



From a hatchery in Belgium, Renaat DeRyke, 22, came to Lancaster County recently and made a whirlwind tour as a guest of Ames-In-Cross, and the Goldfus Hatcheries, Lititz. Mr. DeRyke, on the left, compares an egg with three of his hosts, Mr. Chambers, Mr. Metzler, and Mr. Diehm. (Lancaster Farming Photo).



Renaat DeRyke, 22-year-old Belgian, here looks over one of the broilers on the farm of Roy K. Moseman, R3 Lancaster. With him, from left to right, are: Paul Metzler, president of Goldfus Hatcheries, Lititz, host on the county tour; Mr. Moseman, Mr. DeRyke, Earl H. Diehm, vice president of Goldfus, C. J. (Chuck) Simmons, Eastern Representative of Ames-In-Cross, and G. A. Chambers, manager of Governor Leader's York County hatchery. (Lancaster Farming Photo).

Renaat DeRyke, Belgian Incubator Manufacturer, Makes Tour of County

By ERNEST J. NEILL

Broilers in Belgium are priced on the percentage of American blood they carry, a Lancaster County visitor, Renaat DeRyke told a small group of poultry businessmen taking him on a tour of the county Thursday last week.

Hence the "all-American" bird is worth far more market-wise than the quarter, half or three-quarter cross on markets of Belgium. There are some pure lines in Belgian poultry, but the preference today is for the crosses, hybrids such as produced by Renaat and his family.

Father Disappeared in War

There's quite a story behind the youthful businessman, now only 22, today an Iowa visitor and student in the practical poultry field. His father started the THOROUGHLY Co. in Belgium in 1920. During the war he disappeared, and the fate of the incubator manufacturing - broiler producing business fell upon five brothers.

One of the five, Renaat told on his visit to one of several Lancaster County farms, forsook the poultry field for electrical engineering Hubert, 32, manages the business Norbert, second oldest, imports eggs and incubators, Robert has a hatchery in France, and Willy has turned to the electrical field.

Renaat, who arrived on the Queen Mary in New York City only two days before his Lancaster County visit, has charge of the hatchery works and commercial chick sales. Production is based on supply and demand, and the usual output of the family factory is two incubators a week.

"But where is your farm?" Renaat asked his host, E. H. Diehm, president of Goldfus Hatcheries, Inc., Lititz, soon after touring the hatchery. In Belgium, it's customary for the hatchery to carry quite a few chicks on hand after hatching, depending upon the demand from customers.

Weekly Reports Filed

Weekly reports will be filed by Renaat during his stay in the United States, "six to eight months, maybe more." Hence his brothers in Belgium will learn the latest methods as developed and used in the United States.

Everything here is on a much larger scale agriculturally, the European visitor told the group. Not only in broilers, but in farm equipment. He saw general farming in Lancaster County as well as hatchery operations, clear through the poultry business, from the egg to the chick to the table, or again to the egg.

"Some farms have 200 to 300 chickens, and on some of the bigger farms the may have—as many as 3,000 to 4,000 at the most," Renaat told Lancaster Farming of his home country. But over there, the average farm is four acres. On those four acres one will find diversified, intensive farming. Perhaps a tractor, usually not. As a rule there are horses, always a garden, always crops. Yields per acre are much higher than in this nation, due to the close husbandry the typical Belgian farmer provides his soil.

Business Field Wide

Influence of THOROUGHLY Co extends farther than the confines of Belgium. Sales are made into France, Italy and Switzerland.

land from the plant near Gravers, some 40 miles from Brussels.

It was pretty much a whirlwind tour for the young businessman. At the Goldfus Hatchery he was joined by President Paul H. Metzler; Earl H. Diehm, sales representative of Goldfus; Chuck Simmons, eastern sales representative for Ames In-Cross, which, the DeRyke Brothers will introduce to Europe, G. A. Chambers, manager of Gov Leader's Willow Brook Hatcheries at Dover, Pa.

Originally introduced to Pennsylvania by Willow Brook, the Ames In-Cross has shown hardiness and prolific white egg laying qualities which make the bird a favorite in many states. And so developed the interest in Belgium.

Plans are underway for the DeRykes to distribute the new breed in 26 hatcheries of France, Belgium and Holland. Renaat's tour will take him to the production level, in the vicinity of Iowa State College at Ames, to the Ames In-Cross farms near Roland, Iowa.

Visits Processing Plant

Three brands of chickens hatched by Goldfus at Lititz were shown Renaat, Meatpackers, Ames In-Cross and Mount Hope Leghorns. Second stop on the tour was at the Grimes and Haur Processing Plant near Fredericksburg, where 25,000 birds can be handled per day. His hosts took him to the Graybill Miller Farm at Penryn, where a commercial broiler farm is in operation, then to the Elmer Hess Farm, R2 Lititz, to see general farming—tobacco, corn and steers. On the Hess Farm is one of the first Ames In-Cross flocks in Lancaster County.

Three-story broiler houses on the Roy Mosemann Farm, just off Flory's Mill Road west of Lancaster, left Renaat a bit speechless. From there, his hosts took him to the David E. Hulyard home, R1 New Holland, for a typical Amish dinner.

Following his Lancaster County tour, Renaat visited the Leader Willow Brook Hatchery, then on to Des Moines where he will study hybrid chick breeding the next six months.

Farms in Belgium produce poultry mostly for home consumption, and commercial chick feeds are produced there as well as in this country.

Five Thousand Hatched Weekly

There are 25 hatcheries in Belgium, and one of several operated by the DeRyke family carries 2,000 birds on the farm, and the hatchery has a carrying capacity of 50,000 eggs.

Five thousand eggs are hatched each week during four months of the year to give THOROUGHLY an annual output of some 100,000 chicks a year.

Renaat paid his own expenses to the States—after hurrying up the most recent hatch so he could make the trip—but will go on salary during his stay with Ames In-Cross.

Throughout, he was highly impressed by the hospitality, the Pennsylvania Dutch food, the magnificence of Lancaster County Farms.

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