

Berks County Poultrymen Tour Lancaster County Research Farm

Forty members of the Berks County Poultry Association made an early morning stop in the Garden Spot this week on their tour thru three other counties.

The poultrymen, under the direction of Carl Dossin, Extension Poultry Specialist from the Penna. State University stopped at 1170 Hunsicker Road where Noah Gehman, farm manager, played host.

Gehman showed the group how one man at the Early Bird Research Farm can collect, clean and pack a case of eggs in 18 minutes.

At the experimental farm of Miller and Bushong, the Rohrerstown feed firm, eggs from the 11,000 leghorns are gathered in plastic flats carried on a two level carrier on a track.

After the eggs are placed on the flat, they are not handled individually again. Half a case of eggs is picked up with a wire handle and placed directly into the sanitiser-washer. When the washing is complete, the half case is dried and cooled, placed in to the case, and is ready to be picked up by the dealer.

Dr. "Woodie" Williams of the feed company explained the use of ventilating fans and heating system in the pens on the farm. He said, "We can show that a five percent egg boost will pay for supplying artificial heat in the winter time. We try to keep the pens above 40 degrees, and our records show it pays."

Birds on the farm have on ly two square feet of floor space in the laying house. "We know this is crowding them," Dr. Williams said, "But we feel you can get away with crowding if your management practices are very good."

Good management practices and egg handling techniques enabled Gehman to market 95 percent of his eggs as AA or A this summer with only three per cent B and two per cent C grade including strains and chicks.

After the tour left Lancaster County they continued to the farm of Guy Leader and Son in York County.

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LANCASTER COUNTIANS, HENK WENTINK AND DR. WOODIE WILLIAMS talk over some of the items of the Berks County poultry tour with Dr. Carl Dossin, Poultry Extens on Specialist, far left, while members of the group take time out for mid morning coffee break. Scene of the stop was the Early Bird Experimental Farm, Hunsicker Road. —L. F. Photo

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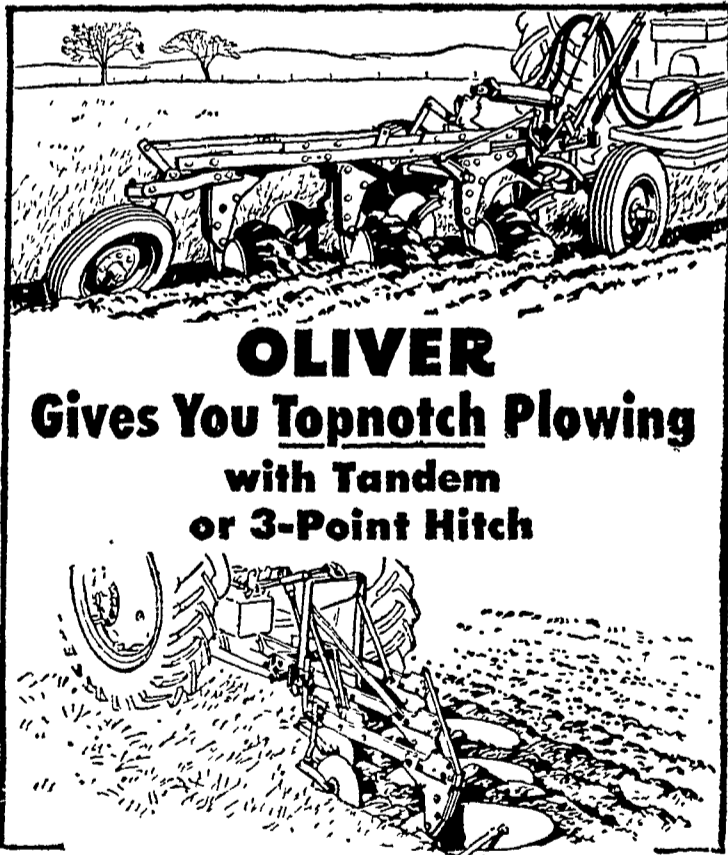
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