

Universities Report Progress On Poultry Research Projects

Research directors from the Universities of Maryland and Delaware reported progress in nearly 50 research projects involving broilers, when university men met with Delmarva poultrymen recently in Easton.

The meeting was called at the suggestion of Mr. Tom Whittington, president of Delmarva Poultry Industry, Inc (DPI) and arrangements were made by Mr. Frank Gordy, DPI secretary.

From the University of Delaware, Dr. W. J. Benton, head of the Animal Science Department, reported that one of their most exciting experiments was aimed at finding ways to separate broilers from their litter. At present they are raising the birds in cages, but "we believe there may be better methods, and we are looking at some of them," he said. He reported on 12 projects that are underway or in the planning stage.

Delaware's Dean of Agriculture, William McDaniel said he believes that university research must change to keep pace with the times as poultry production changes from the 160 acre farm producers to the "Rockefeller-Standard Oil type of operation."

Dr. Frank Bentz, vice president for agricultural affairs at the University of Maryland gave an overview of agriculture at the University.

He called attention to the \$92½ million that the broiler industry contributes to the state's economy each year. "This is about 28 per cent of the total cash farm receipts and is a size-

able portion of the estimated \$12 billion contributed to the state's economy by the total agribusiness industry," he said.

He outlined a detailed study of Maryland agriculture now underway at the University. The study will consider the present status, problems and potentials of all phases of the industry. "When completed early next year, it will provide the basis for a ten year plan for agriculture at the University," he said.

Dr. I. C. Haut, director of the University of Maryland Agricultural Experiment Station, reported that 34 projects in "poultry and poultry science" are currently underway at the University. He congratulated the poultry industry representatives for the fine cooperation they are extending to the institution. "We are having more cooperation than ever before — more sharing of ideas."

To identify some of the progress, he pointed out that 55 publications reporting on poultry

experiments have been produced by the University since the 1965 annual report of the Experiment Station.

Dr. Clyde Shaffner, head of the University's Poultry Science Department, reported that: In addition to a large number of nutrition studies, researchers in his department are working on breeding lines of poultry that may be resistant to one or several diseases plaguing the industry; chickens that will use proteins more efficiently; handling methods to prevent bruising on dressed broilers; processing methods to protect dressed poultry quality, and many other investigations on management, breeding and feeding.

Dr. R. L. Green, head of the Agricultural Engineering Department, reported on the initial studies under way at the University's new Experimental boiler facility at the Salisbury substation. He said the work (here is in initial stages, but the facilities promise some excel-

lent possibilities for future studies in poultry housing.

Experiments on new varieties of soybeans and other studies involving the production of feed grains on the Eastern Shore are progressing well, according to a report by Dr. James Miller, head of the University's Agronomy Department.

A simulated broiler program (computerized) has been developed by researchers in the Department of Agricultural Economics, said Dr. John Curtis, head of the department. Information gathered from this study should lead to more orderly production and marketing of broilers on the Delmarva peninsula.

Poultry industry representatives suggested several possible fields where they felt university research would be beneficial.

Dr. Donald Davis of Caroline Farms said he believes the time has come to offer indemnities, if necessary, to eradicate laryngotracheitis (a serious economic disease in broilers). Ernest Matthews, of DPI, urged the researchers to find more ways to reduce labor costs in the processing plants — or to find more

efficient ways to processing birds.

Another labor problem could be partially solved — and with it some of the bruising problem — if mechanical catching and crating birds in the brooder houses could be perfected, said Dr. John Hammond of O. A. Newton & Sons.

Harry Palmer of Otis Feeds suggested that more work should be done on developing new poultry products — such as a "pre-cooked poultry roll."

Both industry representatives and university officials expressed a desire to get together again — perhaps on a twice yearly basis — to discuss mutual problems.

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