

## Feeder Space for Turkeys Should Be at Least Two Inches, Tests Show

How much feeder space do growing turkeys need? This question, which is still a problem to many growers, was studied recently in two feeding tests conducted by the Ralston Purina Company. One was at the Purina research farm in Missouri, while the other was conducted at Berea College in Kentucky. The Berea study involved 6,000 Broad Breasted Bronze turkeys and was carried on jointly by the college and Purina.

When the Berea turkeys were nine weeks old, they were divided into four equal groups of 1,500 each. Groups I and II remained in the pole shed. Birds in Group I were allowed one inch of feeder space each. Those in Group II were allowed two inches. Group III and IV were moved to range. Group III was allowed 1/2 inch feeder space per bird while Group IV was allowed 1 1/2 inches.

In this test, where more feeder space was allowed, toms at market time averaged about one pound more per bird, and hens about 4 pound more each, than their counterparts in the crowded pens

However, a better feed conversion was obtained from the crowded feeders. The extra feed required in the less crowded feeders was in direct proportion to the extra feeder space, which suggests that feed wastage accounted for the difference in feed efficiency.

In the Purina farm tests, two pens of 240 comparable Broad Breasted Bronze turkeys were involved. In one pen, two inches of feeder space was allowed each bird, compared to four inches in the other. At market time, the birds eating from the less crowded feeders averaged weighing 3/4 of a pound more each than those in the other pen. They made this extra gain with as efficient feed conversion.

The commercial turkey grower's objective is to get maximum weight on his birds with maximum feed efficiency. Amount of feeder space allowed per bird has an influence on both factors. Research is continuing, but conclusions of the work conducted to date suggest that at least two inches of feeder space should be allowed each bird for best results.

## Broiler Chick Placements Still Up, But Show Signs of Declining

Placement of broiler chicks at 998,000 increased 75,000 from last week, and were up 12 per cent from the corresponding week last year, according to the state Crop Reporting Service.

Outshipments of broiler chicks were 252,000, inshipments were 115,000. Eggs set for broiler chick production totaled 1,575,000, up three per cent from last week, and up 17 per cent from the corresponding week in 1957.

Placements of broiler chicks in the 22 important broiler growing states were 24 per cent above the corresponding week last year, two per cent above last week.

Settings of eggs for broiler

chick production were 25 per cent above the corresponding week last year, and one per cent above last week.

However the rate in increase of broiler chick placings seems to be leveling off for the first time this season.

## Hog-Cholera Vaccination Rate Declines

During the past few years there has been a gradual drop in numbers of pigs vaccinated against hog cholera, the U S Department of Agriculture reports.

Swine breeders and farm organizations have expressed concern over this downtrend. They are fearful that a continued decline in vaccinations — and consequently in the production of vaccine — might leave the industry without enough hog-cholera serum to combat an extensive outbreak, if one should occur.

Officials of USDA's Agricultural Research Service say there is no evidence at present that the incidence of hog cholera is increasing. They point out, however, that fewer vaccinations could mean increased changes of costly outbreaks of the disease.

FOR A NUMBER of years prior to 1952, an average of about 50 per cent of the annual U S pig crop was vaccinated against hog cholera. But during the past five years, the number of animals receiving vaccinations has gradually declined, reaching a low of just under 40 per cent of the pig crop in 1957.

Total swine production in this period has averaged about 90 million pigs a year. Hog cholera was recently estimated to cost growers some \$40 million annually, or about one per cent of gross returns from the \$4 billion swine

## Delmarvians to Stage Barbeque School at Denton, Md., June 26

TRENTON, N. J. May 28—The poultrymen of Del-Mar-Va are noted for their ability to produce chicken and to merchandise it. The Poultry Barbeque is taking the country by storm, and Delmarvians are preparing to encourage the "storm" of succulent barbecued chicken by asking NEPPCO and PENB to stage one of their well known Barbeque Schools at Delmarva Festival, Denton, Md., June 26.

Poultrymen from Virginia, West Virginia, Maryland, Pennsylvania, Delaware and New Jersey are expected to attend the school, which will specialize in teaching poultry barbeque techniques involved in feeding groups ranging in size from 10 to 1000.

The course has been designed to meet the tremendous demand for poultry barbeque at church and organizational functions.

Those trained in the course will be well qualified to put on "professional" cook-outs, for the final examination consists of preparing a complete barbeque for those attending the Delmarva Poultry Festival. The course covers the complete range of barbequing — from organizing and promoting, right through to the construction of pits and equipment. "Secret" recipes for sauces and in the cooking procedures are part of the program. The barbequing of ducks, turkeys and Cornish hens is covered, as well as cooking the standard broiler.


Joining with the Council in conducting the school is the New York division of the Poultry and Egg National Board, national organization for increasing poultry and egg consumption — and the University of Maryland Extension Service.

The Denton, Md., program will be held at the High School Grounds, the same site as the Delmarva Poultry Festival. In past years, students have traveled hundreds of miles to be present at the unique schools, the only ones of their kind being conducted east of the Mississippi.

Prospective students for the event are required to register in advance. Reservations or requests for information should be directed to NEPPCO, 10 Rutgers Place, Trenton 8, New Jersey.

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