

'It's definitely been a poultryman's year'

By **JOYCE BUYP**
Staff Correspondent

BRODBECKS — Fourteen years ago, Allen and Emma Case moved west from rural New Jersey to a farm near the little southwestern York County town of Brodbecks. While visiting a friend in nearby Glen Rock, the family had fallen in love with the countryside and decided they wanted to stay.

Today, they're operators of Case Farm Hatchery, Brodbecks RI, and take great pride in their reputation as one of the few remaining hatcheries to specialize in selling to "the little operator."

"No order is too small" is their philosophy and their advertising. And dealing in

small orders has become a full-time rapidly growing business.

Both Allan and Emma came from farm backgrounds. She spent her childhood on a general farm and Allan's folks ran a family poultry operation. Allan maintains the technical details of the hatchery and Emma is the key sales force and public relations specialist.

Visitors to the rolling hills of the Case farm are greeted by the welcoming chatter of several hundred geese, ducks, guineas, chickens and peafowl.

With the exception of turkeys, all poultry stock is bred right on the Codorus township farm. Emma Case

indicates that turkeys are now being bred by artificial insemination, a technique for which they're not equipped, and therefore the eggs are purchased in for the incubators.

There are 13 varieties of chickens available to suit customer needs, including layers like Golden Comets or Rhode Island Reds, and meat producers like Cornish Rock Crosses.

Another specialty is Araucanas, the hens famous for laying delicate-pastel-colored "Easter eggs."

Many chicks are raised to the 20-week pullet stage and sold ready to begin laying.

Four popular varieties of geese are kept for hatchery stock, with egg production

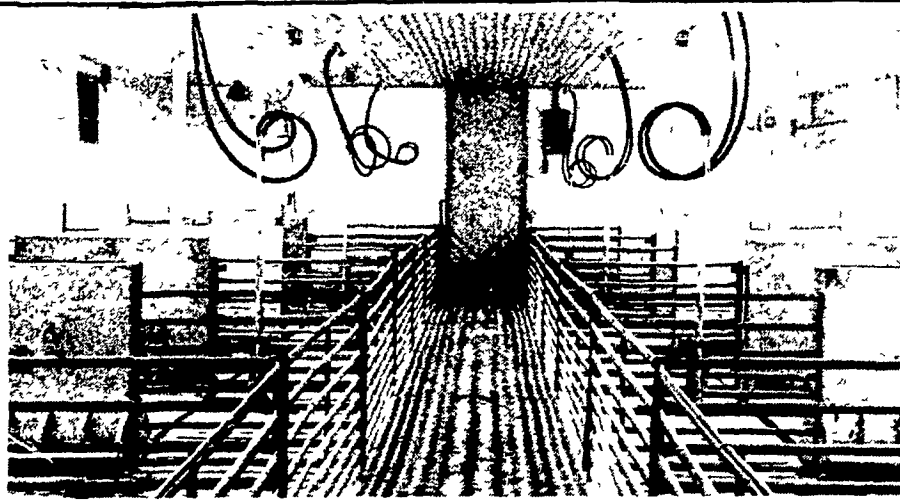
heaviest in Spring. Most geese prefer to just hatch their nests of nine or ten eggs somewhere on the ground, but the Cases set up laying boxes on the outdoor pen floors and gather the eggs for the incubators.

Emden geese, the large white-bodies variety, and Toulouse, heavy gray birds, are preferred for their feather and meat produc-

(Turn to Page 44)



Emma Case packs another shipment of baby chicks. These day-olds are Araucanas, the chicken variety known for laying pastel colored eggs.



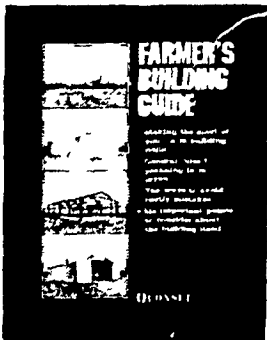
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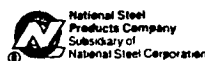
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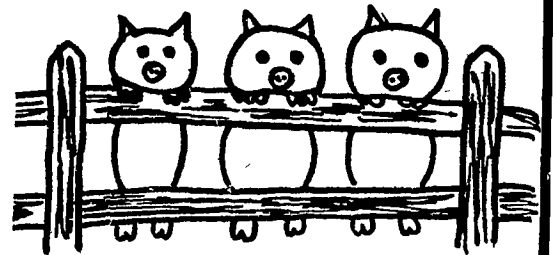
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