

# Are foot baths, coveralls & boots in poultry's future

**BY DICK ANGLESTEIN**  
**BIRD-IN-HAND** — Will foot-baths, coveralls and boots become everyday working tools of Lancaster County poultry operators?

They could and likely should, according to a poultry professor at the New Bolton Center of the University of Pennsylvania.

Prefacing his belief by the statement that it would probably be considered as another ivory tower dream, Dr. Robert Eckroade, associate professor of poultry pathology, told a group of Lancaster County poultry operators that the baths, clothing and boots could become very instrumental in helping to prevent spread of disease among flocks.

"If I was investing as much money as you are spending on birds, I know they would be among the items I would consider," Dr. Eckroade said.

He went on to explain that on a recent trip to Ghana, West Africa, he traveled quite far into the interior of that protein-starved nation to its largest poultry operation. And to get on the property, he had to use a footbath.

And incidentally, chickens sold for \$20 apiece and eggs for 62 cents apiece. (What would that do for the locally depressed industry?)

The measures to help prevent the spread of poultry diseases were just one of many topics discussed by the New Bolton staff member at the session Monday night at the Bird-in-Hand Restaurant.

Also speaking briefly at the

dinner meeting sponsored by Farm Bureau were various representatives of that company and John Hoffman, secretary of the Pennsylvania Poultry Federation.

Hoffman held out little immediate hope for recovery from the "worst depressed period" the poultry industry has ever encountered.

"I'm accepting more and more the explanation that we're dealing with a new type of economy," Hoffman said.

"The public is getting more and more conservative with food and slowing down such purchases. They're going back to leftovers.

"The American consumer was wasteful with the food dollar.

"Our industry is just not adjusting its production to this new economy."

He held out hope that the Reagan economic program will help.

"But it will be a very gradual improvement — years in the making," he said.

"I go along with the forecasters calling for 15 to 16 percent interest rates by the beginning of the year.

"There are good signs the federal program will work, but it won't happen as fast as we might hope."

Dr. Eckroade boiled down a poultry disease lecture, which he said he usually gave to his students.

He urged poultry operators not to forget about problems just because they go away after a time.



Trio of Farm Bureau representatives who spoke to group of Lancaster County poultry producers this week include, from the left, Eugene Soliday, nutritionist; Michael Zapach, general manager; and Clayton Detwiler, poultry serviceman.

"Find out what went wrong in your flock so that it can be prevented the next time," he said.

He explained that the poultry industry is better at preventive medicine than both the beef and pork people, but there is still room for improvement.

One of the initial areas of concern he stressed was the need for a uniform level of immunity among chicks even if they come from different sources.

He also pointed to problems with vaccination.

"Too many mistakes are being made in vaccination programs by farmers who are too busy doing other things," he said.

He also explained that if he were a poultry operator he'd require

health records for his incoming birds.

"I'd want to know what happened during grow-out," he said.

He pointed to people as the principal carriers of infectious disease agents into flocks.

Subclinical diseases, which don't cause deaths but cut into egg production and feed conversion, will become more and more important, Dr. Eckroade said.

He also urged farmers to become familiar with posting a chicken to discover the problems in their birds.

Dr. Eckroade pointed to a study he did concerning gunbore, which stressed the importance of sanitation.

"Gunbore is a major problem in Pennsylvania flocks at the sub-clinical level," he said.

"Good sanitation is better than vaccination."

He said that his study has proven that gunbore can be decontaminated out of a chicken house.

The study also involved gunbore in a nine-house operation in Lancaster County.

Through the use of a footbath, boots and coveralls, it was eliminated.

Michael Zapach, general manager, explained some of the history of the Bucks-Montgomery Farm Bureau and showed slides of its various facilities and services.

## Farm Business News

### Beacon Milling award



At the Annual Marketing Conference of The Beacon Milling Company, Inc., held at Wells College, Aurora, N.Y., Aug. 5-7, a 30-year Service Award was presented to Chester C. Wiest, right, S & D Area Manager in the York-Adams Area. Certificate is presented by President Wilbur L. Townsend. Wiest was also presented with a diamond service pin. He and his wife Betty, reside at 313 Blue Ridge Dr. York, Pa.

### Roth gets Breeders post

KANSAS CITY — Harry Roth, Operations Director, Atlantic Breeders Cooperative, was elected vice president of the National Association of Animal Breeders at its 35th annual convention recently in Kansas City, Mo.

Roth, who has been a member of the board of directors for four years, will serve a two-year term.

The convention delegates, including both management and directors of artificial breeding organizations around the United States, were challenged by Kansas Governor John Carlin to become more active politically.

Carlin told the group that farmers must do a better job of education and communication and must learn to be more unified if they expect results.

Nearly 480 attended the four-day meeting which included visits to Missouri dairy farms, as well as a trip to the Truman Library in Independence.

Delegates also got a glimpse of the developing technology for embryo transfers through a report by former Pennsylvanian George Seidel, now with Colorado State University

## Md. unveils latest wheat variety

COLLEGE PARK, Md. — More than 1,000 of Maryland's agricultural producers and consumers saw a broad range of farm-related research activities at the University of Maryland's Wye Research Center last Tuesday.

At the Center's "Crops and Soils Research Field Day," taxpayers who underwrite most of the research there, previewed a new, hardy variety of wheat for Maryland farmers; yield and economic tests of fertilizers; disease and pest resistance among different varieties of Maryland crops; small crop research on fruits and vegetables; and the use of small vegetable crops as partial energy sources to power farm equipment.

Fifty-two separate research studies were on parade for the crowd composed of part-time to large-scale farmers, agribusinesses, state officials and the general public.

A highlight of the day's activities was the unveiling of Severn, a new, high-yield wheat variety that has undergone six years of experimental research by scientists for the Maryland Agricultural Experiment Station. Severn is the second University variety of wheat to be released in the last five years.

With a seven bushel per acre advantage over Arthur, (currently Maryland's most widely planted wheat variety), Severn promises early maturity, excellent baking quality and good disease resistance, according to James R. Miller, chairman of the University's Department of Agronomy.

Weighing in at 59 pounds per bushel, Severn grows to a height of 40 inches, with 29 percent lodging and 93 percent winter survival rates, and "headed" over the six-year test period in Maryland on or about May 12. East of the Chesapeake Bay, Severn has shown a slightly earlier heading date and somewhat higher winter survival rate.

The Severn variety, according to

Miller, should prove to be a popular wheat in soybean-wheat double cropping systems because of its early maturity date and other desirable characteristics. Foundation seed, produced during 1980-81, will be available through foundation seed organizations this fall, and small amounts of crop seed should be available by fall 1982. Larger amounts of seed will follow in 1983.

An increasing concern in the agricultural community is the high

cost of fertilizer, especially nitrogen, an important additive for higher crop productivity under no-till cultivation methods. Visitors saw several projects at the Wye Research Center focusing on nitrogen sources and rate and time of application.

Soybeans, an ever popular Maryland crop, received considerable attention from researchers, with 58 varieties tested under varying conditions at the Queenstown research site.

## Food merchant honors



Awards were presented to area food merchants by Pa. Secretary of Agriculture Penrose Hallowell, center, at the recent 81st annual convention of the Pennsylvania Grocers Association. Clockwise from upper right are Robert Eshleman, Paradise; Robert Kinsley, Tannersville; Henry Bomberger, Elm; Elmer Zimmerman, of W.L. Zimmerman & Sons, Intercourse; Richard Hurst, Oregon Dairy Market, Lancaster; and Thomas Zweier, Lebanon.