

Poultry farm features automatic milling

BY DICK ANGLESTEIN

RHEEMS — If it turns unusually hot and muggy overnight, John Wolgemuth can immediately cut his overall poultry feeding ration, but increase the supplement to help maintain egg production.

And, he can do it automatically.

Suppose the time comes in the future that poultry operators will subscribe to the continuing services of a consultant to closely fine-tune feeding rations to improve production.

Wolgemuth will be ready and he'll be able to do it automatically.

What about the future possibility that regulations are legally enacted requiring the exact weighing of rations containing certain medication?

He'll be able to meet that possible requirement. And do it automatically, too.

These are just some of the feeding management options that the Rheems poultry farmer has since installing a Martin Automatic Milling System for his 70,000-bird operation.

The milling system, designed and installed by Ivan Martin, of Martin Distributors Inc., of R1 Lebanon, is the first of its type in this area.

An electro-mechanical process, the system features the automatic programmed preparation of a variety of rations, performing much the same duties on the farm that the large, computerized systems do at feed mills.

In other words, with the setting of a few dials and the press of a button, the system automatically prepares the programmed ration, selecting the proper ingredients, weighing each accurately, grinding and mixing them and then transporting the feed to the chicken house or other pre-selected location.

And, in the meantime the poultry operator is free to perform any other duties desired.

The system at the Wolgemuth farm, located just off Rt. 283 at the Rheems exit, is capable of automatically preparing three different rations from eight ingredients.

Full capacity of this type of system is five different programmed rations from up to 12 ingredients, according to Martin.

Wolgemuth explains that he decided on the Martin system for several different reasons.



John Wolgemuth, poultry farmer from Rheems, Lancaster County, examines scale, which measures ingredients by weight in his newly installed automatic milling system. As dial (A) moves around programmed track, exact weight of ingredient is measured for a particular ration. When it reaches read switch (B), the system automatically shuts off

First, he considers the preparation of a feed ration on a weight basis to be more accurate than on a volume basis.

Next, there's the saving of mixing your own ration over the purchase of a commercial feed.

Finally, there's the management tool of being able to mix exactly what you want when you want it.

"I used a proportioning-type mill for some 15 years when we had just the smaller, 12,000-bird house," Wolgemuth said.

"It took a lot more good management to be accurate when you're working on a volume basis.

"For instance, the test weight of corn could vary anywhere between 50 and 56 lbs., but the volume would stay the same."

Wolgemuth estimates that he's

one ingredient and starts adding another ingredient. Up to eight ingredients can be included in three different rations programmed into Wolgemuth's system. Overall capacity of this type of system, designed and installed by Ivan Martin, of R1, Lebanon, are five different rations, including up to 12 ingredients.

"I used a commercial ration in the new 60,000-bird house for the first flock last year," he said. "I wanted to get the feel of the house before going to my own (Turn to Page A27)

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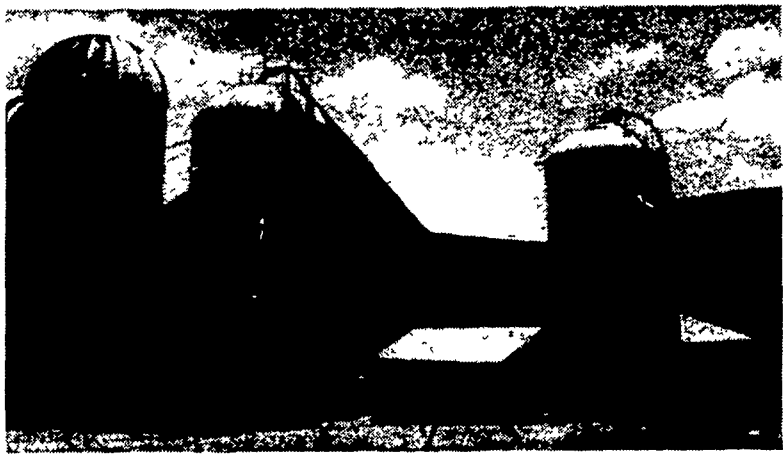
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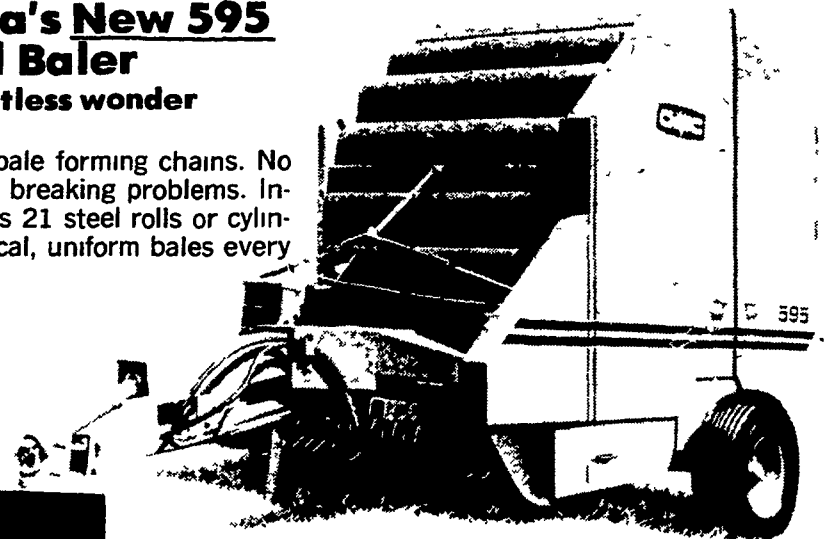
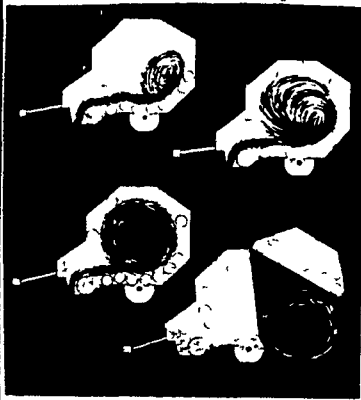
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