

Nongenetic Factors, Too, Must Be Considered When Selecting Layers

The number of eggs a hen lays in a fixed period of time may not in itself be a very accurate indication of her value, a USDA survey reveals. Equally important are various environmental conditions and the hen's previous production record.

A hen's egg production tends to drop off in proportion to elapsed time after the first egg she lays. Compare December production for two families of chickens, one of which began to lay in August and the other in October. The latter family might appear to produce eggs at a rapid rate, but only because the birds had laid a shorter time.

Rate of egg production depends also on daily light and dark per-

iods. Generally 13 or 14 hours of light each day are most favorable. But chickens differ in their daily light needs. And they differ too, in their response to increase in light.

ARS researcher, T. C. Byerly suggests that breeders could determine the value of a flock more accurately by checking these nongenetic factors. This could be done by running three months tests under a controlled environment, measuring daily light and dark needs, light response, and rate of declining egg production. Estimates of production thus made under natural conditions in this way best producers could be selected immediately, saving considerable time and insuring the highest possible egg production.

Atlantic Angus Assn. Changes Membership Rule

The Atlantic Angus Association recently reorganized at a meeting in Timonium, Maryland, and opened its membership to breeders in Canada, Tennessee, Kentucky and Eastern Ohio in addition to the Atlantic coast states. Membership, formerly limited to consignors to the group's annual sales, is now available to anyone in the area for \$5 annually.

Elected chairman of the organization was W. W. Brinard, Jr., Downsbragh Farms, Far Hills, New Jersey. Lee Leachman, Ankony Farms, Rhinebeck, New York, was named vice chairman and Dave Canning, Staunton, Virginia, secretary-treasurer. The executive committee includes Russell D'Oench, Stillwater Farm, Connecticut; Carlo M. Paterno, Meadow Lane Farm, North Salem, New York; and Kenneth E. Litton, Rickville, Virginia.

Plans were discussed for the Great Atlantic Bull sale which has been scheduled for February 24 and 25, 1958, at the Atlantic Rural Exposition Grounds, Richmond, Virginia. Ankony Farms announces the canceling of their sale and the consignment of 30 bulls to the Great Atlantic Bull sale.

Other discussion centered on a proposed spring sale of approximately 500 registered Angus heifers.

Coatesville Firm Wins Moth Spray Contracts

The State Department of Agriculture Monday cleared the way for spraying 100,000 acres of farm and forest lands to eradicate gypsy moth caterpillar next May in seven Northeastern Pennsylvania Counties.

Contracts were signed for an airplane spray service with Chris D. Stoltzfus, Coatesville, who submitted the lowest of 10 bids submitted to Agriculture Secretary William L. Henning. The Stoltzfus was 66 cents per gallon of 12.5 per cent DDT in solution which he will spray from airplane. Last year's spraying cost was 71.7 cents per gallon when a Montana firm applied the DDT solution at the standard rate of one gallon per acre for complete eradication of the pest.

The Pennsylvania Department again will cooperate with the United States Department of Agriculture in the fight against the caterpillars which are capable of completely defoliating large areas of trees if allowed to go unchecked. The 1958 program calls for treatment of 500,000 acres of

Abner Risser Re-elected SPABC Director

(Continued from page 11)
David Yoder, general manager of the cooperative reported there are 3,038 members of the cooperative. There were 39,229 cows inseminated in 1957 representing a five per cent increase over 1956.

Assisting Yoder were Floyd Weidler, Landisville; Eugene Paulus, York; Sterling Ferrer, York; C. P. Brantley, Manheim; and Paul Roland, Elizabethtown.

which Pennsylvania will spray 100,000 acres the same as last year.

Starting May 1 the Pennsylvania gypsy moth spray program will cover parts of Wayne, Pike, Monroe, Carbon, Schuylkill, Luzerne and Lackawanna Counties. The contract calls for completion by June 1. Caterpillars hatch during the month of May.

Federal and State plant pest inspectors will check the airplane spraying daily, the material used and the coverage made by each of half a dozen plants that will be used.

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3:15 P. M.

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