

Bob Stottlemyer Believes Farming Is More than Just Making a Living

By Bob Best

Rather than just existing on a farm, A. Robert Stottlemyer, 29, R1 Paradise, explains that he has a two fold purpose in farming.

"I want to be a success as a farmer so as to provide for a wife and children, and to find a place in community life and contribute something useful to the community."

"Perhaps I have two important advantages," Stottlemyer says. "I have a father to turn to for advice who began farming over 20 years ago and has made a success of farming by good management along with hard work."

THE OTHER advantage is "a good wife who likes farming as much as I do and helps as much as possible."

Her work mainly is keeping many of the farm records and accounts. She also helped in the barn and field before the three

children took most of her time.

Mrs. Ann Stottlemyer, surprisingly, was not a farm girl. She was raised in Pittsburgh. They met at Penn State where Robert was an agronomy student and Ann a student in home economics.

The elder Mr. Stottlemyer started contour stripping in 1936. He was one of the first in the community, which is located near Bart, to do so. In those days, strips were quite a novelty and he won a considerable amount of fame, including air photos in some of the daily papers.

SINCE ROBERT came back to the home farm after getting out of the Army in 1954, he has instituted a grassland farming program. Of the 80 acres in the farm, 15 acres are permanent pasture, buildings and lanes take five acres, and the rest are in a long term grass-corn-small grain rotation.

In a normal year there will be about 12 acres of corn, 12 acres of



STOPPED BY RAIN, A. Robert Stottlemyer, R1 Paradise, is all ready to top dress with ammonium nitrate. He calls the fertilizer spreader one of the most valuable

implements on the farm. A young farmer, Stottlemyer operates 80 acres near Bart. (LF Photo)

Questions and Answers

on

H&N

"Nick-Chick" LEGHORNS

The final proof of a laying flock's performance is how it does in your laying house. Before you try a strain, you should know something about its performance. The following will answer some of your questions and acquaint you with H&N "Nick Chick" Leghorns.



- Q.** Are H&N "Nick Chick" Leghorns resistant to leukosis?
- A.** Not totally resistant — no layer is. However you'll find H&N's are very resistant when compared to other strains. In the New York Random Sample Test where entries are exposed to leukosis, H&N has averaged 83% livability compared to a test average of 68% livability. For the first six tests H&N's had to be good in leukosis resistance to make such a record.
- Q.** Based on the number of chicks I buy, what annual production can be anticipated?
- A.** Five different groups of H&N "Nick Chick" Leghorns averaged 258 eggs per chick over a period of five years (1952-1956 California Random Sample Test). This is not the highest you can expect nor the lowest — just an average.
- Q.** Are H&N's easy on the feed bill?
- A.** Some persons refer to this as pounds of feed to produce a dozen eggs. H&N's ate 43 pounds of feed to produce a dozen eggs in the last five California tests. Again, this is the average of five years of five groups selected at random. H&N "Nick Chick" Leghorns consumed 976 pounds of feed each while producing 287 eggs as they did in the 5th California Random Sample Test. You may find even better feed conversion from your H&N's.
- Q.** Are H&N's nervous and flighty?
- A.** We've had many comments on the calm disposition of H&N's. Many poultrymen have said H&N "Nick Chick" Leghorns are a pleasure to have in their laying houses and H&N's don't "hit the roof" every time you enter the house. They are probably the tamest, most quiet commercial layer available today.
- Q.** How do H&N's perform in cages?
- A.** We believe we have done more testing of pedigreed birds in cages than any other breeding organization in the United States. H&N "Nick Chick" Leghorns are measured on the floor and in cages. When many of our customers turned to cage operations we decided to add cages for measurement purposes. Experience has shown that H&N "Nick Chick" Leghorns are well suited to either cage or floor operations. In fact millions of H&N "Nick Chick" Leghorns have been sold in California where most are cage-housed. However, there is little evidence to support the theory that some types of birds are specially adapted for cage performance.

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small grain and the rest of the land will be in alfalfa or an alfalfa grass mixture.

Most of the corn goes into the two silos on the farm.

Right now there are 24 Holsteins in the milking barn. A recent barn expansion project has enlarged the capacity of the milking stable to 42 head. Stottlemyer plans to fill the empty stalls with replacement heifers raised on the farm.

HE BELIEVES firmly in raising replacements and in treating the young stock in the best possible manner. When comments were made on the light and roomy quarters provided for the calves and heifers, he remarked that the young stock deserved even better treatment than the older cows because they were the future of the farm.

Tobacco went off the Stottle-

myer farm about two years ago when it was found that the handling of the crop detracted from other work. The space formerly occupied by the stripping rooms now provides extra quarters for the young stock.

WE MENTIONED that records and accounts are kept for the farm. This, Stottlemyer believes, is one of the basis for success in farming. He can tell in a matter of minutes just what any one practice is costing and the returns from it. Soil test results are logged from each field and the amounts and types of fertilizer applications are noted.

"A great many farms could increase their earnings by improved management," Stottlemyer says. "Good management would include the use of soil tests, and their recommendations; use of good seed and improved varieties; use of

co-operatives for purchase of feed fertilizers, and seeds and supplies as well as for selling the products, and efficient use of time, labor and equipment."

TO CARRY out this theory, he bases his milk production costs on a milk production per acre basis rather than on milk production per cow. This measures the efficiency of the farm in producing a hundred pounds of milk.

Although he is not a DHIA member now, Stottlemyer tests milk through the veterans training program. Veterans advisors George Meyer of Lampeter and Ralph Bitler of Quarryville help compute individual cow records. Boarder cows find short shift in the herd.

TO GET MAXIMUM milk production per acre at the lowest

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