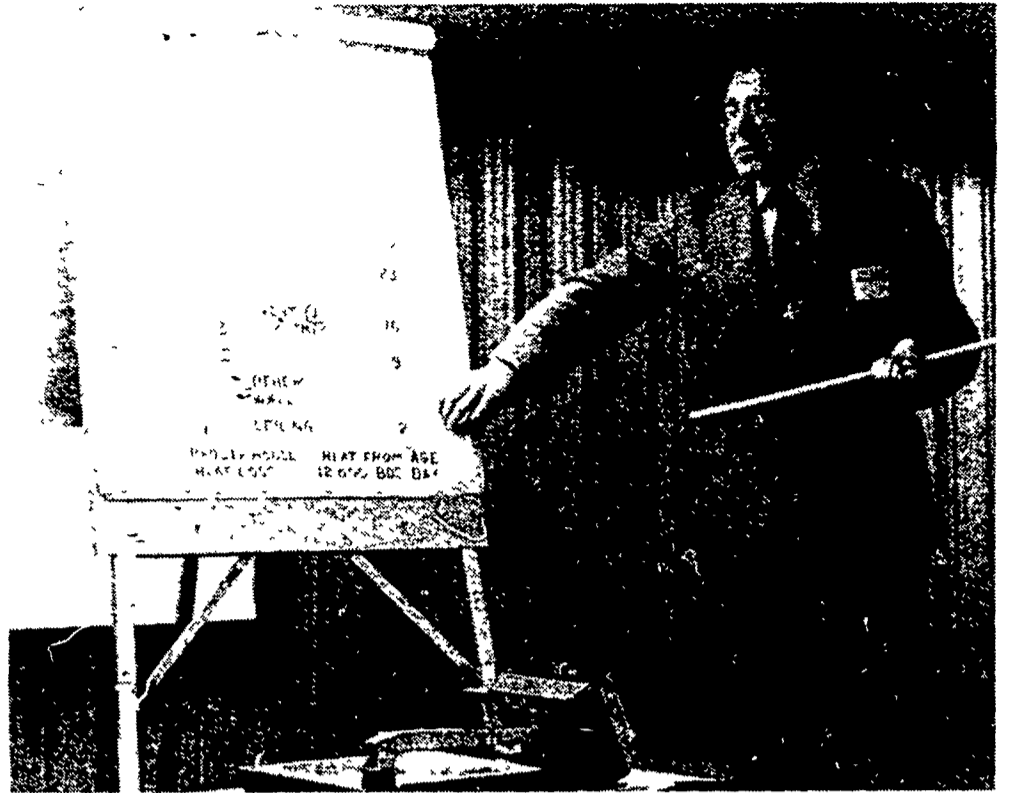


Savings on the operation of electrical equipment were presented by Pennfield's Bill Kulp.



Dr. Joe McCurdy cites figures and facts on broiler house energy use.

# Poultrymen hear energy-saving ideas

By DIETER KRIEG  
LANCASTER — Today's energy costs can be expected to double within five years, and again in the next five years, warns Bob Mieczowski, president of Vent-O-Matic, Tuscarora Electric Manufacturing Co., Inc. Tunkannock, Pa.

Addressing a group of approximately 50 Lancaster County poultrymen during a symposium on energy

conservation, Mieczowski was one of 10 persons to contribute ideas and facts. Others in the day-long program included: Dr. Kenneth Goodwin, head of the department of poultry science at Penn State; Dr. Anthony Stemberger, agricultural economist at Penn State; Dr. Floyd Hicks, chairman of poultry science Extension at Penn State; Dr. Richard Peacock, Pennfield

Corporation; Dr. Charles Ostrander, poultry Extension specialist at Cornell University; Dr. Joe McCurdy agricultural engineering Extension, Penn State; Bill Kulp, Pennfield; Phil Walbert, Bayshore Foods, Inc., Easton, Md.; and Dr. Bob Aldrich, professor of agricultural engineering at Penn State.

In his talk on managing ventilation to save energy, Mieczowski stressed the importance of clean fans and shutters. Noting that fans are inefficient machines, he pointed out that efficiency is cut substantially by dirty equipment or obstructions such as weeds at the exhaust port.

Walbert predicts trends to high density brooding in order to make brooder houses more efficient. He says a completely controlled environment for brooder chambers and continuous brooding are likely possibilities.

Aldrich sees the thermal use of solar energy as man's best bet as an alternative energy source. Suggesting that wind and water power are both too inefficient to have much practical use on a

wide scale, the Penn State ag engineer also cites biomasses and by-products as possible energy sources in the future. Both would be replenishable and are linked to recycling principles.

Significant savings were shown by simply altering lighting schedules. Cornell's Ostrander showed, for example, that four pounds of feed per year can be saved by switching from the conventional lighting schedule to one which is interrupted. In a 30,000 bird house, it adds up to a savings of \$9000 per year. Energy savings are calculated at an additional \$925.50 per year. The lighting was arranged as follows: 2 hours of light, 12 dark, 2 light, 8 dark.

The ventilation system of a poultry house is the biggest consumer of electricity, says McCurdy, whose subject was entitled "Improved House Construction and Insulation." He recommends that houses be built with more insulation to ease the workload of fans. Also, the size and adjustment of slot inlets is critical.

Poultry processing plants are "quite an energy hog," said Pennfield's Bill Kulp. He recommends more stringent practices on the use of hot water, lights, motors, and heat to conserve energy. Comparing two different lighting alternatives, Kulp told the group that a 300 watt incandescent

bulb and two 40 watt fluorescent bulbs have the same light output. But the fluorescent lights last about 20 times longer and save \$26.24 per year in operating costs. Better still, he suggests, are lighting systems which incorporate vapors.

Kulp pointed out however, that some of the wasteful practices in the poultry industry are due to rules and regulations set forth by federal inspectors. He also was critical of management and planning to some extent, saying that "too many times things are put on a shoestring — flexibility is essential."

The symposium was held at the Lancaster County Farm and Home Center, with Jay Irwin, county agent, serving as general chairman.

## Extension assistant named

LEESPORT, Pa. — The Berks County Extension Service has recently added a new Extension assistant, James G. Davis, of Elverson. Davis will work in a land use program to assist municipal leaders and citizens to better understand the reasons for and problems associated with urban sprawl.

Davis is a recent graduate of Ursinus College, where he received a B.S. degree in biology. Before attending college Davis served four years in the U.S. Navy as a corpsman, spending three years at Philadelphia Naval Hospital and one year in Okinawa, Japan.

Presently he attends the Institute of Biblical studies and resides on a ten acre farm near Elverson with his wife, Barbara and son, Joshua.



James G. Davis

Techniques and strategies for preserving agriculture in Berks County will have particular emphasis. Davis will also investigate and report on land use programs adopted or being considered by other municipalities, counties, and states. These findings will then be made available to Berks municipalities as possible ways to help alleviate the increasing urbanizing pressures on Berks County agricultural industry.

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