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March 3, 1931

A Science Service Feature

? WHY THE WEATHER ?

Mailed February 24, 1931

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HOARFROST IN THE HENHOUSE

In cold weather a heavy deposit of hoarfrost is often found on the inner surfaces of the walls of henhouses containing poultry. This deposit is not, as many people suppose, due to moisture that seeps through the walls from outdoors. It is condensed from the inside air and most of it is supplied to the air by the birds themselves.

According to W. C. Tully, poultryman at the North Dakota Agricultural Experiment Station, 100 laying hens will give off by breathing and sweating from three to four gallons of water a day in winter. Hens that are not laying yield about half this amount.

The presence of hoarfrost indicates that the air is too moist for the health of the birds. "A straw loft house," says Mr. Tully, "with a good circulation of air above the straw, will help materially in reducing the moisture."

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