

## Plans Set For NEPPCO Turkey Conference

Program details have been announced for the Mid-Atlantic Conference of the NEPPCO Turkey Division. The meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, March 1st at the Holiday Inn in Gettysburg, and is open to everyone connected with the turkey industry. The one day gathering will feature reports on turkey housing and equipment, selection of antibiotics and a critique of the state turkey tests. A luncheon and short tour has also been arranged.

Leading off the program will be Dr. J. Robert Smyth, turkey geneticist from the University of Massachusetts. He plans to review the current status of the various state turkey tests and discuss some of

the ways growers can evaluate strains of turkeys.

The use of antibiotics for turkeys will receive complete coverage by Dr. Frank Howland, private consultant to the poultry business.

Pre-fab or "turn-key" turkey house will be discussed by Lloyd Reynolds of Reynolds & Yellott, Inc. who builds such houses. Reynolds will show costs and advantages for such buildings as compared to those constructed by the grower himself.

David E. Plasman, Product Line Manager of Turkey Equipment for Big Dutchman, Inc. will review the latest information concerning automated turkey house equipment.

A luncheon has been planned for conference participants. John Datt, Assistant Director of Farm Bureau's Washington Office will be the luncheon speaker and plans to cover some of the activities in the nation's capital of interest to turkey growers.

Paul Osborn, NEPPCO's Turkey Division Chairman, urges growers to arrive in Gettysburg on Tuesday evening, February 28th, for an "Early Bird Tour" the next morning, prior to the formal Conference Program. The tour, arranged by Osborn, calls for a visit to Central Soya's new dressing and freezer plant in New Oxford. Growers will see the cut-up operation in progress. These facilities can process 100,000 pounds of turkey per day, and the freezer will hold a million pounds. Tour participants will also inspect Ronald Hoke's new 40'x400' clear span, turkey building which is completely insulated and has automatic

## Alfalfa Weevil Now Covers U.S.

The alfalfa weevil has now spread over most of the 48 continental United States, the Department of Agriculture reports. Only Maine, Florida, Texas, Oklahoma, Iowa, Minnesota, and Arizona had not been invaded by this serious pest by the end of 1966.

The weevil was reported for the first time last year in Michigan and Wisconsin, say Plant Pest Control officials of USDA's Agricultural Research Service.

The alfalfa weevil, *Hypera postica*, was first found in the United States near Salt Lake City, Utah, in 1904. Although it spread slowly, by 1913 it had swept over Utah and into Idaho where it threatened the state's most profitable crop.

At the time of the tour, there will be 14,000 two-week-old poult in the building.

The Conference registration fee is \$300 per person and advance registration is requested.

## Robert K. Rohrer

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The weevil has spread rapidly in the eastern states since it was first recorded in Maryland in 1951. In the east, the infestation involves a slightly different strain of weevil than the one found in the west, and it is believed that the eastern strain may represent a separate introduction into the country.

The life cycle of the weevil consists of egg, larva, pupa, and adult stages. In the fall, the adults crawl down into the crowns of alfalfa and seek other sheltered places in alfalfa fields, nearby ditchbanks, or field borders, where they overwinter. In early spring, the weevils become active. Each female lays several hundred eggs in clusters of 2 to 25. In warm weather, the eggs hatch in a week or two; in cool weather, they accumulate in the field until temperatures are favorable for hatching.

The larvae do greatest damage to the first cutting of alfalfa, but they may seriously damage later cuttings in some areas. They feed within the leaves, and then on the lower

leaves, making skeletons of the foliage. Damaged leaves dry rapidly, and the field takes on a grayish to whitish cast. After the first crop of alfalfa has been cut, the larvae crawl to the new shoots of the second crop and continue feeding. The adults also damage new shoots.

## ● Roberts Named

(Continued from Page 13)  
in Walpole, N.H., graduated from the local high school, then "cut his teeth" on the hatchery business with Hubbard Farms. He later transferred to the firm's operations in Statesville, N.C., when that plant was opened in 1957. Other posts followed with All Star Mills, Albermarle, N.C., and A.W. Perdue & Son, Salisbury, Md.

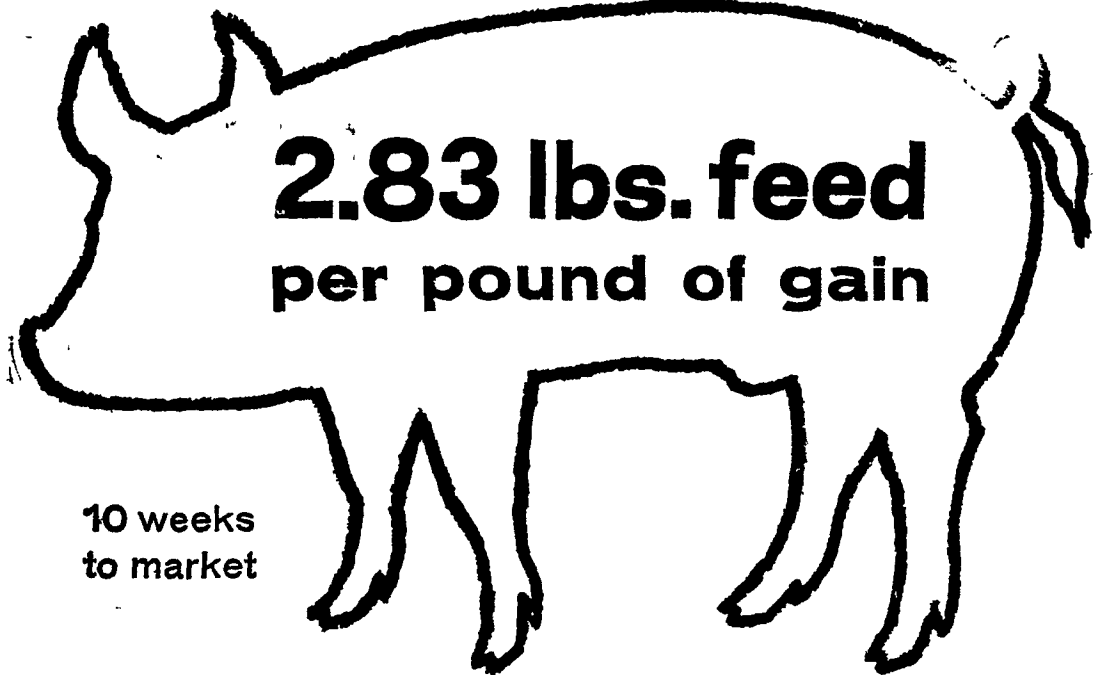
Roberts will manage the hatchery in Lancaster, and will be responsible for Hubbard hatchery egg production programs in Pennsylvania. This post was held by the former Gene Haller. Since his demise in September, the responsibility has been handled by his associate, Peter Smith.

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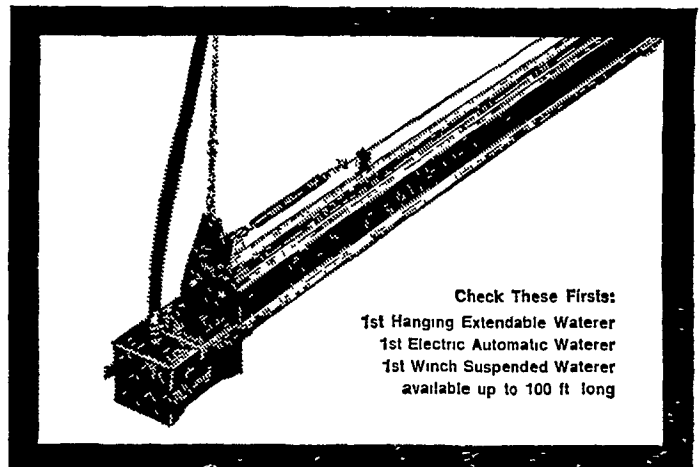
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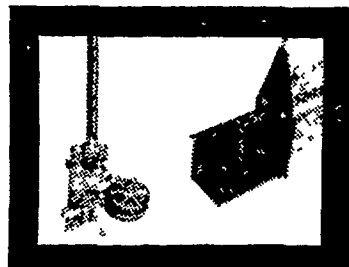
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