

At Shaver Seminar

Poultrymen Get Info On Feeding, Breeding

"It's becoming increasingly important for growers to select breeding programs that allow them to keep in step with market changes," Dr. Peter Hunton told a group of poultrymen meeting last week at Lancaster's Ramada Inn. Hunton is research coordinator for the Shaver poultry breeding concern in Canada, and was speaking at a Shaver seminar sponsored by Greider Farms, Mount Joy.

Hunton said it takes about five years for breeders to breed new characteristics into their birds. "As breeders, we've got to do an awful lot of guessing about where the market is headed in the years ahead," Hunton said.

Hunton discussed the history of hybrid chicken development and went into the several methods of breeding better stock. He also commented on the changes in demands from pullet buyers.

"I've seen tremendous changes in what our customers are asking for," he said. "Ten years ago, most people would have considered egg numbers the most important factor in choosing a bird, with size running a close second.

"Today, we get as many complaints about eggs being too big as we do about their being too small. And a lot of birds are approaching a physical plateau in their production. It's just not possible to improve very much on an egg a day. Customers today

want better shells, better interior quality. Automated processing has forced these changes on them. They also want more

economy in feed utilization, and they want chickens that will eat more exotic forms of nutrients." Ray Delano took the speaker's

lectern when Hunton had finished. Delano is general manager of the New England Egg Marketing Association and Egg Clearinghouse, Inc., in Durham, New Hampshire. He explained the workings of Egg Clearinghouse, a trading center for producers, packers and marketers, and spelled out the need for more cooperation between industry members.

"There's a proposal now to provide a marketing order for eggs," Delano said. "The in-

dustry has lost 28 percent of its per capita consumption over the past years because eggmen have never been willing to pay for promoting their product."

Delano also charged that the industry's present price discovery system is victimizing producers. "The present New York quotation is too far removed from the actual market value of the commodity," he said. "The industry is the victim of an outdated price discovery system that is based solely on one man's opinion. I think it's time for a change."

Other speakers for the day included Dr. John Summers, professor of animal science, University of Guelph, Ontario, and Doug Rundle of the Shaver staff.

Stiff Poultry Regulations For Farm Show Exhibitors

The threat of a possible outbreak of exotic Newcastle disease has prompted the Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture to require stiffer vaccination regulations for poultrymen who will enter exhibits at the 1974 Pennsylvania Farm Show, January 7-11, it was announced by Agriculture Secretary Jim McHale.

Newcastle disease is a virus infection of poultry and other birds. It cannot be transmitted to humans through the consumption of eggs or other poultry products.

In the past few years, Newcastle disease has been responsible for the destruction of many poultry flocks in California.

Dr. E. T. Mallison, chief of the Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture's Poultry Health Division, said the disease had been brought under control nationally. However, he said, "a resurgence of exotic Newcastle anywhere in the United States remains a distinct possibility"

because of recent outbreaks in Canada, New Jersey, Tennessee and Kentucky.

Mallison said these outbreaks indicate the existence of "the exotic Newcastle threat and of the hazards posed by transport and movement of all kinds of poultry or birds." This means the danger of new outbreaks particularly exists in poultry exhibitions such as those scheduled for the Farm Show.

Therefore, poultrymen who plan to exhibit at the Farm Show must:

- Prove their entries have been vaccinated against Newcastle disease not more than 90 days and not less than 10 days before entry in the show.

- Show their entries are from flocks in which no new birds have been added. Also entries must not have been exhibited during the three week period before the entry date, January 5-6.

- Have entries that are free from evidence of contagious diseases and that were not recently exposed to such diseases.

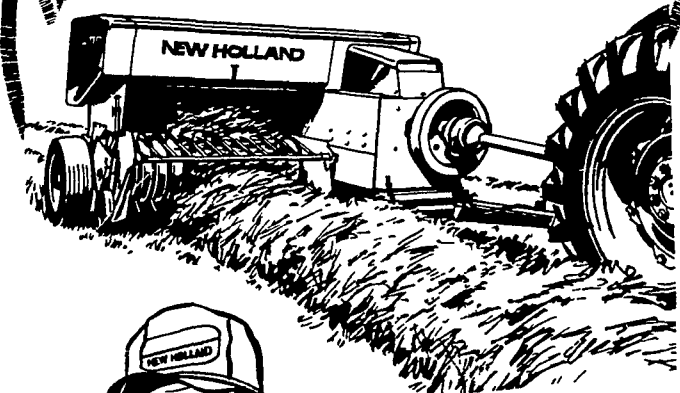
- Prove their entries originate from flocks or breeders officially tested for pullorum disease within the 12 months preceding entry.

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