

● Egg Washing

(continued from page 12)

There will be a tendency for farmers to feel, "I'm paying you 15 cents a case to wash the eggs, now do it right," Bauerman says.

However, Sauder says the processor will probably have closer control over the shipper than he now has. If the producer sends in extremely dirty eggs, they will result in a lower grade and consequently a lower return. Snader agrees, and says the processor will have to take better care of his nesting materials and other sanitation problems. He will have time to do these things in the time he used to wash the eggs, he said.

At the outset, Hess Brothers, probably the largest processor in the county will offer the services to only a limited number of shippers at the outset. The washer now installed will handle only approximately 1,600 of the 7,000 cases handled each week.

Producers Cooperative Exchange will replace only one of its two processing lines with new machinery including washers at present. Sauder will install equipment to handle his entire volume — eventually, but initially it will be a voluntary program on the part of producers.

If the process proves to be successful — and no one is prepared to say at present that it will prove successful — Hess brothers plan to eventually require that most eggs will be washed in the plant. If requests for the service warrant, Producers Cooperative Exchange will replace the second line of equipment with washing machinery when the present lease expires in about three months.

What about the producers themselves?

We have found that in many cases the producer is just not informed, but the consensus of those with comments appeared to be split between large and small producers. (By large shippers, we mean more than 10,000 hens in the flock.)

Smaller producers seem to feel that this is just another cost of production which they will be charged for. While washing eggs is an unpleasant job, many of the producers with small flocks feel the job does not cost them as much now as it will in the plant.

Larger producers, many of whom have to pay all the labor in their operations, seem to feel that this is a service

which can be done cheaper and with less "fuss" off the farm. Many of them will go to in-plant cleaning — but only when present high-priced washing machinery on their farms wears out.

One countian, who asked to remain unidentified said he believes, "It (in-plant washing) is just a handle for one processor to pry loose the larger, and therefore more desirable, producer from another buyer."

Perhaps he was partially right. Ben Burkholder said, "If I were putting in new equipment, I would install washing machinery. Not because it is good for the industry, but because it seems

to be a trend."

Egg washing in the plant has come to the county. How long it will stay or how successful it will be, no one can say for sure. There are those who believe it will come "full-force" at a more rapid rate than did in-plant sizing, but there are others who feel that more difficulties will be experienced than can be foreseen.

Whatever happens, it appears certain that the discussions will be hot and heavy for the next few weeks as results of the new process appear on the horizon.

Hour for hour, riding in an automobile is two and a half times as dangerous as hunting.

Farm Women 1 Entertain Guests

The Society of Farm Women No. 1 entertained the ladies at the Moravian Home on Saturday. A program was presented and dinner served to 58 members and guests. Mrs. W. Dean Fyock, the president, was in charge of the meeting.

Miss Patricia Sullivan, head of dramatics at Linden Hall, entertained with several selections. Other numbers on the program included a Christmas song by Dolly Bollinger; a piano solo, Virginia Brubaker; vocal duet, Jeffrey and Becky Schreiber; clarinet solo, Carol Dianne Buckwalter; song, Eva Murray.

Mrs. Scott Garman conducted a Spelling Bee. The prize for the best speller was won by Miss Winifred Huber, matron of the Home.

Announcement was made of the annual Farm Convention to be held at Harrisburg on January 7 and 8. Mrs. Abram Bollinger, president-elect, and Mrs. Clayton Sangrey will represent the organization. The roll call was answered by each member recalling a Christmas memory.

Mrs. Russell Schreiber was in charge of devotions; Mrs. Richard Buckwalter and Mrs. Floyd Coy, food; Mrs. Ira Shearer, tables; Mrs. Guy Reidenbaugh, gifts. Mrs. Roy Brubaker led the group singing.

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Marketings of EARLY BIRD fed Broiler-flocks from chicks placed during June, July and part of August show the following results:

| Age Weeks/Days | Weight | Lbs. Feed/ Lbs. Gain | Liveability | % USDA Condemnations |
|----------------|--------|-------------------------|-------------|----------------------------|
| 9-1 | 3.78 | 2.26 | 98% | 0.57% |

Note: The above includes ALL the records we have; as they come, both good and poor.

Here are the averages for 20 flocks (240,233 broilers) marketed more recently:

| Age Weeks/Days | Weight | Lbs. Feed/ Lbs. Gain | Liveability | % USDA Condemnations |
|----------------|--------|-------------------------|-------------|----------------------------|
| 9-1 | 3.86 | 2.13 | 99.883% | 0.15% |

The best 100,000 birds out of the above averaged:

| | | | | |
|------|------|-------|-------|-------|
| 9-1½ | 3.92 | 2.102 | 99.0% | 0.27% |
|------|------|-------|-------|-------|

We hope our EARLY BIRD customers do as well this winter, but generally the dampness, cold, snow and ice during the coming season will have some effect on broiler results

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