

# Poultry Federation Discusses Turkey Diseases

Glen Kime, Gardners, Pennsylvania, was elected president of the Pennsylvania Turkey Growers at the meeting recently at the Hershey Motor Lodge. Kime is a veteran turkey grower and hatchery operator in Adams County.

Warren Johnson, who has been operating a turkey farm for a quarter of a century at Nottingham, Pennsylvania, and is also past president of the National Turkey Federation, was elected vice president.

H. J. Bicksler, Palmyra, Pennsylvania, was re-elected secretary-treasurer. Herb Jordan, Penn State Poultry Extension Specialist, presided at the afternoon educational session.

The afternoon program started with a panel discussion on turkey housing. Panel members included Andrew Ludwig, Ephrata; Emerson Meashy, Hershey Farms; Ronald Hoke, Abbotstown and Warren Johnson, Nottingham.

The panel agreed that the very minimum square footage required for growing turkeys is three feet for hens and four square feet for toms. Pole buildings seemed to be the ideal way of growing turkeys in Pennsylvania and Ludwig feels that if the industry could afford it, it would be ideal if the building were insulated.

Most of the panel members start their turkeys in batteries for seven or eight days and then debeak and transfer them to the growing quarters.

Dr. Chandler of Commercial Solvents, Inc., Terre Haute, Indiana, presented a paper on turkey diseases. He expressed the desirability of a turkey grower to seek the help from a serviceman and a diagnostic laboratory whenever the mortality rate is above normal.

The first disease discussed was Fowl Cholera, which he feels is on the increase in the turkey industry. This disease can be carried by most of the species of livestock and poultry and can be

carried by rodents and wild birds. Flocks can be immunized by using two injections four to six weeks apart, with a first injection given at 12 weeks of age.

Bacterins for immunization are made in three types of suspensions (1) water base (2) oil emulsion (3) aluminum hydroxide adsorbate. Dr. Chandler feels that the last mentioned is the best of the three.

The second disease which was discussed is Erysipelas. It can occur in poults that are a few weeks of age. However outbreaks usually occur in older birds approaching market age and males suffer the heaviest losses.

Practical measures to take in avoiding outbreaks of erysipelas are to practice sanitary measures, plus avoiding range where the disease was known to exist before.

Since swine and sheep are known to have the disease, birds should not run on range near the diseased animals. Contaminated fish meal has also been incriminated as causing the disease.

In controlling an outbreak Dr. Chandler suggested giving all visibly sick birds 200 to 400 units of penicillin. At the same time give two to four cc's of erysipelas bacterin to ward off more birds becoming involved.

Penicillin can also be administered in the drinking water or in the feed. Good results have also been obtained by using Aureomycin in the drinking water and feed.

Blue Comb is the third disease that was discussed. Though similar to Blue Comb in chickens, it appears to be a different disease. The causative organism is thought to be a filterable virus.

In the last couple of years grants from the National Turkey Federation have assisted research work at the University of Georgia and a viral agent has been recovered. It is predicted that there is a possibility of a vaccine in the near future.

The last problem discussed was molds and fungi. Infection from molds and fungus have been found in both caged and floor-housed birds.

This condition sometimes appears if birds have been given a high anti-biotic treatment. Dr. Chandler cited that when direct tions call from 100 grams of

antibiotic per ton, some people feel that they can clear it up five times as fast by using 500 grams. This kills some of the (Continued on Page 13)



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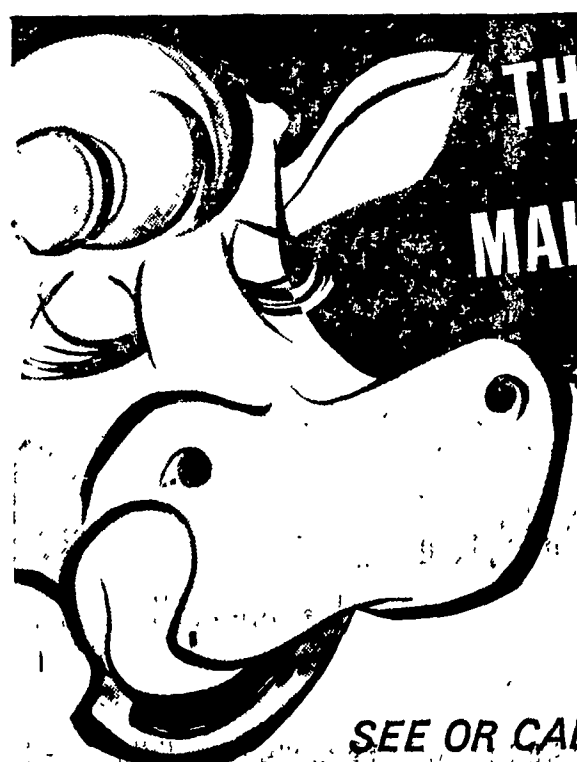
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