

Internationally-known egg producers host seminar

BY DEBBIE KOONTZ LANCASTER — It only seems appropriate to hold a seminar for egg producers in Lancaster. After all, it is the number one agricultural industry in the county.

But what may seem out of the ordinary is that one of the sponsors, Shaver Poultry Breeding Farms, is a worldwide organization which serves the international poultry industry from its main location in Canada as well as from its subsidiaries in 92 countries around the world.

The day-long seminar, held Tuesday, October 14 at the Host Corral, was attended by approximately 350 people.

Greider Farms, Inc. and Shaver Farms hosted the seminar which included slide presentations of both facilities.

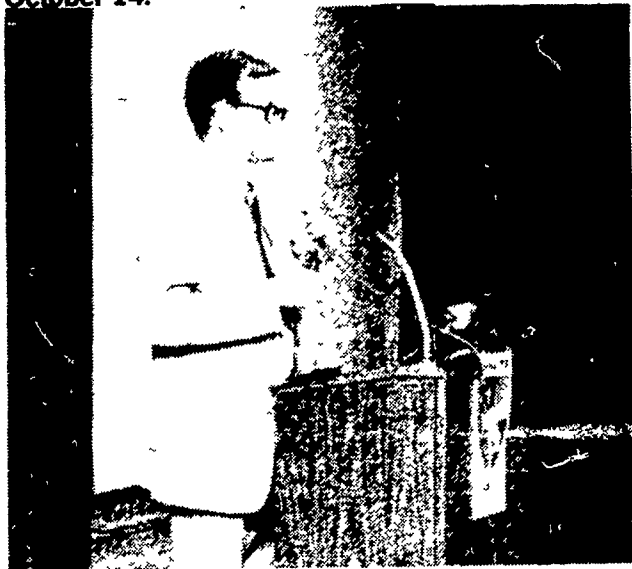
Immediately following lunch, Stan Savage, Nutritionist and Poultry Specialist from the University of Georgia spoke about managing laying hens for best performance.

He urged producers to carefully and consistently watch their chickens; for negligence of up to only half a day could be harmful for them.

For instance, lack of food for half a day would cause a chicken's bones to start deteriorating due to a deficiency in calcium and phosphorus. Savage advised



Don Shaver, founder of Shaver Farms, talks to nearly 350 producers at the seminar held Tuesday, October 14.



Dr. Stan Savage, University of Georgia, was guest speaker at the seminar. Savage spoke on managing laying hens for best performance.



This was not a guest speaker at the seminar, but rather the main topic. This chicken is the famed symbol of the Shaver Breeding Farms.

feeling the chicken's keel and ribs for any changes.

He also told producers to be consistent in feeding and watering, with too little or too much of both being harmful for the chicken.

Fat chickens are a definite

no according to Savage. A goal for body weight for a chicken would be 2.55 pounds at 18 weeks of age and 2.80 pounds at 20 weeks. If this body weight can be reached and maintained then the pattern has been set for

future feeding.

Savage, who received his Bachelor's in animal nutrition and his Master's in poultry nutrition, obtained his Ph.D. from the University of Arizona. He

then worked for Campbell Soup Company.

Jay Greider, of Greider Hatchery, gave a short introduction to the day along with slides of the Greider Farms Hatchery. He explained that their farms were one of the first in this country to get a franchise from Shaver Farms; thus the connection.

After Greider, Shaver National Sales Manager Doug Rundle gave a slide tour of the Shaver Breeding facilities.

Following the slide tour, the founder of Shaver Farms, Don Shaver, spoke about the history of his business and his hopes for future expansion.

Shaver Poultry Breeding Farms was founded more than 40 years ago. Shaver says it began as a boyhood project when he sold eggs from his aunt's chicken farm in Canada.

The Shaver headquarters is in Cambridge, Ontario, the sight of six breeding farms and three hatcheries.

Shaver pointed out that all the Shaver locations around the world perform the double task of production and service.

He prides himself in that he has interviewed all representatives in the world associated with his farms. He is, in fact, going to Peru next month to talk to another potential representative.

Japan, according to Shaver, was their top market for last year, exceeding even the homeland of Canada.

At the close of the day, producers were given opportunity to ask questions on managing hens and on the Shaver facilities.

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