
 - Solid enough to hold up
 - Collapsible



INSULATION

- ◆ Good for summer and winter
- ◆ Walls and ceiling if possible
- ◆ Inaccessible to birds
 - Cover it with plastic, plywood, etc.
 - Make it something they won't eat

STRAW OR HAY BALES

- ◆ Good insulative properties
- ◆ May help absorb moisture
- ◆ Rodents can be a problem



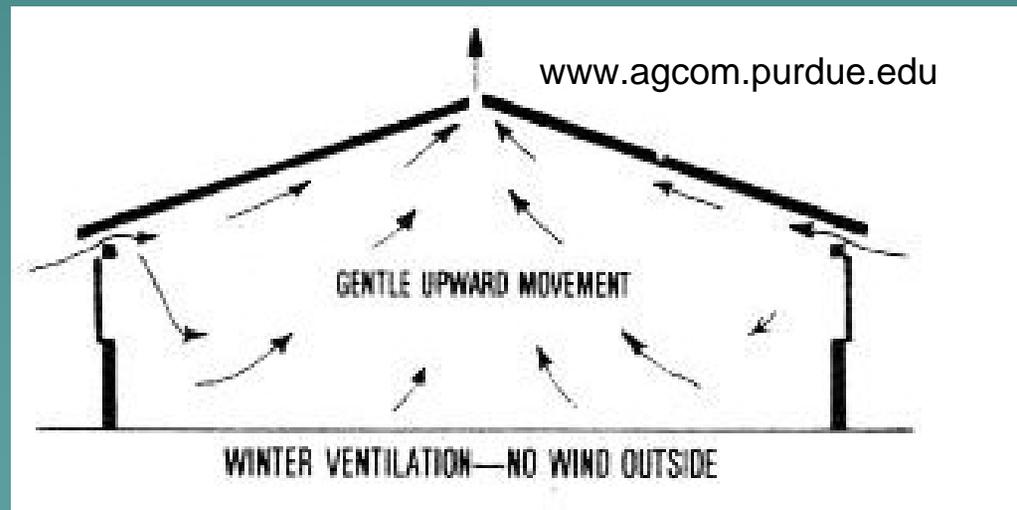
VENTILATION

- ◆ Balancing act
 - Keep heat in
 - Move gases out
 - ◆ Water vapor
 - ◆ Ammonia from waste
 - ◆ CO₂

VENTILATION

◆ Natural ventilation

- Warm air rises so vents on top allow air out
- Cooler fresh air enters through inlets
- Need temperature difference (or wind) to make it work



VENTILATION

- ◆ In extreme cold
 - Don't want draft blowing on birds
 - ◆ Baffle in front of inlet
 - ◆ May want to put cloth in front of inlet
 - Don't want to lose too much heat

HEAT

- ◆ Using bird's body heat is easiest
- ◆ Have a few thousand hens and this won't be a problem!!
- ◆ Try to confine birds to a small area
 - Covered roost area
 - ◆ "Community nest" situation
 - ◆ Insulate this
 - ◆ Rodents may be a problem
 - ◆ May need to clean fairly often
- ◆ Use a heater

ADDITIONAL HEAT

- ◆ Most important is to keep it safe
 - Keep birds from contacting it
 - Keep litter from contacting it
 - Try to limit dust buildup
 - Watch out for exhaust gases

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MORE ON ADDITIONAL HEAT

- ◆ Lights (i.e., heat lamps) will affect egg production
- ◆ Doesn't need to be "toasty" warm
- ◆ Balancing act with ventilation again

- ◆ May have to give up optimal conditions to keep birds warm

WORST THING ABOUT GOING
TO ALL OF THIS TROUBLE...



