

# Leghorn Fertility and Hatchability Are Good

(Continued from Page 26)  
end of almost twelve months of laying

## August 1967 Study

On August 3, 1967, 3000 leghorn females and 245 males, 22 weeks old, were housed at 0.66 square foot floor space per bird on the A-frame sloping wire floor in House 100. Fertility and hatchability were excellent, averaging 95.0 per cent and 94.0 per cent, respectively, for the following 10-month period. At this point, the flock had to be discontinued to prepare both Houses 99 and 100 for a new experiment comparing breeder flocks on the A-frame and V

frame sloping wire floor arrangements.

Concurrent to the experiments just reported was another experiment comparing leghorn females and males housed at 0.75 square foot floor space per bird on the A-frame sloping wire floor and those housed at 2.5 square feet per bird on conventional litter floors. Three groups of 400 females and 40 males were housed on sloping wire floors, and 200 females and 20 males were housed on litter.

There was no significant difference in fertility between the litter and wire floor houses,

averaging about 96 per cent for the period in each case.

Hatchability was about two per cent higher on the wire floor than on litter, 94.0 vs 92.0 respectively, and this was statistically significant.

## Use of Perches

On August 12, 1968, an experiment comparing leghorn females and males housed on the A-frame sloping wire floor, House 100, and with the V-frame arrangement in House 99, was begun. The purposes of the experiment were to compare the performance of birds on the two types of floor arrangements, and to determine the significance of using perches, specifically, as related to fertility. Each house was divided lengthwise into two pens.

One pen in each house had perches along feeder and water lines, while the other pen had just the wire floor for standing and night roosting. Two feeder troughs (1 foot of trough for each 10 birds) ran the length of each pen. Each pen also had one water trough extending the length of the pen. In the V-frame arrangement, birds could drink only from one side, since the trough was mounted on the partition at the lower edge of the slope. Water troughs were cleaned from an aisle outside the pen. With the A-frame arrangement, water troughs were placed between the two lines of feeders and were cleaned from inside the pen.

Rate of egg production was excellent and quite similar in all four pens. There was no difference in fertility and hatchability among pens when the total period was considered, averaging about 96 per cent fertility and 93 per cent hatchability. There was some variation among samples during the course of the experiment for which no definite explanation can be found. Perches appeared not to have any effect on fertility.

It should be noted, however, that the percentage of floor eggs during the early weeks of laying was highest with the A-frame arrangement and also in each pen which had no roosts. However, after the first four to six weeks, floor eggs were practically eliminated with either system.

It was observed that there

was more tendency for birds to crowd in front of the nests on the A-frame and prevent birds from using the nests. Also, in the pens with no perches the nest rails were used as perches which interfered with the hens in getting into the nests to lay eggs.

## Results

On the basis of all the experiments conducted where fertility and hatchability were measured, the evidence clearly demonstrated that leghorn females and males can be housed suc-

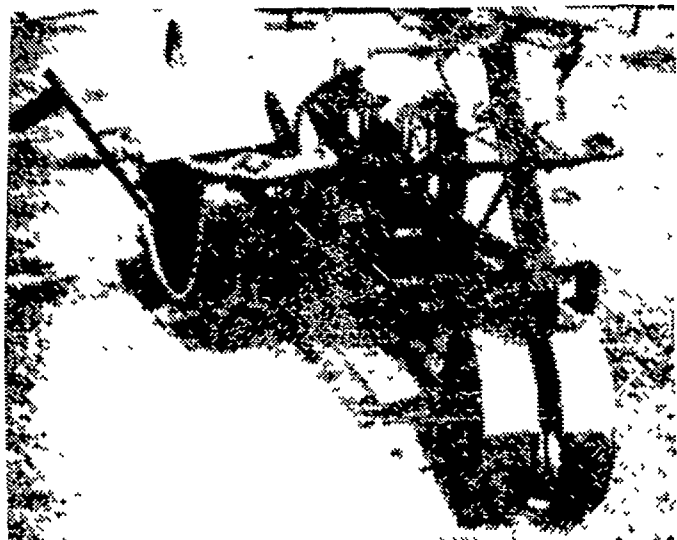
cessfully at 0.6 square foot floor space per bird on either the A-frame or V-frame sloping wire floor.

The possibility further exists for even greater housing densities in the future.

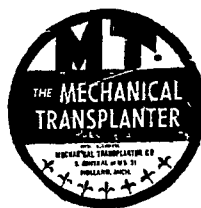
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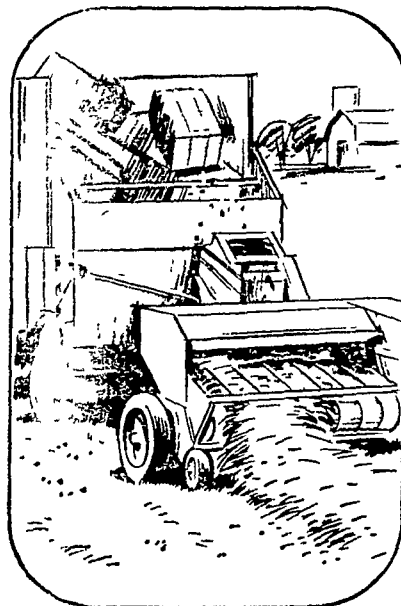


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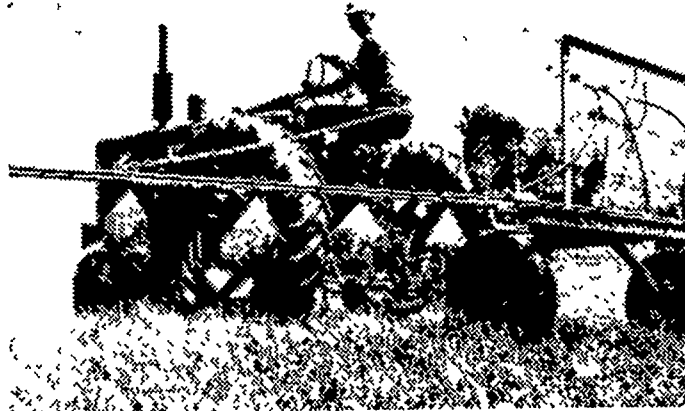
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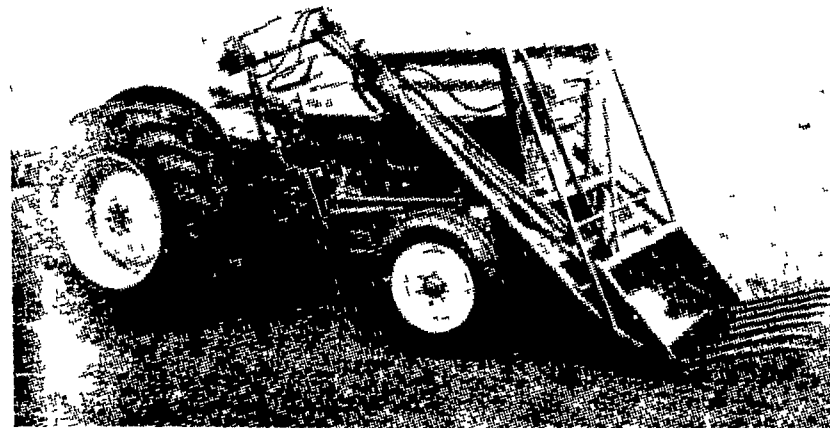
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