

## Hens Differ In Drinking Traits, Scientist Finds

"Thirsty" is a White Leghorn chicken who can drink her own weight in water every day.

"Thirsty" is one of a train of chickens discovered to have a genetically-controlled thirst for water.

The trait which "Thirsty" owns may be a boon for poul-

trymen who have been fighting a clean-up problem in the nation's chicken coops.

"Thirsty" and her genetic strain of parched chickens was identified by Dr. Edward G. Buss, associate professor of poultry science at The Pennsylvania State University. Buss has been toying with the problem for nine years.

Thirsty birds may have always been generally mixed with the dry strain in poultry farms, and were simply not

distinguished before, Buss explained. Nevertheless, they have been causing a great deal of trouble in the care of poultry.

The "normal" dry strain drinks about twice as much water in weight as it eats in food, he said.

The wet strain drinks up to eight times as much water as the dry strain, Buss found, even though they eat the same amount of food. The excess water is simply wasted as watery droppings on the henhouse floor. This is especially troublesome now that most birds are housed in wire cages.

Genetic characteristics like those which "Thirsty" has are usually caused by one or two genes which are different from "normal" birds, Buss pointed out. The trait can be bred into or out of stocks of birds.

Since the trait does not seem to affect any other characteristic (it appears unrelated to egg production or other features), it might be put to good use, Buss said. Until recently, poultrymen were concerned with the problem of getting rid of watery droppings because "they were a mess to clean

up". But recently, chicken raisers have found that watery droppings are easier to wash from the cagehouse than dry feces.

Whether "Thirsty" and her kind will become dominant or be bred out of the poultry stocks will depend on which way poultrymen view the problem, Buss pointed out. At least, he said, now they will have a choice.

The work with "Thirsty" is only part of a large genetic study which Buss is conducting on the metabolism of chickens. "Thirsty" studies are being paid for in part by Hy-Line Poultry Farms, Des Moines, Iowa, America's largest producers of stock chickens for poultry farms.

## Hog Shipping

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from hog cholera-free States. The unvaccinated hogs must not come in contact with hogs from States of unlike status prior to or during shipment and they must be transported in one vehicle in one continuous movement. Health certificates and identification will still be required under the amendments.

States immediately affected by the amendments are Vermont and Nevada, which are hog cholera free, and Idaho, Montana, Oregon, Utah, Washington, Wyoming, and Alaska, now in Phase IV. Details on all shipping rules can be obtained from state or federal animal disease control officials.

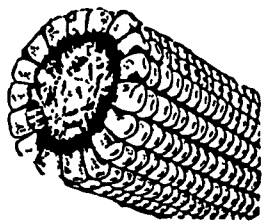
Dr. G. H. Wise, in charge of hog cholera eradication work for USDA's Agricultural Research Service, points out that the changes do away with restrictions that become unnecessary as the disease is eradicated. This lets livestock producers reap the benefits of eliminating the disease in their states," he said. "Since hog cholera is not known to exist in states that have reached Phase IV, shipment of unvaccinated hogs from these states should not constitute a threat to the health of other pigs."

## INDUSTRIAL FATALITIES

NEW YORK — Factories in the United States were safer than ever in 1964, according to the Insurance Information Institute, as the rate of industrial fatalities dropped to an all-time low of 21 per 100,000 workers. The worst year in the past quarter century was 1940, when the rate was 35.8 per 100,000.

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# A Thought For The New Year

I BELIEVE in the everlasting beauty of the universe, in the supremacy of good over evil, the conquering power of love, the brotherhood of man, and the omnipotence of the spirit.

I BELIEVE in the forgiveness of injury, pardon of wrongdoing, and judgment without prejudice.

I BELIEVE there is nothing so contagious as happiness, nothing so healthful as goodwill; and I believe that evil is the result of misunderstanding.

THEREFORE, I am resolved to so live my life that all the evil in the world shall not make me morose; all the unkindness in the world shall not make me unkind; all the unfaithfulness shall not make me disloyal; and all the injury shall not make me unforgiving.

I shall try with all my soul to be strong and true, happy and generous, brave and undismayed.

Helen Rowe

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