

# Lancaster Farming

## SECOND SECTION

### Pennsylvania Turkeymen Meet

Eighty Pennsylvania turkey growers met at the Hershey Motor Lodge for an educational meeting last week. The growers present represented over 1,300,000 turkeys, which is approximately 70 per cent of Pennsylvania's production. Dr. D. D. Moyer, Virginia Polytechnic Institute Turkey Specialist, was the featured speaker. Dr. Moyer reminisced, calling the growers' attention to the days when the turkey was the festive bird for the Holiday Season. However, the industry has started produc-

ing turkeys on a year round basis. He pointed out that, unfortunately, total turkey consumption has not increased with the rapid increase in production, and stated that as of January 1, 1969 there were 322 million pounds in storage. He said the turkey industry is challenged with learning how to sell turkeys on a year round basis or go back to seasonal production. Further processing for utilizing one-third of the turkey production has not increased, and that there was a reduction in the sale of whole birds in 1968. Consumption dropped one pound per capita over the previous year.

### Southeastern Dairy Conference Set For Tuesday, February 18

The 4th annual Southeastern Dairy Conference will be held again at the Guernsey Barn, East of Lancaster on Route 30. The date and time is February 18 from 9:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. The snow date is February 19.

The theme for this year's conference is "Dairy Management". Door Prizes, refreshments and displays will also be featured. The conference is sponsored by Allis-Chalmers, Curtis Breeding Service Inc.; John W. Eshelman & Sons and New Holland Supply Co. Inc.

In discussing some of the turkey health problems, Dr. Moyer stated that 48 per cent of the losses are due to managerial problems. Cholera has taken a terrific toll in the south and mid-west. Some flocks have experienced losses up to 50 per cent. He stated that cholera can be controlled by following strict sanitation standards, and pointed out that where farms have a continuing brooding operation of many ages, they never have an opportunity to depopulate to break the cycle. Vaccination crews and sales people have



PANEL TURKEY MEETING (left to right), Paul S. Konhaus, Mechanicsburg; Donald Turrill, Laughlintown; James

Hoover, Moderator, Quaker Oats, Representative, Andrew Ludwig, Ephrata; Ira Gottshall, Birdsboro.

been known to carry the disease from one farm to another.

Dr. Moyer concluded his presentation by showing slides of some of the model turkey installations in Virginia including some of the breeding flocks and tom houses.

A panel consisting of Donald Turrill (Laughlintown), Paul S. Konhaus (Mechanicsburg), Ira Gottshall (Birdsboro), and Andrew Ludwig (Ephrata) dis-

cussed the topic, "How Pennsylvania Turkey Producers Can Compete In Today's Market". Mr. Turrill feels that the Pennsylvania grower has a very good opportunity to move birds into the industrial gift market and to sell to the small retailer who is interested in premium quality and willing to pay a premium price. The Turrill operation was started 31 years ago with 75 birds and has grown to a 28,000

bird operation, with all of the birds being processed and sold in Western Pennsylvania. Due to high standards only top quality birds are offered as whole birds and the others used in further processing operation.

Paul Konhaus, who grows 30,000 birds, told the group that birds can be marketed profitably if the quality is right. He markets his entire flock in the

(Continued on Page 27)

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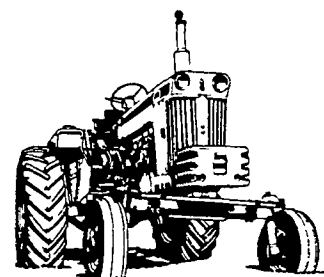
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