

● Poultryman

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features of his original operation.

He started out by building 68 feet of brooder house and 60 feet of laying house, each one story at the time. The brooder house he added to with a 30 foot long addition and another of 12 feet. There were several more floors of laying house added in time.

These early houses included running water with overflow pipes and central controls on the windows, features still lacking in many poultry houses.

About 1927, he relates, he became the first county poultryman to range shelter pullets, also using small range nest houses.

He was using "built-up litter" more than 20 years ago, before Penn State researchers began recommending it.

"Of course," he notes, "I also was the first in this area to have Newcastle disease. It hit the entire flock, one pen at a time. So actually, I was able to maintain fairly high production all through the attack."

His original operation included a battery of "hot-water incubators" for producing layers from imported English Baron Leghorns. At this time he was working with other farmers in Bird-In-Hand near Mt. Joy, he reports, in producing better layers.

Later they switched to Anthony strain cockerels for further improvement.

Right from the start, Mr. Herr says, he shipped graded eggs to the New York market, once receiving \$1.08 per dozen for an entire shipment.

He also raised 1½ lb. barred rock broilers for awhile, before development of the broiler industry, and sold broilers on the Philadelphia market for as much as 60

cents per pound. Although he has had as high as 4,000 layers on range and in the houses, Mr. Herr reports he had a 2200 to 2400 normal laying hen capacity for his operation.

"I aim for 75-80 per cent laying percentage the year round. Culling every two weeks, I check my laying charts to see what percentage I'm getting and know how many head must be taken out to raise the percentage to the right level," he states.

But this strict adherence to principles of good management and constant search for better ways to operate are only two reasons for the selection of Roy B. Herr as 1959 Poultryman of the Year.

He was a prime leader and organizer of the Lancaster County Poultry Assn. in the late 20's and served as Assn. president for 12 years in the 20's and 30's. He has personal records of every Assn. meeting, all activities

and a complete list of members over the entire life of the group.

Even though he was a commercial broiler producer, Mr. Herr helped organize Lancaster Poultry Exchange and was a director for years, because he "we needed it."

He also helped organize the Producers Community Exchange at Coatesburg. He sells his graded eggs through the co-op.

He was vice-president of the Northeastern Poultry Producers Council for years in the 1930's. For 2½ years in the 1940's Mr. Herr served as president of the state federation of the state federation honored him as "Man of the Year."

For 12 years, he was president of the Westchester Community Federation and after that post was named manager of the farm. He has filled for eight years

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