Japanese team studies U.S. poultry industry

LANCASTER — American poultry operations and Diamond equipment were the crux of interest for a nineteen-member poultry study team from Japan visiting for two weeks in the United States

The team toured the Martin Wenger farm of Lancaster County Monday to see a Diamond-equipped operation in action Wenger has a flock of 60,480 layers

In addition to this stop, the team visited various operations in Pennsylvania, Virginia and Michigan, attended the Southeast Poultry Conference in Atlanta, Ga, and toured other cities of interest such as San Francisco, Wahington D.C and Las Vegas

The tour, sponsored by Diamond International and the Dekalb Corporation, was arranged with the help of Japan Agri-Business Co Ltd, known in the United States as Toshoku America Inc.

According to Wayne Nealy, product manager of the Diamond Automation Division of Farmington, Mich , the tour served a joint purpose in that it, "helps influence and promote the poultry industry in Japan It gives them a chance to study our methods and in return we have the opportunity to further sales and trade of our equipment with them "

The group, composed of directors of poultry co-ops, hatcheries and editors of poultry magazines, represents 259,000 breeders in Japan. These breeders operate 8 million starter pullets and 8 million layers annually bringing their production number to 95,000 tons of eggs a year, according to Mitsuru Nishigori, director of Japan Agri-Business

Shigeaki Omori, president of the same company, emphasized this statement by adding, The average size flock in Japan is 5000 birds, but the largest single operation is made up of 5 million birds '

The team, visiting since January 17, leaves for Japan February 1 DK

Here the members of the study team watch as Diamond equipment automatically gathers and packs egg. Diamond sponsored the trip along with the Dekalb corporation.

Nineteen members of a Japanese poultry study team visited the Martin Wenger farm Monday as just one stop during their two week visit in the United States. In this picture they are learning about a Diamond egg packer.

Be careful with woodburners

UNIVERSITY PARK — A recent study by Richard D Peacock, flammability researcher at the National Bureau of Standards' Center for Fire Research, indicates the following are the most common causes of residential fires due to woodburning stoves:

-using unvented equipment inside a dwelling,

-installing woodburning equipment too close to combustible framing and furnishings;

-placing flammable solids and liquids too close to woodburning equipment;

-using flammable liquids to kindle a fire,

-overloading the woodburning equipment;

-Igniting clothing or other fabrics while loading, unloading, cleaning or using woodburning equipment,

-using defective or improper chimneys for woodburning equipment,

-allowing creosote and carbon deposits to collect inside of chimneys, resulting in chimney fires

The study was based on 11,534 residential solid-fuel related fires in 21 states

The installation of woodburning equipment too close to combustibles or the placement of combustible material too close to the heating appliance accounted for 21 percent of the fires while improper maintenance accounted for 32 percent

Dennis Murphy, Penn State Extension safety specialist, also points out these woodburning stove dangers

-suffering burns by touching the surface of woodburning equipment,

-using the stove as a trash receptacle,

-allowing a log to roll out of the stove;

-placing ashes in a plastic bucket or trash bag,

-going to bed before the fire is completely out,

-positioning the stove near an exit so it blocks fire escape

Don't try to get by with a cheap stove," Murphy cautions A stove made of cast iron or heavy gauge steel may cost more than one made of other metals, but it will withstand higher temperatures and last longer