

Suggested Readings

Poultry Health Handbook

UNIVERSITY PARK — Diseases cause the most concern among poultry producers. An uncontrolled virus or bacteria can spread from flock-to-flock causing considerable economic losses.

Poultry diseases may show up in a flock by three different means, according to a "Poultry Health Handbook 2nd edition" published by Penn State College of Agriculture.

"Diseases are brought on the farm with new poultry, contamination as a result of carry-over from previous flocks, and are introduced by a lack of sanitation or relaxation of security measures," says Dr. L. Dwight Schwartz, Penn State Extension veterinarian and author of the publication.

Revised in 1977, the handbook is designed to provide poultrymen, servicemen, fieldmen, and hatcherymen with a ready and accessible source of information about poultry diseases and other aspects of poultry health.

"The introductory section includes such topics as a sanitation outline, a list of reliable disinfectants, a description of the Pennsylvania vaccination program, and other facts useful for creating and maintaining sound poultry health programs," Dr. Schwartz points out.

Another section covers the respiratory diseases of poultry regardless of causative agent—virus, bacteria, protozoa, or parasites. Still another section is devoted to miscellaneous poultry diseases.

DECATUR, Ga — The United Egg Producers recently voiced their appreciation for a report on the economic impact of converting the poultry industry to less intensive confinement.

"Southeastern Poultry and Egg Association has completed 'An Economic Impact Analysis of Converting to Less Intensive Confinement of Poultry' or what costs would be incurred if laying hens were raised on floors versus cages," reports UEP President Al

The handbook may be purchased for \$6.50, state tax and shipping included, from Poultry Health Handbook, Box 6000, University Park, PA 16802. Make checks or money orders payable to The Pennsylvania State University. Allow at least two weeks for delivery.

Pope "This report was sorely needed and we thank Southeastern Poultry and Egg, its board and manager Harold Ford."

The UEP president cited the following comparisons made in the report:

✓ Equipment cost per bird in the cage unit was \$3.01 versus \$1.92 per bird in the litter floor unit

✓ Building cost per bird in the cage unit was \$2.98 versus \$3.49 per bird in the litter floor unit.

✓ Total cost per bird for building and equipment was \$5.99 for the cage unit and \$5.41 per bird in the litter floor unit

✓ Operating cost including labor per bird per year in the cage unit was \$0.42 versus \$1.41 per bird in the litter floor unit.

✓ Labor cost per bird per year with this cage unit was \$0.27 versus \$1.16 per bird in the litter floor unit

✓ A total of 15,756 hours of labor will be required to care for 45,360 layers in litter floor units versus 3,629 hours of labor to care for this number of birds in a cage unit.

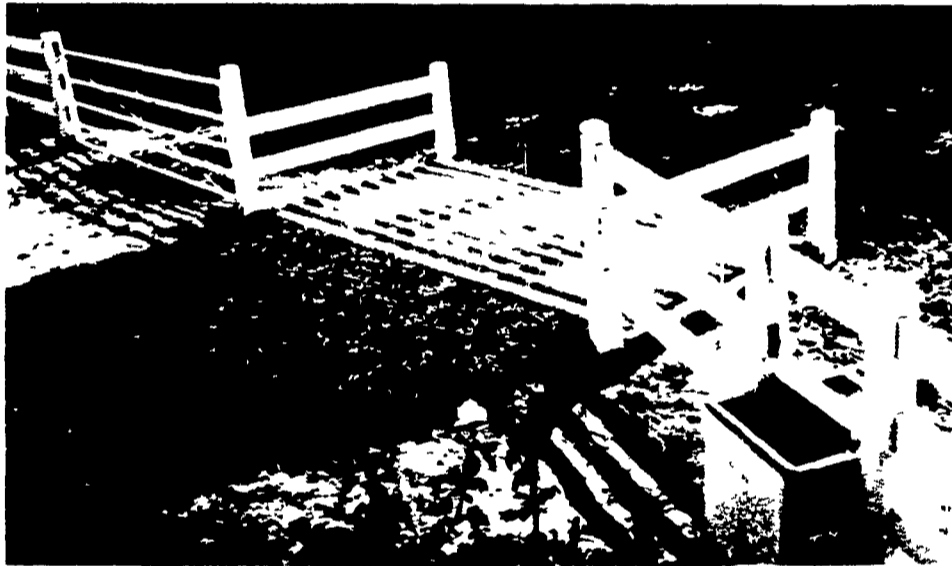
✓ Approximately three and one half times as much floor area will be needed in a litter floor unit to house the same number of birds as in the cage unit

"All these factors add 10.5 cents per dozen to the cost of producing a dozen eggs," noted Pope.

For more information on the report and for a complete copy, contact the UEP at 3951 Snapfinger Parkway, Suite 580, Decatur, GA 30035



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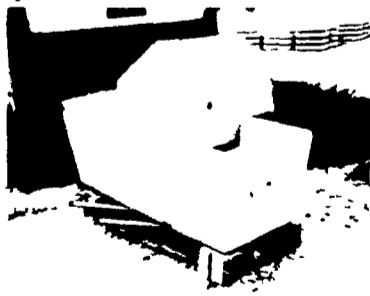
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