

# Japanese poultry officials visit Lancaster County

By Melissa Piper

A group of Japanese poultry officials were present in the Lancaster County this past week, touring several poultry operations as well as taking in a number of popular tourist sights.

Representing companies that are customers of the Hubbard Farms Hatchery franchise in Japan, the members of the tour were touring the County as guests of the Hubbard Farms located near Neffsville.

While in the area, the guests visited Victor Weaver's, Longenecker's poultry operation, Mel Gehman's operation, R. W. Saunders Egg Plant and the Pennfield Farms.

Being "very impressed" with Lancaster County and its agricultural production, the group also visited some tourist spots including the horse auction in New Holland, Root's Farm Market and also attended some open houses in the area. Several of the members had been to the United States and Lancaster County before.

Before arriving in the state, the Japanese officials had visited poultry operations in Arkansas, Alabama and North Carolina.

Departing from their tours, the group attended a breakfast meeting of the Millersville area Kiwanis on Wednesday morning, Sept. 10. Reikichi Ishida, manager of the Livestock division of the Nosaea and Company Ltd., a franchise of Hubbard Farms in Japan, spoke to the Kiwanians on poultry farming and specifically the broiler industry in the

country.

## Chicken Popular in Japan

Ishida explained that the broiler industry had not been in large scale existence before World War II. It was in fact the occupational forces living in Japan that prompted the growth of the poultry industry.

"The big cities were the first to begin selling a large portion of the broilers," Ishida explained, "then it slowly moved to the outlying areas."

Importing of broilers to Japan began in large proportions in 1963 with the beginning of integrated operations taking place. The movement was led by trading farms in the country.

In 1965, the supermarkets began selling chicken at higher quantities which saw the popularity increase greatly. Ishida noted that between 1965-1970 retail sales increased sharply and movement of sales spread to the rural areas as well as in the larger cities.

By 1973 chicken represented 39 percent of the total edible meat produced. While beef remained the popular meat leading chicken by almost 20 percent in the early 60's chicken replaced beef in popularity by three times in 1973.

Ishida explained that one factor effecting the popularity had been the low price of chicken compared to beef. Although feed had to be imported for the meat, it did not represent the extremely high prices that beef producers were faced with.

Ishida noted that while egg consumption has decreased in the United States, it was on an upswing in Japan.

Poultry is becoming a large agricultural enterprise in a country where it has only been in existence for thirty years.

## Interested in Grain Situation

Also speaking at the Kiwanis meeting was Yoshinobu Yamagata, president of the Yamagata Hatchery Co. Ltd., in Fukuoka, Japan. Yamagata noted that Japan was watching with interest the grain situation not only in the United States but in the Soviet Union. Since Japanese import most of their grains for feed, an increase in cost will effect them greatly.

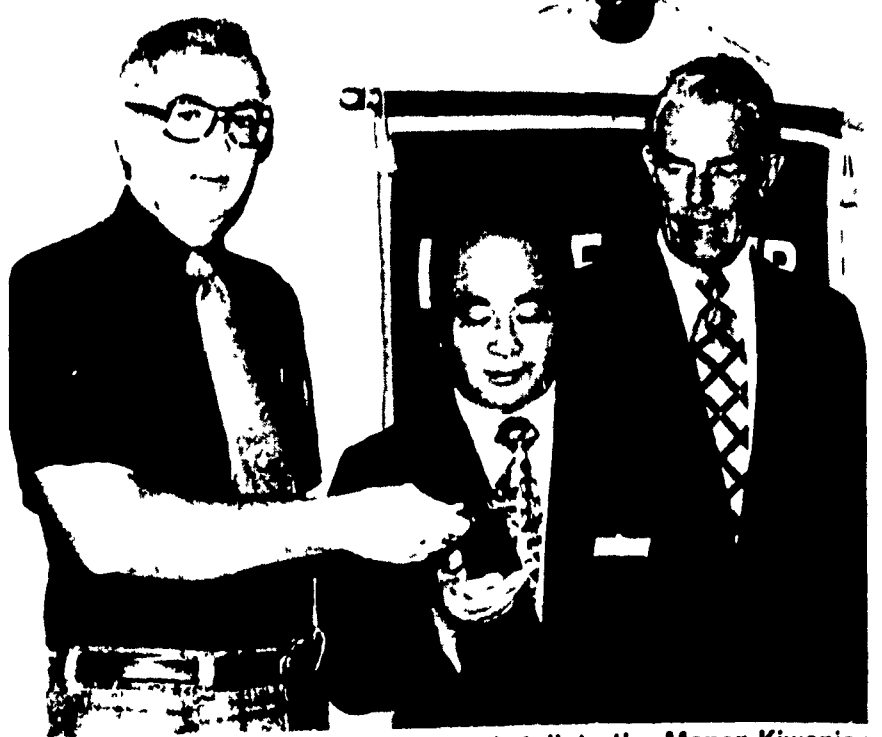
Yamagata expressed his appreciation of the American farmer for working so hard for production. "In our survey, we have noted that American farmers work just as hard for production as in Japan."

Explaining that inflation had also taken its toll in Japan, Yamagata noted that an increase in real estate interests was hurting Japanese agriculture much the same as in the US and in Lancaster County.

John DeJonge, vice president of Banquet Foods, also addressed the group on the poultry industry and Banquet's role in using broiler operations.

The group's attendance at the meeting was arranged by Bob Garland, the plant manager for Hubbard Farms Hatchery in Neffsville. Garland is a member of the Manor Kiwanis.

Lancaster's Hubbard Franchise has been in the area for 45 years with its



Bob Garland (left) plant manager of the Hubbard Farms Hatchery in Lancaster County presents Reikichi Ishida, of the Hubbard franchise in Japan, a Kiwanis pin, following Ishida's talk to the Manor Kiwanians on Wednesday morning. John DeJonge, vice president of Banquet Foods (right) also spoke on the poultry industry at the meeting.

main office originating in Walpole, N.H.

Members representing the various poultry firms in Japan were Kenji Nakashima, Fusben Co., Ltd.; Susumu Hamba, Namba Hatchery Co., Ltd.; Kiyoshi Ogawa, Sagara

Hatchery Co., Ltd.; Kencho Ohji, Yamabishi Industry Co., Ltd.; Kunio Ohshiro, Ohshiro Hosanen Co., Ltd.; Ryuzo Shirafuji, Hayeshikane Livestock Co., Ltd.; Ryoichi Suga, Suga Poultry Co. Ltd.; Haruo Takada, Ta kaga Hatchery

Co., Ltd.; Yoshinobu Yamagata, Yamagata Hatchery Co., Ltd.; Akira Saito, Nosawa Hubbard GPS, Ltd.; Teruo Yamano, Nosawa and Co. Ltd.; and Reikichi Ishida, Nowasa and Co. Ltd.

# Dairy goat enthusiasts plan 'Big Weekend'

UNIONTOWN - The Pennsylvania Dairy Goat Association announced plans for its third annual "big weekend" to be held this year at the Fayette County Fairgrounds near here, on September 20 and 21. This event will feature the Keystone Dairy Goat Sale of 16 top dairy goats selected from animals nominated by dairy goat breeders in Pennsylvania and several neighboring states.

All five breeds of dairy goats are represented in this

sale which has attracted buyers from many states and from Canada. For the first time this year, the Keystone Sale will be followed by an auction of dairy goats. Consignors are required to furnish interstate shipping papers to meet Pennsylvania animal health regulations.

In addition to the sale, which will begin at 3:00 p.m. Saturday, there will be a banquet followed by an educational seminar on dairy goat nutrition at 6:30

p.m. A 4-H goat show is scheduled for Saturday morning at 8:00 a.m.

Persons wishing additional information should contact PDGA president H. Gill Brown, 140 Johnston Drive, McMurray, Pa. 15317 (412) 941-8506 or PDGA vice-president Dr. Edward J. Watson, 1819 W. Strasburg Rd., West Chester, Pa. 19380 (215) 486-0859.

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# Ag situation improves

WASHINGTON — Farm price and income prospects have strengthened with expected record large grain crops and strong domestic and export demand. Rising consumer incomes and a recovering general economy should help bolster domestic demand for food products. At the same time, world demand for grains is strong because of reduced production in the USSR and Eastern and Western Europe. However, there are major uncertainties in the agricultural outlook, among them the impact of dry weather on U.S. crops, the level of world demand for U.S. grain, and continued adjustments in the livestock-feed sector of the U.S. agricultural economy. The outcome of these developments will influence farm prices and income as well as food supplies and prices consumers pay for food.

## Food Prices Bulge at Midyear

The current food situation and outlook is being dominated by adjustments that have been taking place within the agricultural sector during the past year and a half. Short and high-priced 1974 feed crops caused most livestock and poultry producers to reduce output this year. The resulting higher prices for livestock and livestock

products are accounting for most of the bulge in food prices this summer. Third quarter retail food prices may run around 4 percent over the previous quarter, following a less than 1 percent rise from the first to second quarter.

Looking toward fall, larger market supplies are expected for beef and poultry as well as fresh fruits and vegetables. These could bring some price declines at retail for some products in these categories. In fact, the more abundant supply picture is likely to tone down the overall advance in retail food prices for the fourth quarter. Small pork output coupled with tightening supplies of eggs will cause some price strength for these items.

The farm-retail spread, which narrowed earlier in the year, is likely to widen this fall due to increased costs of labor, transportation, and energy.

For all of 1975, retail food prices may average around 9 percent above a year ago, compared with rises of over 14 percent in both 1973 and 1974.

## Farm Income to Rise in Second Half

Net farm income during July-December this year likely will be considerably above the first half rate estimated at \$21 billion,

seasonally adjusted annual rate. Larger livestock receipts in coming months will reflect strong prices for most major livestock products. Crop receipts may be maintained by a large volume of marketings and the price stimulation of a stronger export market. But with the reduced incomes in the first half, it now appears that realized net farm income may total around the mid-twenty billion dollar range, compared with \$27.7 billion in 1974. Even so, 1975 would be the third highest level on record by a considerable margin.

## General Economy Continues Improving

The general economy continues to show recovery. Inventory liquidation is likely to slow and lead to a fairly sharp advance in real output in coming months. Unemployment rates declined slightly in July, although an increase had been expected, and total employment gained. Also, real disposable personal income is likely to begin a steady advance in the next few months. This general improvement should help bolster consumer demand for food and other agricultural products.

Summary of the Agricultural Outlook approved by the Outlook and Situation Board.

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