

County Poultry Industry

By Jay Irwin,
Associate County Agent

The poultry industry is a big part of the agriculture economy of Lancaster County. In 1968, poultry contributed \$31,221,000 to the total of 124 million dollars of all agriculture products in the county. Over 220 million eggs are laid annually from the three million layers. This is one per cent of all the eggs produced in the United States. The broiler industry contributes 12 million birds annually.

With this impact of production, marketing is of vital importance in the distribution of these products. Processing plants, owned and operated locally, supply quality products to a broad area including metropolitan Philadelphia and New York. These processing plants play a key role for the future of the poultry industry. Buying habits of the housewife are rapidly changing. This means that new methods must be developed to supply her with convenient, ready to use products.

There are numerous national known hatcheries in the county which produce broilers and laying hens in large quantities.

Their continued research in developing new strains that are more efficient and hardy is very important.

The impact of the poultry operators on allied industry is evident with the feed mills and equipment manufacturing plants in the county. Poultry consumes more commercially mixed feed than any other livestock in the county. The nutritionists are continually experimenting with new formulas and additives for maximum efficiencies in our layers and broilers.

Equipment manufacturers are developing new labor saving devices to feed, collect eggs and dry the manure. More work is needed in the area of manure disposition with the increased urbanization of Lancaster County.

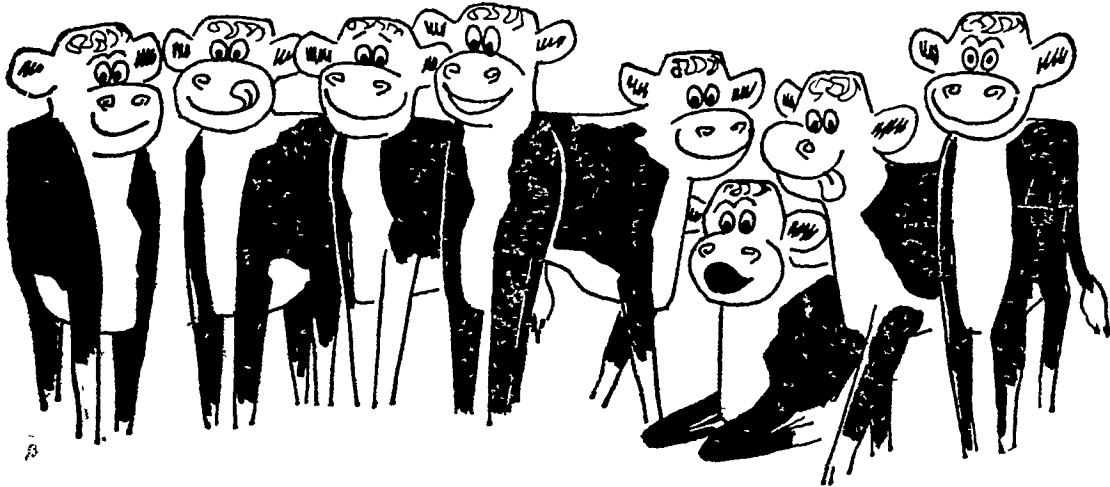
The most important part of the poultry industry is labor; not only the need for competent labor but for the efficient management of labor. Competition of the 652 manufacturing industries in Lancaster County creates this situation. The managers of these poultry flocks are as capable as the industry

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DR. E. G. Buss, Penn State professor of poultry science, (on right) explains some of the experimental work being conducted in the genetics laboratory of the new Animal Industries Building on the University Park Campus. Touring the new facility during an "open house" held recently were: (from left) Dr. Kenneth Goodwin, head of the Penn State Poultry Science Department, John Sams, director of research at Indian River Poultry Farms, Lancaster County, and Hatcherman Walter Wheelock, of Chambersburg, immediate past president of the Pennsylvania Poultry Federation.

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