

Co. Poultryman Pioneers Full-Control SCD Asks Support

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for our pullets to drop dead when we put them in here. Ben recalls. Despite an early outbreak of eye infection, the cause and cure of which was never discovered, but which apparently disappeared of its own accord, mortality has been less than one-half of one per cent. Egg production has been maintained at a 65-75 per cent level, since the pullets hit full production — with no lapse in steadiness of production or egg quality, both important factors in any poultry operation.

The feeding program includes high energy (17 per cent protein, four per cent fat content) laying mash, and 17 per cent protein pellets, fed separately through the automatic system at 5 p. m. each day. Mineral mix and high calcium grit is offered free choice in feeders below the nests along the aisle, which provides easy access for filling.

Eggs are gathered three times daily, with floor eggs also picked up three times. They are wheeled directly to the cooling room, left to cool on the carts, and placed in cases after cooling. Due to the extremely efficient methods and careful attention to detail, fewer than a dozen eggs from the nests require washing after each gathering. All floor eggs are carefully washed and checked for cracks.

Looking over his operation at present, Ben figures he should have an electric power stand by unit, he is planning to place gills over all the feeders to prevent any feed waste, and possibly change the continuous flow water system to electric regulation of water depth in the trough.

The big advantage he feels this system has over cage layers is efficiency, PLUS the birds' having vital exercise. "You wouldn't put a cow in a stanchion and leave her for 12 months," he says, "so why expect a hen to produce top quality eggs and remain healthy in close confinement. With one hen for every square foot of floor space, they are close, but not confined."

Twice weekly, regular buyers come by to pick up the eggs. Although it is too early for definite statements on many items in the operation, the steady, high quality production of premium price eggs is a proven asset.

Naturally, if he had it all to do over again, Ben says he would rearrange a few pieces of equipment and make changes in construction here and there. But all in all, Ben Kraybill is more enthusiastic and sure of the future of the windowless, automation laying house than he was in November, when, after months of investigation, he couldn't wait until spring to start construction.

(Continued from page one)

Lvman E. Jackson, College of Agriculture, Pennsylvania State University, was presented a small Hemlock, the State tree, to be planted on the University campus with the soil.

Three P.L. 566 watershed applications were approved by the State Soil Conservation Commission. They are:

Green Dreher Creek, tributary of Wallenpapauck Creek, sponsored by the Wayne Pike and Monroe Soil Conservation Districts and County Commissioners. It involves 46,220 acres.

Pocono Creek, tributary of Broadhead Creek, sponsored by Monroe County Soil Conservation District and County Commissioners. It involves 31,000 acres.

Bull run, tributary of the Susquehanna River, sponsored by the Union County Soil Conservation District, Union County Commissioners and Lewisburg Borough. It involves 5,606 acres.

These applications will be presented to the U. S. Soil Conservation Service which is the agency responsible for planning the conservation and flood control features to be recommended.

Action on the Harman Creek watershed in Washington County, Pennsylvania, and Northern Lanthandle County, West Virginia, was deferred until further information is available.

The Commission also discussed a request of the Montgomery County Soil Conservation District to have priority of soil survey work in that county up-graded to assist in orderly development of urban and suburban areas as well as farm regions. It will be considered at a later meeting.

Research Reveals Litters of Inbred Pigs Return Less Profit to Grower

Inbred litters of pigs are less vigorous, have a higher mortality ratio, and gain slower than pigs not inbred according to recent University of Missouri research work.

John Lasley, University animal breeding specialist, says the inbred pigs used in the test were much less vigorous than non-inbred pigs at all periods during their life in the experimental work.

Death losses in inbred litters of pigs were larger both before and after gestation. Lasley notes losses were 3½ per cent larger in inbred litters prior to gestation, 48 per cent larger between birth and weaning, and 104 per cent


larger from weaning to 154 days of age.

In the research work, it was found that the linecross — non-inbred — pigs were no heavier at birth than the inbred pigs. However, they were eight per cent heavier at weaning and 12 per cent at the end of 22 weeks.

And, Lasley says, total litter weight — litter size times the average weight of pigs — was four, 32 and 45 per cent higher in the linecross pigs than in inbred pigs at birth, weaning, and 22 weeks respectively.

Litters of inbred and linecross pigs from inbred sows of the same line were used in the study, Lasley says. (Continued on page 14)

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