

# Security fund, PMMB

## Who's carting away the chickens?

**MILLERSVILLE** — Remember chicken catching with the FFA? Well there's something new in chicken catching, chickens in carts. According to Henry Barley, whose pullets were moved recently with the new equipment, local groups have been great for moving the birds, but scheduling was often a problem and getting enough manpower was sometimes troublesome.

With the new cages on wheels, more birds can be moved in less time with far less manpower, according to Barley. In addition, less stress is involved.

Using the carts, the carts are wheeled down the narrow corridors of the houses. Then the birds are removed from their cages and placed in a similar cage on the cart. The carts are moved along the rows of the house until they are filled, then they are pushed to the end of the house.

When all the carts are filled, they are loaded by means of a hydraulic lift onto the waiting tractor trailer and are hauled to their layer houses, wheeled down the aisles and placed in the new cages. This is quite a change from being carried 5 at a time and packed into wooden crates. And Barley said that the end result will be healthier birds that will lay sooner and better.

According to Barley and a spokesman for Hershey Equipment, no adaptations must be made to the houses to use the cart system. However, Barley has side rails on his aisles which facilitate the movement of the carts.

Barley noted that the only drawback he saw in the new system was the soil that collected in the aisles. He said though that the labor saving factor amounted to a savings of possibly two-thirds in labor, and that since the pullet house is cleaned after each batch of birds, the problem is a minor one and would only be in the layer houses.

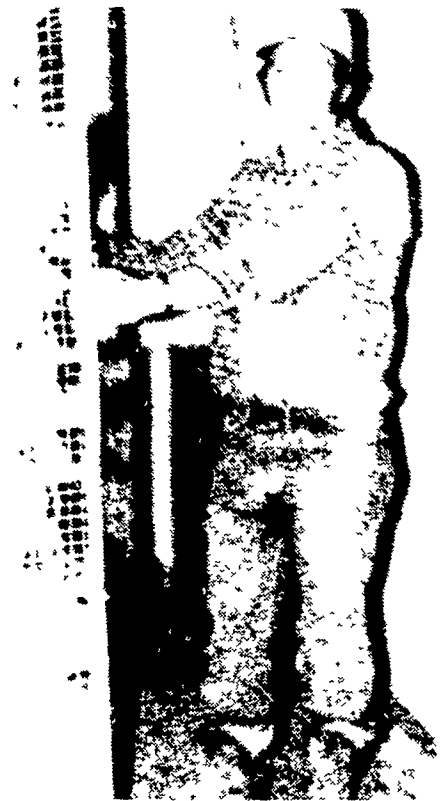
When the truck arrives

empty, all the cages are unloaded and the carts are wheeled into one of the long aisles of the house. And from there the job is as easy as loading a shopping cart.

Jake Ober from Hershey Equipment said he expects the carts to gain in popularity due to the large



Jake Ober from Hershey Equipment is shown pushing one of the new carts onto the hydraulic lift. The lift is then lowered and the carts are pushed onto the truck.



Henry Barley was surprised when they arrived to load the pullets out of his house in carts. Here he maneuvers one of the carts to the door.

(Continued from Page A1) farm legislators and they may not follow their leadership which is recommending the bill as written," he noted.

PFU policy calls for a two cents per hundredweight payment by dealers into a

savings in labor. He said that as far as he knew, this was the first time they have been used in Lancaster County.

security fund. But Zematis said PFU would support the one cent contribution provided by the present bill.

"We've never been so close to a solution as we are now," he said. "We don't want to see anything happen to this bill."

Zematis also pointed out the bill will be administered by the Pennsylvania Milk Marketing Board and said he thought a rate change, if needed, could be obtained through PMMB channels rather than by weaving through the legislative process.

PMMB itself was on the calendar as the Senate acted Wednesday, the last possible day, to confirm the nomination of George Brumbaugh, James Creek, Huntingdon County, to the board.

Under Commonwealth law, the Senate had until Wednesday to confirm or deny Brumbaugh's nomination to PMMB. If the legislators fail to act on such an appointment, the nominee's appointment automatically becomes effective after a 25 day waiting period.

Obviously the problem was scheduling, not Brumbaugh himself, as his

nomination was approved unanimously by the 49 senators voting.

Gasohol continues to gain attention in Harrisburg.

Representative Paul Yahner has introduced HB 2428 with backing from a number of his fellow house members.

The bill would ease sale of ethyl alcohol produced on farms by reducing the license fee.

Currently the license to sell alcohol is \$2500. Yahner's bill will provide a sliding scale for lower fees on lower production and sales.

This bill is distinct from HB 1011, passed earlier in the year, which reduced the fee for production on alcohol on the farm. Legislators agreed to move immediately on the production question and said they would work out a bill for selling the product later. HB 2428 is that measure.

The bill is supported by Pennsylvania Farmers Union, Pennsylvania Farmers' Association, and the Grange.

Another issue floundering around on the Hill is a Noxious Weed Bill. Legislation on noxious weeds last session ran into a

territorial battle between the House and Senate.

Both chambers are looking at legislation which would set up a board of farmers and other informed people in agriculture to decide on which weeds should be declared noxious.

Most people seem to feel the ag community knows better than an urban-dominated legislature what weeds are pesty.

Such a measure would take noxious weeds out of the arena of special interests. Multiflora rose is one example.

The Pennsylvania Game Commission, which has great influence politically, has been promoting Multiflora rose as a game cover. To farmers it is one of the most undesirable of plants.

The Commission can use its powers to block legislative moves to have it declared noxious. But if the power were in an independent committee, such interference would be less likely.

If the in-fighting is resolved, look for Johnsongrass to join Multiflora as the first weeds to be declared noxious in Pennsylvania.

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