

Fulton Grange Barbecue



A profit of \$364 was realized by Fulton Grange No. 66 in its Thursday night Chicken Barbecue at Oakryn Grange Hall Wednesday evening of last week. More than 400 suppers were served, and re-

sponse was far beyond expectations. Shown above is a general view of the barbecue scene and Grange Hall (Lancaster Farming Staff Photo).

American Agriculture Not Political, Benson Advises Poultry Federation

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Since the years of World War I, egg production per hen has considerably more than doubled. The quantity of eggs produced from a ton of feed is up about 35 per cent. Egg production per hour of labor on laying flocks has tripled.

No doubt many of you at this Festival have played an important role in these developments — developments that are so fundamental to our present great poultry industry.

Last year Pennsylvania produced 350 million dozens of eggs. If these had been raised with World War I rates of labor efficiency on poultry farms, about 20,000 more men would have been required to care for Pennsylvania's laying flocks. At World War I rates of feeding efficiency still prevailed, about 375 thousand tons more feed would have been required for the same output of eggs.

Someone might suggest that would be good — in view of all the surplus feed we have on hand. But, of course, it would not be good. More eggs from a given amount of feed, from a square foot of floor space — more product per hour of labor — these factors have lowered production costs. Lower costs have stimulated a great expansion of poultry farming. Consumers, encouraged by high quality, abundant supplies, and attractive prices have used more eggs. Consumption has risen from less than 300 eggs per person per year twenty years ago to more than 400 eggs in recent years.

Without the great advances that have occurred in production methods neither Pennsylvania nor the nation would have the poultry industry it has today.

Without scientific research, we would not have this industry. It has been built on science.

And also we would not have it without the great flexibility that has characterized our agriculture — a flexibility that has permitted farmers continuously to adjust their operations to meet changing production and market conditions.

That is the look backward, to see where we have been, and where we are. What of the look ahead?

It must be true that most of you are not content with poultry farming as it is today — because if you were you probably would not have a State Poultry Federation through which you can exchange ideas, and through which also you can work as a group to do things you can-

not do equally well alone.

We do not yet have the best bird that can be bred. Very possibly we never will have.

We do not have the last word on feeding and management —

or on marketing and distribution.

Anything that has changed — and still is changing — as rapidly as the poultry business must still have a great deal of change ahead. This fact is an ever-present challenge to each poultryman — how can he do his job better, more efficiently, more profitably? The answers

developed so far are what have made today's poultry industry. More answers will make the poultry industry of tomorrow.

More research on the production and marketing problems still faced by all poultrymen! More experimentation to find answers to problems on your individual farms!

And fundamental to everything will be your continued freedom to make adjustments to be changing times. Most of the progress in farming in the past has been due to the fact that farmers have been free to make their own management decisions. Certainly this essential freedom will be no less important in the future.

Poultrymen have a long record of rejecting the such long of price supports. I salute you for your state-manship — and commend you for your wisdom that has been so abundantly proven.

Lancaster Farming—11
Friday, Aug. 31, 1956

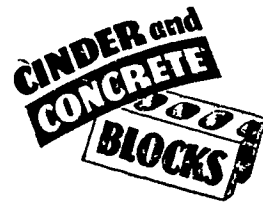
Your objective as farmers is to produce an adequate living for your families — a living at least comparable to other American families. How well your family can live is a question of your annual income — not merely the price you get for one dozen eggs or one pound or bushel of any other product.

Price times volume determines your gross income. Price is just one factor. Your right to product is just as important.

Price times volume minus your costs determines your net income. And I know as you do, that you cannot operate efficiently, and keep your costs in line, without the freedom to manage your own farms — freedom to make your own circumstances dictate.

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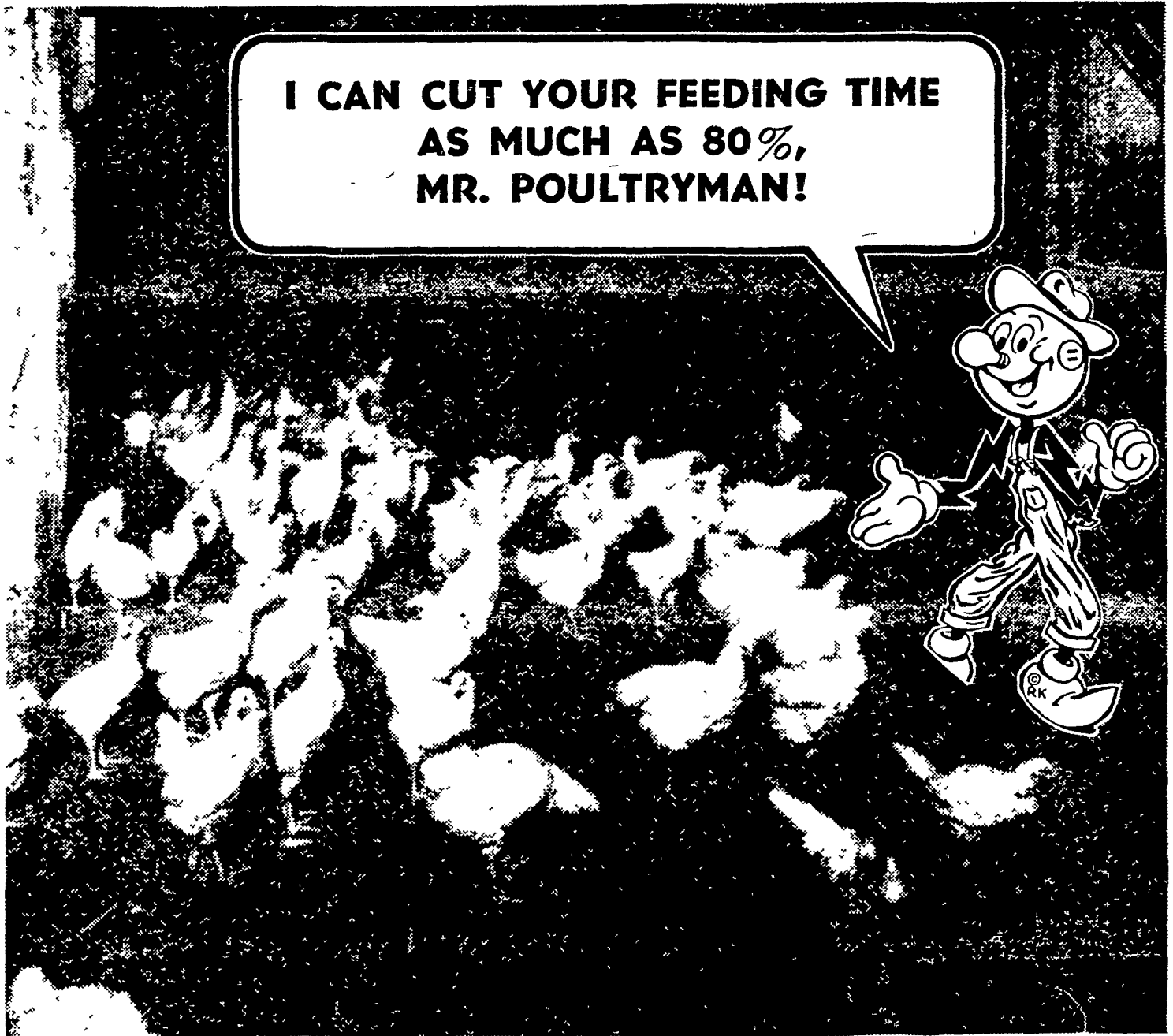


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