

With culling time coming up, I thought this might be of interest. It is copied from a 1945 War Department Educational Manual titled Poultry Farming

KEEPING GOOD STOCK

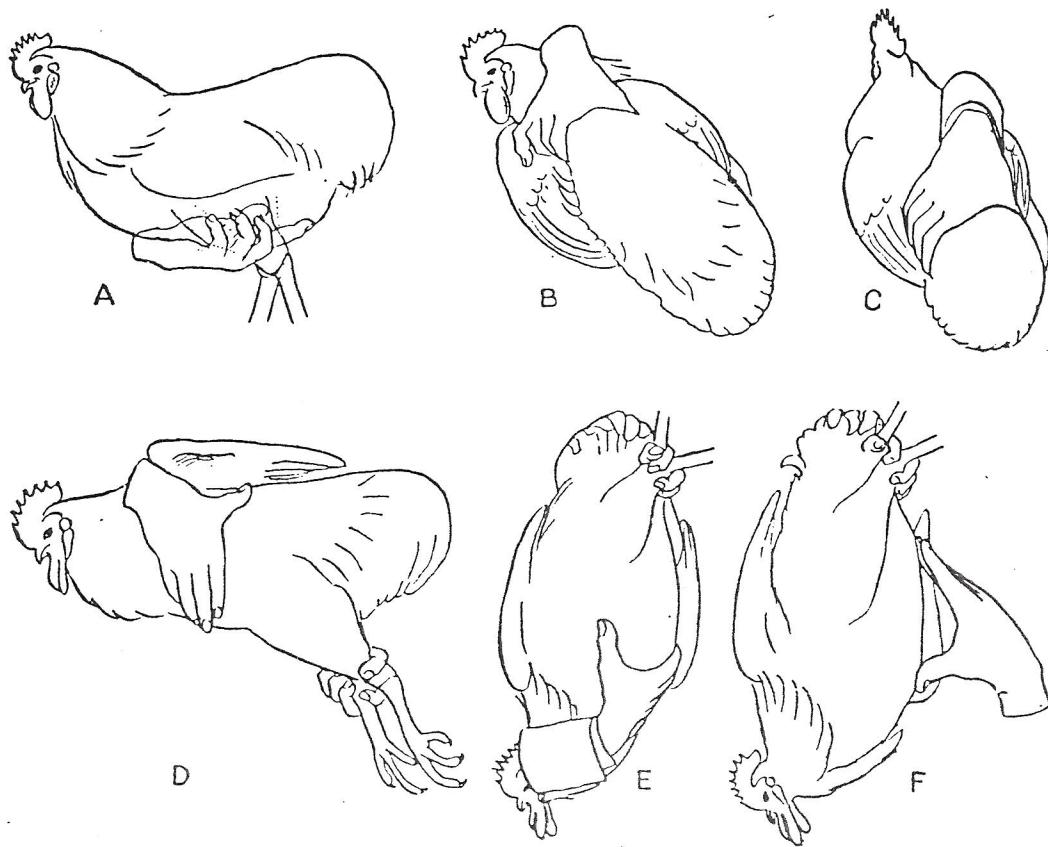


FIG. 17.—Showing how to hold and judge birds for body conformation. *A* shows the proper method of holding a bird. In reaching into a coop or cage, grasp the bird by a wing and then slip the other hand under the body, placing the index finger between the legs, the remaining fingers around one thigh, and the thumb around the other, so that the body of the bird rests on the palm of the hand. When lifted in this manner the bird will be perfectly comfortable. Should it struggle, grasp the thighs firmly and the bird will be under complete control. All parts of the bird—head, back, wings, thighs, breast, and body conformation—can be examined with convenience by shifting the bird from the palm of one hand to the palm of the other. It is first examined for disqualifications, then for general suitability as to breed and variety and physical fitness. *B* shows the first measurement in determining market type, that of heart girth, the measurement being taken immediately behind the shoulders. The hand should be passed gently along the back from the shoulders to the rump, the comparative width being noted at various points. *C* shows measuring the width of the rump. *D* shows the method of measuring depth of body from back of the shoulders to the point of keel. The depth here should be such that the keel is not unduly prominent. The extreme body depth shown by some birds is the largest single factor causing them to be placed in the lower market grades. *E* indicates the plumpness and fullness of breast. The condition is best judged by two measurements, the first gauged by the width of the breast at the shoulders, the second by the plumpness felt at the point of the keel. *F* shows the method of measuring the length at keel. A medium to long keel is desired. (*Dominion Department of Agriculture, Canada, 1935.*)