

## Firm's largest mix mill expands, welcomes visitors



Lancaster County Poultry Queen Heidi Miller listens as Richard Moore explains the operations at Purina's quality control lab. Working in the laboratory is Joan Rentzel.

**SHIREMANSTOWN** — Who would believe that Ralston Purina's largest feed mixing plant in the United States is located right here in Pennsylvania and not in a large hog producing mid-western state?

The feed mixing plant is a large mill that grinds, mixes, and formulates pellets for over a hundred different feeds for cows, horses, hogs, chickens, turkeys, dogs and rabbits.

On Thursday, Lancaster County Poultry Queen Heidi Miller, and Alternate Debbie Herr toured the recently expanded Purina facility.

The complex, which boasts computerized feed formulation in addition to its 50,000 square feet of warehouse space, has served southcentral Pennsylvania since 1954.

Earlier in the month,

Pennsylvania Agriculture Secretary Penrose Hallowell, Commerce Secretary Geoffrey Stengel, and Ag Planning, Research and Development Director Dan Cook also toured the facility which showed its faith in Pennsylvania agriculture by expanding.

Ralston Purina Director of Operations John Zerbe told the state officials that central Pennsylvania is the fastest growing livestock and poultry area in the country. Both livestock and poultry need large amounts of feed grains. He added that Ralston Purina recently increased their plant capacity by 50 percent and that anticipated demand for their feed products in the 1980's will force them to expand again in the near future.

Zerbe explained rising transportation costs are forcing poultry and hog producers to move their facilities closer to their markets.

"We expect to see more and more of these industries expanding in Pennsylvania. It is cheaper to produce eggs, chickens, turkeys and hogs in Pennsylvania and ship them a short distance to the large east coast markets than to raise them in the south or mid-west and ship them hundreds of thousands of miles to market," said Zerbe.

"The cost of shipping a dozen eggs from Florida to the north has risen from two cents to over nine cents a dozen.

"It is encouraging to see private industry investing large amounts of money in Pennsylvania due to agricultural growth," said Hallowell. "Secretary Stengel and I are offering our assistance in cutting red tape and providing information on development loans for any future expansion that Ralston Purina may pursue in Pennsylvania."

"Economic development is Governor Thornburgh's number one priority. Expansion not only creates reliable jobs at the plant but increases job opportunities for truck drivers, salesman, warehouseman, stock boys and other jobs at local distributors of the feeds.

Plant expansion also creates more jobs on the farm. Most of the grain used at the Shiremanstown plant is purchased from Pennsylvania farmers. As Ralston Purina expands so will reliable market opportunities for Pennsylvania grains."

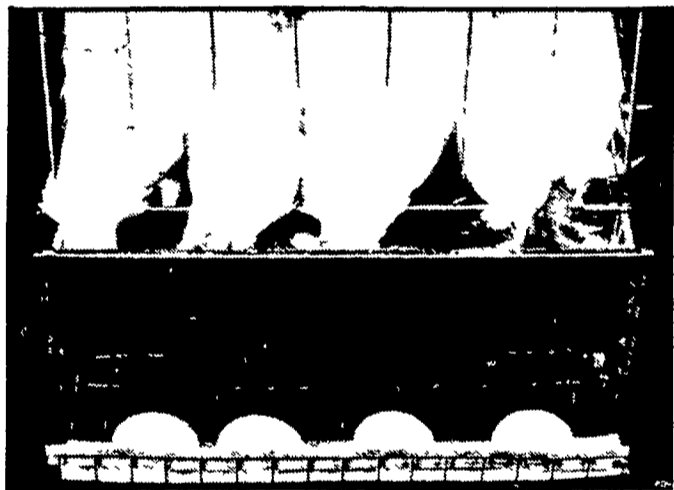
When asked why Ralston Purina is so bullish on plant expansion in Pennsylvania, Zerbe proudly replied that July was the 36th straight month that the Shiremanstown plant shipped record volumes of feed.

About 150 to 200 trucks load processed feeds or unload grains 24 hours around the clock at the mill. "This can be a pretty busy place at five in the morning," said Zerbe.

# PYR CHORE-TIME MID

## REVERSE CAGE LAYER SYSTEM

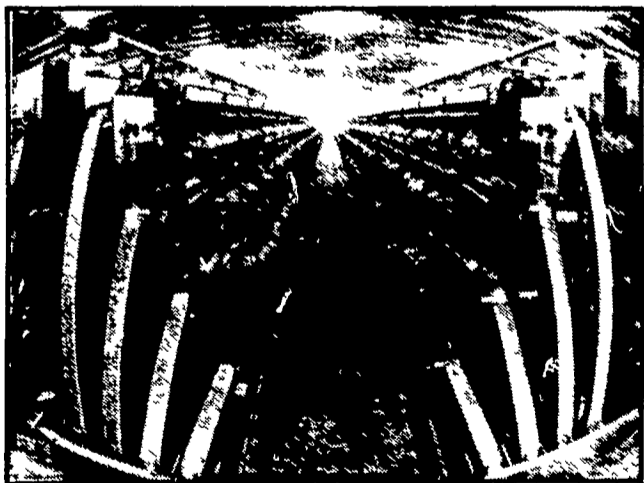
### ★ LESS BIRD STRESS



The system has been designed for bird **comfort!**

Each bird has her place at the feed trough. Each has easy access to water. Obstruction to light and the flow of air have been greatly reduced, providing more uniform ventilation and lighting for every bird. Combined with Chore-Time's automatically controlled air inletting system, you get a layer house environment designed for bird comfort and the resulting better production.

### ★ MINIMIZES FEED WASTE



Not only the physical shape of the feed trough, but the operation of the feeder has been engineered to reduce feed waste. The trough shape cuts down on feed loss from "raking" and "billing," while the feeder has been specifically designed for Chore-Time's programmed and performance feeding concept.

★ LET US SHOW YOU A REVERSE CAGE SYSTEM IN OPERATION

## AGRI-EQUIPMENT, INC.

**CATTLE — HOG - POULTRY EQUIPMENT**  
R.D. 4, EPHRATA, PA. 17522  
PH: 717-354-4271  
STORE HOURS: Mon.-Fri. 7:30 to 5:30; Sat. 7:30 to 12:00  
SERVING PA, N.J. AND N.Y.

**CLOSED**  
Sat., Aug. 30  
Mon., Sept. 1

**AGRI-EQUIPMENT INC., OFFERS COMPLETE**

- SALES
- INSTALLATION
- SERVICE

## Sells most manure spreaders



Jay Meyers, second from right, is congratulated by New Idea's Tom Cooper for selling the most manure spreaders for the firm's Eastern Region. Meyers owns Meyers Implements, Inc., Greencastle. Looking on are Meyers' son Kevin, left, and New Idea's Charlie Bowers.