

Hy-Cross opens Lititz hatchery

BY DEBBIE KOONTZ

LANCASTER — Agriculture Secretary Penrose Hallowell was special guest at the open house of a new Hy-Cross hatchery in Lititz, Wednesday.

Hy-Cross, a division of Hypro Industries and distributor for the Hy-Line Company—an Iowa firm that distributes 30 percent of the egg-laying chicks in the nation—hopes to have their new \$1-million plant in full operation by mid-November.

The decision was reached to start a plant in Lancaster County due to the increasing number of breeding flocks in the area. Ac-

ording to Bob Keener, hatchery manager, the new plant will produce approximately 100,000 pullets per week, making the total for Hy-Cross 170,000 in Pennsylvania with their Doylestown plant.

Those attending were treated to a tour of the hatchery which featured nine incubators, each able to hold 78,000 eggs. The incubators are kept at a warm 99 degrees at 85 percent relative humidity.

After 19 days in the incubators, the eggs are moved to hatch incubators where they remain for approximately three days. The



Hy-Cross has become a permanent part of Lancaster County after the opening of their hatchery, Wednesday. Located along West Orange St., in Lititz, the hatchery is expected to produce 100,000 chicks a week.



PA Agriculture Secretary Penrose Hallowell, his wife, and Vicki Waas, egg promotion specialist from PDA, were special guests at the opening of Hy-Cross' new hatchery. The chicks

they are holding were brought here from their Doylestown hatchery, as the new one will not be in full operation till mid-November.

plant currently houses 12 hatch incubators, with plans for three more. According to Keener, it will take approximately 21 days to hatch the eggs at the new plant.

After birth, the chicks are put on a conveyor belt which leads to a vaccinating machine. Here a worker vaccinates each chick for Maerk's disease—a disease that caused great damage to the poultry industry in Lancaster County in the early '70s. Twenty-

five hundred chicks can be vaccinated for the disease in one hour.

Speaking for Hy-Cross during afternoon services and a chicken barbecue, Andy Hansen told the crowd they were "happy to finally become a permanent part of the Lancaster area."

The new plant is housed in the same building which belonged to Babcock Poultry Farm before they stopped business about four years ago. It is located on 631 W. Orange Street, Lititz.

Ag events open Monday at Park City

LANCASTER — Quilting, dairy product eating contests, craft activities and livestock displays will highlight a week-long schedule of agricultural events planned at Park City beginning on Monday.

The Monday-through-Saturday schedule of events is being sponsored by the Lancaster County Farmers Association.

The schedule of events:
Monday — Decorating with fabric, 1 - 3 p.m.; ribbon cutting, 4:30 p.m.; country supper, 6 p.m.; cake decorating, 7 p.m.
Tuesday — Country Junque (antiques), 1 - 3 p.m.; pigskin flowers, 7 - 9 p.m.; milk chugging competition, 7:30 p.m.

Wednesday — Rug braiding and smocking, 1 - 3 p.m.; framing stitchery, 7 - 9 p.m.

Thursday — Christmas things you can make, 7 - 9 p.m.

Friday — Rose paint mauling and tile painting, 1 - 3 p.m.

Saturday — Flower judging, 1 - 3 p.m.; ice cream eating contest, 2 p.m.; coffee and tour, 6 p.m.; square dance, 7:30 p.m.; country auction, 8:30 p.m.

The feature of the auction will be a hand-made quilt which will be made throughout the week. Other items to be auctioned include antiques and craft items.

The Muppets and Milky the Robot will be present throughout the week.

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