

## Md. broiler industry hits 9 million mark

ANNAPOLIS, Md. — State Secretary of Agriculture Wayne A. Cawley, Jr., says all Maryland agriculture can take pride in the latest milestone reached by the Delmarva broiler industry: the placement of nine million chicks in one week.

"Figures supplied me by the Maryland-Delaware Crop Reporting Service, a cooperating agency with MDA, show that during the week ending March 24, some 9,080,000 chicks were placed for grow out," Mr. Cawley said.

"This is another milestone for the broiler industry, which after all, traces its origins to Delmarva. Not only does it mean a robust production level for the industry itself, it means good things for other segments of agriculture as well.

"Grain farmers especially can smile when they do a little calculating and realize that over the eight to eight and one-half week grow out period for nine million chickens, those birds will eat about 45,000,000 pounds (803,000 bushels) of corn and upwards of 18,000,000 pounds

(300,000 bushels) of soybeans.

"Economic benefits also flow to workers in the service businesses utilized by the broiler industry, there is more work for people in the processing plants and a demand for more packaging materials, just to mention a few of the direct beneficiaries.

"The consumer also benefits because high production by the broiler industry means stable, and believe it or not, even lower prices at the check out counter for chicken.




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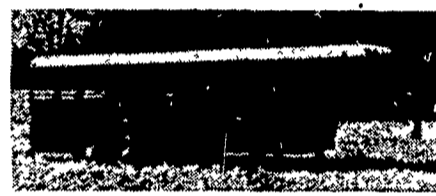
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