

## Poultry energy use studied

When it comes to conserving energy, the U.S. poultry and egg industry claims a pretty good track record. But, say USDA economists, there's room for improvement.

In 1974, American poultry producers, processors, wholesalers, and retailers used over 146 trillion Btu in natural gas, petroleum, electricity, propane, and

other energy, for a total cost of \$550 million.

On the farm side, the producers' energy bill came to \$126 million—or roughly 2 per cent of their gross farm income from poultry and

eggs. Their bills for propane, electricity, and gasoline alone came to 1.9 cents for every live broiler, 15 cents for each turkey, and 11 cents per laying hen.

Brooding accounted for over 70 per cent of the energy used in poultry production, lighting and

Lancaster Farming, Saturday, April 23, 1977—101

ventilation claimed 11 per cent, and waste handling, hauling, and operating feeding equipment accounted for almost 18 per cent.

On the bright side, energy use per head has fallen off since the mid-1960's, as more

efficient use of heating fuels, particularly for broilers, has offset larger electricity needs, especially for layers and turkeys.

However, economists say that individual producers can still cut their energy use and bills by 20 to 50 per cent.

The economists claim that, in short run, saving energy is simply a matter of paying attention to details and making minor adjustments to existing practices. Also keeping good energy use records will help spot trouble areas and check for savings when adjustments are made.

Among actual production operations, brooding requires vast amounts of energy to heat poultry houses. But producers can hold the line on heating costs by following a few simple guidelines such as locating brooders in the center of houses, using solid brooder guards like sheet metal or corrugated paper, clustering brooders in groups of three or four, and by following manufacturers' suggested maintenance on all brooding equipment.

Partial house brooding, where a plastic curtain closes off a section of the poultry house for young chicks, can mean an energy savings of up to 25 per cent. Installing winterized side curtains on poultry houses can trim fuel use 10 to 15 per cent. It also helps to shut off brooder pilot lights as the birds grow older and require less supplemental heat.

Poultry house lighting offers another chance to conserve. A system of intermittent lighting such as 8 hours of light, followed by 10 hours of dark, 2 hours of light, and 4 hours of dark (compared with the traditional 14 hours of light and 10 hours of dark) can save electricity use by 25 per cent.

Producers can also burn 25 to 50 per cent less electricity by reducing light intensity. Keeping light bulbs clean and adding reflectors will provide maximum light at minimum wattage.

# Here's the Most Efficient, Economical, Worry-free Way to Control Worms in Your Hogs It's Hygromix<sup>®</sup>

hygromycin B, Elanco

Hygromix is the finest continuous, in-feed worm control available. It controls three major swine parasites . . . large roundworms, nodular worms and whipworms. Wide-spread use has dramatically proved the economic value of Hygromix in controlling worms.

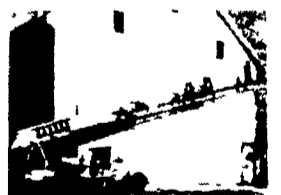


See us today for worm control at its best — with Hygromix.

SEE YOUR FEED SUPPLIER SERVICED BY  
NEW HOLLAND SUPPLY CO.

TRY A  
CLASSIFIED  
AD!

COMPLETE  
FARM PAINTING



We Use Quality  
PAINT

AERIAL LADDER  
EQUIPMENT

- Modern and Efficient Method
- Reasonable Prices
- Spray On and Brush In Method
- Sandblasting if Necessary

FOR FREE ESTIMATES

WRITE:

**ESH SPRAY  
PAINTING**

(Daniel S. Esh, C. Ralph Miller)

SPRAY-ON AND  
BRUSH-IN PAINTER  
Box 350A  
Ronks, PA 17572

INDUSTRIAL  
COMMERCIAL  
RESIDENTIAL