

Veterinarian Explains Need for Sanitary Poultry Practices

Dr Dwight Schwartz, Penn State poultry veterinarian, warned local poultrymen to use sanitary practices with dead bird and manure disposal.

At a meeting of the Lancaster County Poultry Association at the Farm and Home Center Thursday night, Dr Schwartz warned that disease in poultry increases mortality, increases medicine costs increases susceptibility to other diseases, and results in unthrifty birds with slower growth rates or lower production rates.

The veterinarian also warned that many types of disease bacteria will live for various periods of time in dead poultry carcasses and in poultry manure and dirt. Malek's and Newcastle disease organisms have been found to live up to 16 months inside a poultry house, he said.

"Many organisms in dead birds only have to find a way back into the poultry house to cause further damage," he stated. This is a strong reason for keeping pets out of poultry houses and for using good rodent control, he stated.

He said that if manure is spread within 1.00 feet of a poultry house "the chances are good that the disease of the last flock will be tracked into the new flock."

The safest and least expensive method of getting rid of dead birds is to burn them, he said. Processing through a rendering plant for possible recycling for use as animal protein also has possibilities, when properly handled, but this is more costly, he said.

Dr Schwartz particularly condemned throwing dead birds away in fields or stacking them

in fields as an invitation for having disease organisms eventually find their way back into the flock. On the possibility of landfill or disposal pits, he stated, "No one should consider it, because it will lead to pollution of the underground streams."

Commenting on manure, he also emphasized that when exposed to a water system it can contaminate a well and cause a serious health hazard. While manure is an excellent fertilizer, under some conditions a mineral imbalance can occur and the manure can actually work against plant growth.

But he sees great potential for use of poultry manure as a compost in connection with the major Southeastern Pennsylvania mushroom industry.

Dr Schwartz also warned that excessive ammonia can result in retardation of growth of poultry and encourage certain types of diseases, particularly respiratory infections.

No poultry operation can be successful without a proper handling of both the dead bird and manure problem, he emphasized.

John Durr, regional sanitary engineer for Pennsylvania, was also on the program to speak about pollution and what the state can do and is doing about it.

He emphasized the importance of the issue by quoting a geologist who said that indiscriminate dumping of waste into the underground water systems could cause these systems to remain contaminated for 50 to 100



Dr. Dwight Schwartz, on the left, Penn State poultry veterinarian, talks with John Durr, Pennsylvania regional sanitary engineer, after the two men spoke to local poultrymen Thursday night.

years. This differs from above ground water which clears up almost immediately after the source of pollution is cleared up.

Commenting on the new Pennsylvania Clean Streams Law, he said the state can "require anyone to eliminate the possibility of pollution." This includes authority to act against unsound practices by quarries. A farmer is excluded from penalties from the act when there is a complete conservation plan for his farm.

The law requires a permit for construction of any impound-

ment, including ponds for waste water, but not for a typical farm pond.

Commenting on the Mill Creek pollution situation, he stated that if present regulations had been enforced five years ago the problem probably would not exist today. The state now reviews municipal treatment requirements five years in advance, approximately the

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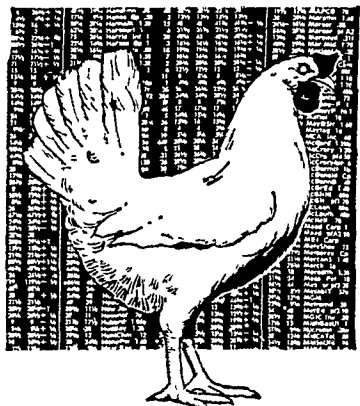
Limitations on 1971 corn insurance liability have been announced by H. K. James, Pennsylvania state director of the Federal Crop Insurance Corp.

Lancaster County is one of nine within the state that is affected by the program.

James said that because of the present uncertainty as to the effect the corn blight may have on 1971 corn yields, "We are limiting the amount of new insurance we will write on corn crop investments for the 1971 crop year."

The liability limit, he said, has been set at no more than 50 percent of an increase over the 1970 crop year liability in each county where the insurance is available.

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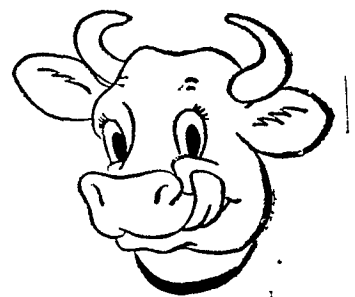


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