Lancaster Farming

SECOND SECTION

Plan For Healthy Pullets

By L. Dwight Schwartz, D. V. M.
Extension Poultry Veterinarian
Penn State University

Rearing healthy pullets does not just happen by chance Any successful pullet grower will tell you that healthy pullets result from proper care and management starting before the chicks arrive and not ending until they move into the laying house at 20 or 22 weeks of age In order to consistently be successful at growing pullets, a great amount of planning and preparation must be spent designing the grow out program Included in this planning are decisions on disease prevention and control, a pullet health program

A pullet health program should include all of the essential functions advocated in approved poultry husbandry practices such as a clean, sanitized and healthful brooder house, adequate daily hygiene of equipment and environment, known balanced and wholesome mold-free feed, a proper balance of heat and ventilation, and proper dead bird disposal Normally, all of the environmental diseases can be prevented or held in check through proper and conscientious care Another dimension of such quality of husbandry is early detection of explosive virulent diseases Almost without exception, early detection of a disease will lead to its control before it becomes a serious problem or widespread within the flock Simple mathematics are proof enough that the prevention of 5% to 20% losses are well worth striving for Any serious disease break will easily cause this kind of loss Mortality is not your only loss when disease strikes a pullet flock There are other profit losses, such as unthrifty birds and medication costs included here to say nothing of the reluctance of the buyer to accept pullets with a history of diseases One severe disease break can easily absorb all of the profits of the entire pullet flock

The question is asked "How do pullet health programs vary with the different grow out systems?" To answer that I would say that there is really no difference in the basic program A health program should be tailored to cover specific needs of a particular pullet rearing system For instance, if pullets are cage-reared from 1 day of age to 20 or 22 weeks, then there is no need to include a coccidiostat in the feed On the other hand, mites could be a serious problem in the cage-rearing operation but not in a floor-rearing system, therefore mite control would be included in the health program of the cage reared pullets

Presently, there are three widely used methods of growing pullets and they are

1) floor-rearing from one day of age to 20 to 22 weeks

2) cage-rearing from one day on and

3) floor brooding to 6 or 8 weeks of age then cage-rearing on to maturity.

There are advantages and disadvantages to each system The grower must decide which is the best system for him With regard to a health program, the primary variation would pertain to a coccidiosis and parasite control All other factors are of equal importance in all grow out systems

Pullet vaccination is often thought to be "The Health Program" but this is not completely true A vaccination program is of vital importance but it is only a part of a total pullet health program True, vaccination is preventive medicine but poorly planned, poorly timed and poorly administered vaccinations are a costly luxury

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WATCHING AN AUTOMATIC EGG LOADER at the Plain and Fancy Egg Ranch are Ethel May Brandt, Jay Irwin, Associate County Agent and William H Plowfield, Plant Manager. L F. Photo

The Outlook And Future For The Poultry Industry

Dr. Kenneth Goodwin,
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It is no longer reasonable for poultrymen in one area to consider themselves isolated from trends in other areas The same factors which influence ways in which the industry develops in the Southeastern or Western United States must be reckoned with in the Northeast Our poultry industry in Southeastern Pennsylvania would do well to consider carefully what these trends are, and to weigh their effect on the outlook and future of our local industry

Perhaps more than any segment of agriculture, the poultry industry has utilized technological advances and business methods in a continuous search for greater efficiency The results have been astounding, especially to the consumer who has reaped huge benefits in lower prices for eggs and broilers in a time when inflation has steadily eroded purchasing power for almost all other products.

Whether or not one approves of the changes is irrelevant It does no good to wish for the return of days gone by The only useful thing one can do is to understand and evaluate the

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Management Is....?

By Herbert Jordan,
Extension Poultry Specialist

Happiness is — a well managed farm So management must include the successful control of or reaction to all factors to attain a goal setup for a farm Nine out of ten farmers never attain a level of good management Nine out of ten specialists will refer to management as being the reason for, cause of, or failure to get the results we desire from our poultry flock, but they rarely say what management is.

A leading financial and business analysis agency once published that 88 per cent of all business failures are due to management or mismanagement — but failed to define management

Management has been defined as many things, but before we give it a word definition lets see what management does, causes, or on what it has a major influence Management may be the reason

One 10,000 layer flock has an average net income to labor and management for the family of $2,000 00 a year for five years while another similar size flock on another farm under **different management** brings in **$5,000 00** to $8,000 00 per year for the family to spend for the same five years

One poultryman is satisfied to **continue in the poultry business and expand** while another poultryman is negative, disinterested, and wants to discontinue the chickens

One poultryman has a continual unsatisfactory farm labor force while another manager has a **satisfactory or good help situation** most of whom actually take over and **execute good decision making and implementation responsibility.**

One poultryman places emphasis and time he spends on management problems in direct proportion to the **problem's significance** to his income and flock performance while other poor managers do not classify their flock problems as to significance and waste time working on small problems too much

One poultryman "eye balls" the birds daily (one hour per day per 10 000 birds) **then correctly identifies each problem** before he treats it or attempts to change it Specialists, handbooks, laboratories, filing systems. production records, and servicemen **ought to be oriented**

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Egg System at Weaver's Inc., New Holland.