

## Egg Breakage Problem Expected To Increase

In general the egg industry can expect more problems with egg breakage this year than occurred last year according to Kermit Birth, Marketing Specialist at Penn State. The reason is increased quantity of older hens in the nation's laying flock. As the laying year progresses egg size increases which in itself appears to add to the breakage problem. The problem is not necessarily one of weak shells but that of size of eggs. Eggs from older flocks, primarily those in the second year of lay, usually average larger than eggs from flocks in their first year of production.

The size of eggs becomes a problem in many ways. If egg production includes a high proportion of extra large and jumbo eggs, packaging problems are encountered. The eggs are simply too large for the packaging material and as a result additional breakage occurs. Handling conditions which did not result in breakage when layers started to lay may now result in breakage of eggs from older hens. Twisting of a case may result in breakage because of the tightness of the eggs within the filler-flats. Those who are keeping layers into the second year of production must exercise more care to avoid loss of income due to egg breakage. Yes, producers with older flocks will probably experience more loss of eggs due to leakers.

An increase in the quantity of eggs with damaged shells may take place anywhere between the time eggs are laid until they are used by the consumer. The extra large and jumbo sizes are more difficult to remove from filler-flats with a vacuum lift because of the volume of eggs. Eggs fit tightly in the cups of the filler-flat and are difficult to remove. Secondly, the eggs tend to bump together as they are lifted out of the case and placed on the in-feed conveyor. The same handling conditions by the same personnel for eggs from younger birds usually do not result in as much breakage as with larger-sized eggs. Not only can size add to the quantity of eggs which are broken but it can also slow down the output of the cleaning and sizing equipment. By slowing down output marketing costs can be increased. In extreme cases, at least with certain types of equipment, eggs from older layers have been so

### Homemakers Prefer Chicken In Cutup Form

If there is any doubt that homemakers prefer chicken in cutup form, that fact came home to roost to processors in a survey among nearly 1,000 families in the heart of the Eastern Shore's broiler country — Sussex County. Details were released last month by Delmarva Poultry Industry, Inc., at Georgetown, Del.

Nearly two-thirds of the 988 homemakers surveyed in 12 communities by high school students, under professional guidance, said they preferred chicken cut up in some form rather than whole.

Other findings from the DPI study: Housewives prefer fresh, ice-packed chicken to frozen by overwhelming odds; two-thirds of them believe that chicken is the least expensive meat to serve. They respond to price specials

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Over 6,000 pounds of nickel are contained in each of the five F-1 engines that will propel the Saturn V rocket to the moon.

close together on the conveyor spools before going into the washer that they were almost touching each other. Then, if an egg, because of its shape, turns endwise it might bump or push other eggs. It couldn't help but cause some breakage. Shell damage could lead to consumer resistance when purchasing eggs. All too often, for one reason or another, eggs stick to the carton and are extremely difficult to remove. In some instances it may be impossible to remove an egg without breaking the shell. In today's market, with the need of increased sales to move a larger quantity of eggs, it behooves all in the industry to take the necessary precautions to insure that eggs do meet consumer expectations.

The producer who is contemplating keeping layers the second year should consider the income losses because of possible increased egg breakage. In all probability, more shell damage will occur with the older hens which may offset, at least in part, increased income due to the larger eggs. Those who keep layers for the second year of lay will need to take extra precautions, as compared to a pullet flock in the early months of production, to avoid extra breakage which may reduce income from eggs and cause difficulty of processing which can in turn add to marketing costs.

## Take Guesswork Out Of Spraying

Guesswork is foolish when applying chemical controls for weeds, insects or diseases, says Frank E. Boys, agricultural chemical specialist at the University of Delaware.

Costs of improper pesticide application are much too high to risk on a guess. Even on an educated guess. But too many farmers who think they know exactly how much pesticide they are using are, in fact, only guessing. Less than the recommended herbicide rate can result in less than satisfactory weed control, says Boys. And an overdose may kill or seriously injure an entire crop. Improper insecticide application can cause unlawful residue which will result in seizure of a crop by government inspectors.

Another important consideration in using pesticides is field size, he cautions. Estimating the acreage to be treated increases the chances of using improper spray rates.

To eliminate the guesswork from your spray program, calibrate spray equipment before applying pesticides, he advises. And measure fields and mark sizes down in a permanent place.

Prevent trouble before it begins. Know exactly how much material your equipment will deliver when properly calibrated and be sure to accurately measure the correct amount of pesticide and water before spraying. And always remember to read and follow label directions explicitly.

## Feed Grain Program Vital To Poultrymen

Vital to poultrymen is the future of the federal government's feed grain program, up for legislative action in 1969, according to George E. Brandow, agricultural economist at The Pennsylvania State University.

Speaking at the recent annual meeting of the Pennsylvania Poultry Federation at Penn State, Dr. Brandow said stability of grain supplies and prices has become essential to the growth of specialized egg, poultry, cattle feeding, and dairy operations.

In the past, he pointed out, price support programs built up large surpluses and, mainly as a by-product helped to stabilize markets. Now that grain surpluses have been reduced, the issue of purposely carrying reserve grain stocks for stability is an important part of the 1969 legislative agenda. Dr. Brandow

said poultrymen have a stake in this issue and in the provisions of any reserve plan enacted.

One option is to continue the feed grain program about as it is. In recent years, potential production has been reduced by making payments to growers to cut acreage. Grain prices are well below those of the early 1950's but are higher than would be expected without a program. Exports are large and virtually without subsidy. Acreage payments, however, have cost the government roughly 1 billion dollars annually.

Failure to extend the feed grain program would leave legislation on the books under which the Secretary of Agriculture would be required to support prices within a range of roughly 80 cents per bushel to \$1.50 per bushel for corn.

### HORSE SALE

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### ANNUAL EARLY SUMMER

## REGISTERED HOLSTEIN SALE

Location on the former Warren Hershey farm, just north of Rt. 340, 2½ miles east of Intercourse, 12 miles east of Lancaster, 7 miles west of Rt. 10 on Red Well Drive, Lancaster County, Pa.

FRIDAY, JUNE 28, 1968 — 12:30 P.M.

60 - REGISTERED HOLSTEINS - 60

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- (4) Milk and Honey Ivanhoe dtrs. with dams records from 16,000m. to 17,944m.
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- Beautiful dtr. of Pineyhill Maximilian, her full sister made 17,000m. as a 2 year old and the dam over 23,000m.
- Outstanding Whirlhill Kingpin dtr. bred to Galaxy from a dam with record of 15,972m., 3.6%, 316 da. as a 3 year old.
- (3) top heifers from Pecoradale Farms, (2) are by Maview Maxim Royalist, their dams average 19,000m., 628f.
- (2) close heifers from Leroy Beiler, Lancaster, Pa. (1) a Sevens Burke Skylark dtr. from a dam with 4 records from 15,400m. to 16,444m. The other a Whirlhill Kingpin dtr.
- (7) Osborndale Ivanhoes, (5) are 4 year olds, with records to over 17,000 milk.
- A Cloverbrook Prince dtr. from a dam with 18,732m., 2 year old Rockman dtr., (2) Expectation dtrs., their dams with up to 700f. (2) Tidy Burke Jerry dtrs. with over 600f.

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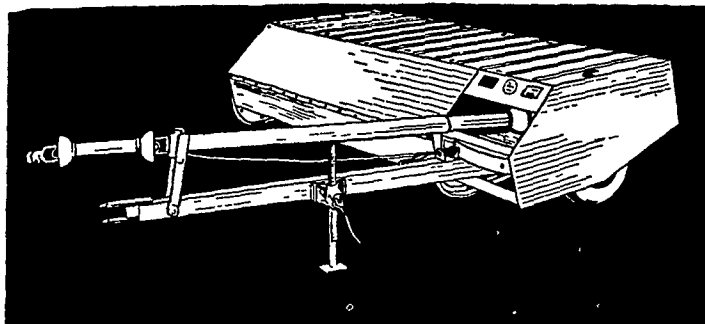
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