

# Poultrymen study broiler breeder stock

NEWARK, Del. — Anyone even slightly familiar with the modern broiler industry is aware of how little time it takes to produce high quality broiler meat for the market these days. This level of production efficiency is unmatched anywhere else in the livestock industry. Improved management and disease control are partly responsible. But a lot of the credit goes to the primary breeders who gave us the grandparent stock for today's broiler, points out University of Delaware Extension poultry specialist George Chaloupka.

At this year's Extension/industry sponsored Delmarva Hatchery and Breeder Flock Management Short Course at the University of Delaware's Georgetown Substation,

representatives of some of the nation's top primary breeder firms discussed "What's New" in this segment of the broiler industry.

Not surprisingly, economics has a big influence on the type of broiler chicken being bred today. "I believe that basically we're doing the same things breeders have done in the past," says Dr. William A. Rishell, director of research and development at Arbor Acres Farm, Inc., of Glastonbury, Conn. "We're exercising genetic selection in order to improve economic traits of birds used to produce broiler meat." All that's changed is the emphasis. Today's efforts are aimed at developing the kind of bird that will produce the most meat most efficiently.

Traits being looked for at Arbor Acres Farms are yield (including grade and conformation), feed conversion, and growth rate — factors which seriously affect feed cost and market value of the processed product. Compared to these traits, Rishell considers egg laying and other reproductive traits to be of less economic importance in the industry right now. Better meat-producing broiler stock from Arbor Acres Farms' current breeding efforts should be available by about mid-1982, he predicts.

Looking into the future, another poultry breeder, Dr. J.G. Smith, who's in charge of the Hubbard Farms breeding and research

program in Walpole, N.H., foresees a number of changes taking place.

Breeder cockerels with improved fertility and hatchability, better broiler feed conversion and processor traits are all on the horizon, he says. Biochemical breeding is also being vigorously pursued by poultry researchers, while artificial insemination and freezing of chicken semen could become commercial realities. Breeders free of all lymphoid leucosis viruses are just around the corner — or already here. And in the near future there could well be a breakthrough in the area of Salmonella serotype eradication.

Development of a more feed-efficient broiler chicken

could well mean leaner meat for the consumer, according to Dr. John F. Tierce, director of Indian River International's primary breeder operation at Nacogdoches, Texas.

His researchers report a strong correlation between superior feed efficiency and reduced body fat, though not between feed efficiency and growth rate of broilers. So breeders at Indian River are screening out individuals that show excellent growth but poor feed efficiency. The result of this kind of selective breeding could be a broiler five years from now with today's excellent growth rate, but a marked improvement in feed efficiency and reduced fat.

His company is also continuing research with dwarf parent lines for broiler stock, because of the excellent feed efficiency passed on to their offspring.

Use of dwarf hens for broiler breeding purposes would give integrated companies a .5 cent per chick cost advantage over chicks from standard size stock. If a specialty market could be developed for dwarf broiler stewing hens, the cost advantage could be as high as 1.4 cents per chick, reports Tierce.

It is primary breeder improvements like these that have enabled poultrymen to produce the high quality, low cost chicken meat which has begun to replace ground beef as a staple in many American homes, points out Chaloupka.

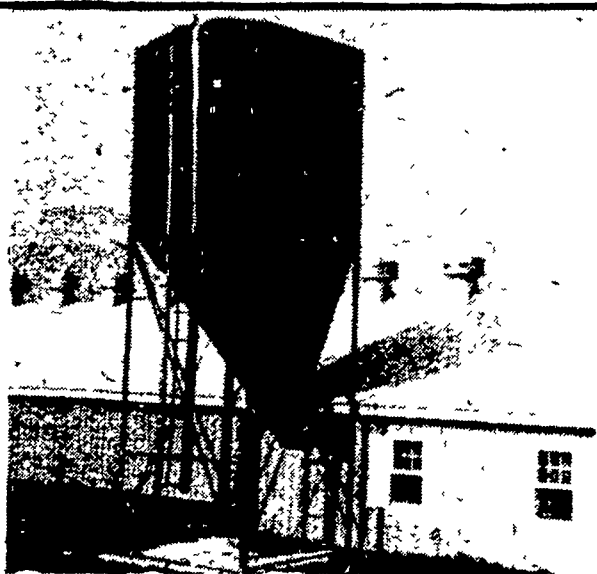
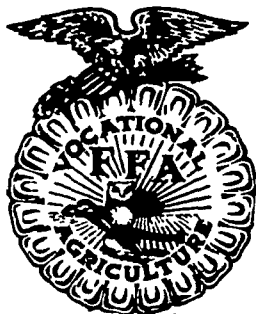
## Joseph Bush completes auction course

ELVERSON - Joseph Bush, of Elverson, recently returned from Kansas City, Mo., where he completed the course in auctioneering and auction sales management at the Missouri Auction School.

The concentrated two-week course is conducted at the world's largest auction training center in the Kansas City Stockyards. His training included lectures and work-shops.

He participated in selling public auctions in Kansas City and nearby communities in Missouri and Kansas.

Subjects covered included antique auctions, livestock, furniture, business liquidations, real estate, rare coin, auto, machinery, general merchandise, all types of estate auctions, and the rapid fire chant of the tobacco auctioneer.



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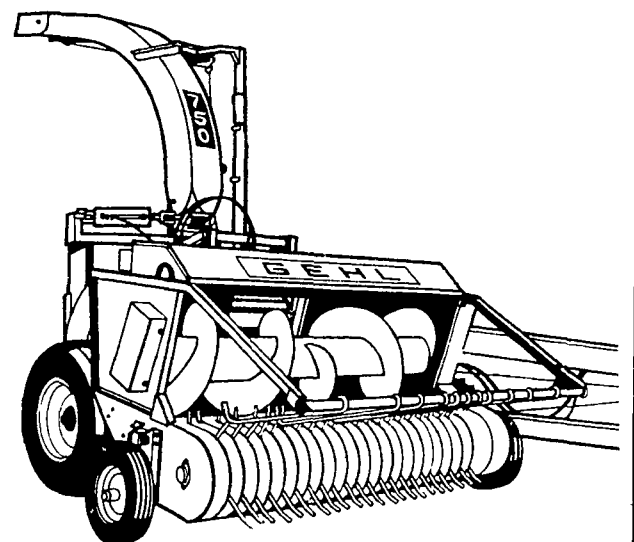
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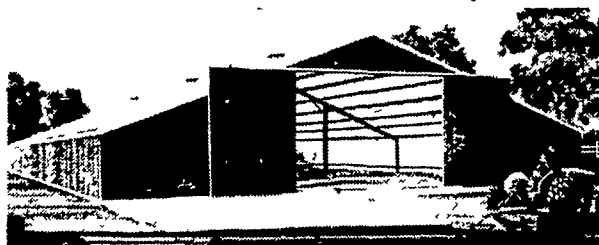
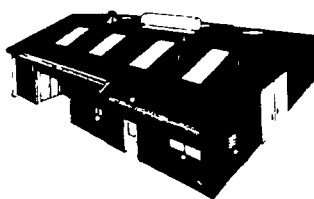
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