

Japanese poultry leaders visit Lancaster Co.

BY DICK ANGLESTEIN

LANCASTER — "We have something very important in common," Lancaster County Commissioner James Huber told a group of representatives of the Japanese poultry industry in a visit to Lancaster County last week.

Speaking at a welcoming breakfast at the Holiday North, hosted by Hubbard Farms, of Lancaster, Huber paid tribute to the industriousness of the Japanese people.

"One of the greatest resources of Lancaster County," Huber explained, "is our industrious, hard-working people."

"We believe in the work ethic, too — a day's work for a day's pay."

Commissioner Huber also explained the current efforts in Lancaster County to preserve farmland.

"This is a lesson we can learn from you, too," he said.

"We must learn how to preserve and use the farmland remaining as efficiently as possible."

Commissioner Huber handed out Red Rose lapel stickers to the group of 14 visitors.

Also speaking at the breakfast were Robert H. Garland, manager, Hubbard Farms, Lancaster; and John Longenecker, of L and W Hatchery, Elizabethtown.

Longenecker introduced John Martin, general manager, and John Brubaker, hatchery manager, of the L and W staff.

After the breakfast, the group traveled to the L and W facility, where more than a half-million chicks are hatched weekly.

The group also paid a visit to Victor F. Weaver's plant in New Holland and the egg processing plant in the Greenfield Industrial Park.

A visit was also made to the Oregon Dairy Market.



Visiting leaders of the Japanese poultry industry gather outside Weaver's, New Holland, before touring chicken

product processing facility. The group also visited Weaver's egg processing plant and the L & W Hatchery, Elizabethtown.



Lancaster County Commissioner James Huber presents gift to Katsuma Tokuhara, Managing Director, Nishi-Nippon Hatchery Co., Ltd., Yamaguchi, Japan.



Robert H. Garland, Manager, Hubbard Farms, Lancaster, makes presentation of ceramic egg — symbolic gift of Hubbard.

Get rats out of chicken house

NEWARK, Del. — Rats and mice make expensive guests in the poultry house. They spread disease, eat large amounts of feed, and waste feed by ripping open bags.

Rodents are starting to look for winter shelter, warns Delaware Extension poultry specialist George Chaloupka. Examine farm buildings for telltale signs: droppings; urine; smudge marks; tracks; runs; holes dug around the foundation; evidence of gnawing; nests; odors associated with rodents; and of course, actual sighting.

Do everything possible to rodent-proof your farm buildings before rats and mice establish themselves for the winter; once they are there, control is difficult.

Controlling rodents is a year-round job. Whether or not you've seen evidence of rodents, keep the farm cleared of junk to deny them comfortable living and breeding places. Seal all possible entrances to buildings, and cover windows and doors with sheet metal or close mesh wire to prevent gnawing.

Rats and mice don't require much of a hole to crawl through, Chaloupka points out. Place metal around places where pipes and wires enter a building. Don't forget

that rats can enter through sewer lines, so place a metal grating at the end of the external drain.

If rodents are already present, chemicals such as the anticoagulants probably provide the most effective control. Read and follow directions carefully.

Although rats tend to avoid strange new objects, properly placed traps can help reduce the rodent population. Cats, too, can help in rodent control.

Remember, if cats are used, they should be fed for good condition; they should not leave the building; and they should be protected from poisons and traps. Cats should not have access to rodents that die from poisons.

If you happen to spot one or two rats around a poultry house but feel you don't yet have a problem, consider these facts from Shaver Poultry Breeding Farms:

Two rats will eat more than 50 pounds of feed per year and have the potential to contaminate and waste more than ten times this amount.

Rats have been known to kill several hundred baby chicks in one night. A group of hungry rats can injure or kill older birds as well.

Rodents carry 18 different kinds of lice, fleas and mites. They can

transmit 35 diseases affecting humans and domestic animals.

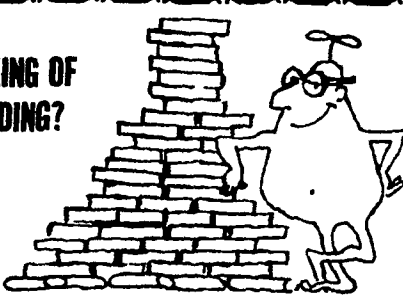
Rat damage to poultry houses may be unobtrusive at first, but it is usually significant. Rats can undermine foundations and walls, destroy insulation, and chew electrical wiring and plastic pipes.

Rats average eight to ten young per litter and five or six litters per year. In one year, one pair of rats can produce from 50-70 offspring that will reach maturity and themselves bear young.

Usually for every rat you have seen, there are 10-12 more you haven't seen in the vicinity.

Considering these facts, the effort it takes to rodent-proof farm buildings is a small price to pay, Chaloupka concludes.

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Commonwealth tops ag lending

HARRISBURG — Commonwealth National Bank, according to statistics compiled and recently released by the American Bankers Association (ABA), ranks as the leading bank in Pennsylvania for agricultural loans for the year 1980. This is the sixth consecutive year that Commonwealth National has topped the list.

On a nationwide basis, Commonwealth National Bank now

ranks 26th among the top 100 banks in agricultural loans. In previously released figures, Commonwealth National Bank ranked 27th nationally in 1979, 31st in 1978 and 45th place in 1977 in terms of total agricultural loans.

The ABA report shows agricultural loans at Commonwealth National Bank totaled \$62,874,000 as of Dec. 31, 1980. This total includes loans made directly through the bank as well as through its wholly-owned subsidiary, Commonwealth National Agri-Loan Corp. The 1980 total is a 7.2 per cent increase over the Dec. 31, 1979, figure of \$58,678,000.

Commonwealth National Agri-Loan Corp. was formed in 1970, when the bank had \$11,486,000 in total agricultural loans.

The announcement was made by Robert P. Bucher of Lancaster, president of the subsidiary and vice president and manager of the bank's Agri-Loan Department.