

## Panel To Discuss Wire-Rearing Of Pullets At NEPPCO Show

A discussion by two large-scale eastern producers on the advantages of using wire-reared pullets as cage layer replacements will be one of the features of the 29th annual Northeastern Poultry Producers Council (NEPPCO) Exposition in the Farn Show Building here October 4-5-6.

Norman Hecht, who raises a million pullets in cages at Walden, N.Y., and James Shubin, owner of the Kisler Hatchery in New Tripoli, Pa., will explore the benefits of wire-rearing pullets.

Proponents of the wire-rearing method claim it produces more uniform birds better suited to cage production; virtually wipes out coccidiosis, blackhead and enteritis, and reduces costs, improves labor efficiency and increases capacity.

Hecht was one of the first producers in the northeast to use the wire method of rearing pullets on a large scale. Shubin is a former Californian who developed his system of wire rearing while serving as manager of the Olson Brothers White Wing Egg Farm at Quakertown, Pa.

Their discussion will be moderated and illustrated by Fred Pate, eastern regional manager of Kimber Farms, who collected a large number of color slides on the subject while working with wire-reared pullets on the West Coast and in the Northeast.

## Scientist Finds Vitamin E Aids Milk Flavor

Cows fed in dry lots will produce milk of much better flavor stability if their rations are supplemented with vitamin E (tocopherol), reports a University of Maryland scientist working under a U.S. Department of Agriculture research grant.

Dr. Raymond L. King, professor of agricultural chemistry at the university, has evidence that a vitamin E deficiency in cows not on pasture is the reason their milk often has an undesirable, oxidized flavor. He has completed the first year of work under a 4-year grant from USDA's Agricultural Re-

### search Service.

Oxidized flavor in milk has been described as cardboard like, tallowy, or painty, depending upon its intensity. It develops as a result of any contact of the milk with copper. Although such contact is carefully avoided during processing, even the copper naturally present in the milk may be enough to impart this objectionable off-flavor.

Dairy rations produced by at least one large feed manufacturer are now fortified with vitamin E.

King's studies indicate that supplementing the diet with 1 or 2 grams of the vitamin per cow per day should overcome

oxidized flavor in the milk. In view of the extra cost, the scientist recommends that vitamin E be added to the ration only where this flavor instability is a problem.

For his study of the effect of dry-lot feeding on milk flavors, King maintains a 22-cow herd on a basic ration of alfalfa hay and grain concentrate. Noting that cows on this ration produced milk with an exceptionally low content of vitamin E, a natural antioxidant, he added various amounts of tocopherol acetate to their diet for a few weeks, and then withdrew the supplement. He showed that the amount of the vitamin fed to the cows was related to the amount later

### found in the milk.

To determine the flavor stability of the milk, he added to it 1/10 part per million of copper at the time of milking; then two days later he tested the milk for oxidized flavor both chemically and by test panel. The oxidized flavor disappeared from the milk three or four days after beginning daily supplementation of the cow's diet with vitamin E. But eight to ten days after discontinuing supplementation, flavor instability returned.

Results were similar when the cows were allowed to graze on bromegrass or to feed on green chopped alfalfa, instead of feeding on dry

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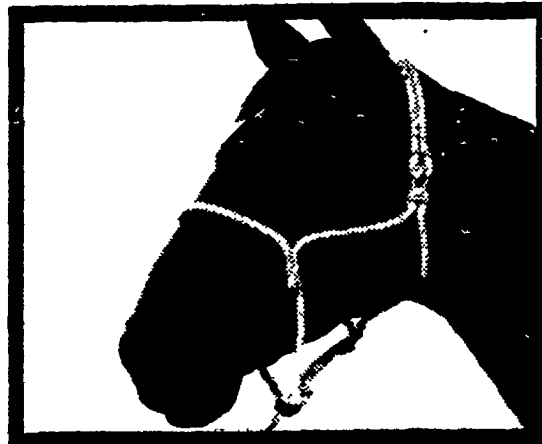
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