



## Chicken Coop News

Update on the poultry industry

By Herb Jordan

Penn State Extension Poultry Specialist

### Side trip to rabbit hutch

People who keep rabbits will soon face a major financial decision - whether to allow the rabbit to earn net income or to keep the rabbit as a guest on the farm.

Of the 100 calls I get each year on rabbits, the primary question deals with: "Where can I market all these rabbits?", or "Why do I always have more rabbits than money?" Some say they consistently lose money on rabbits.

The second question most frequently asked is: "How do I prevent sickness, disease or parasites in rabbits?" "My rabbits are sensitive and get sick easily."

As a management specialist, I view the rabbit as an animal to be properly cared for. This means improved genetic selection, the most healthy environment, adequate nutrition, and a health program to prevent or control disease.

Capital flow in rabbits is usually out of the grower's pocket into someone else's pocket. So money in the rabbit business depends on your point of view.

Do you keep the rabbit, or does the rabbit earn net income and keep you? Reproduction, growth rate, quality of the animal, and health of the rabbit relate to marketability, price or earning power.

In the Pennsylvania rabbit industry large commercial herds of 400 to 7,000 breeding does are few; nearly all rabbit growers have 30 breeding does or fewer and usually no more than 200 rabbits total. One doe rabbit can provide adequate rabbit meat for one family of four for one year. So this means that two or more does are considered a commercial herd.

The rabbit has potential in the future but currently it has too high a variability in market demand, health and reproductivity. This makes the rabbit business local - where all problems and markets have to be solved or dealt with locally.

Some rabbitries are financially successful while many are

mediocre or poor. There is no rabbit market quote commonly accepted for quantity, quality and price such as in poultry, eggs or milk. Therefore each rabbit grower is on his own to establish lab, meat, pet or pelt markets.

A five-pound bag of rabbit feed in a local pet shop sells for \$1,000 per ton which is probably \$200 per ton for feed and \$800 per ton for love or aesthetic appreciation of the animal.

Not all rabbit growers relate to profit, net income or money - youth projects use rabbits as a model for education. The youngster learns responsibility in the care of an animal.

Market for rabbits may be as a pet. Love a rabbit as a pet or companion animal and the owner gets an inner fulfillment.

Some keep the rabbit as a hobby, show or exhibition animal. Show stock must be purchased and bred selectively to win first place in open competition among registered stock.

Meat for the table can be profitable but seldom is, because of low or erratic consumer demand, low prices and the absence of dressing plants for rabbits.

Skins for warmth and style are rarely seen as a business in Pennsylvania; however, Rex

## Helms commends U.S. feed grain announcements

WASHINGTON, D.C. — Senator Jesse Helms commended Secretary of Agriculture John R. Block for his announcement of the 1983 feed grain program and additional funds for on-farm storage. "Secretary Block's announcement of a 10 percent paid diversion and a 10 percent acreage reduction is excellent news for the American farmer," said Helms, chairman of the Senate

Agriculture Committee. Congress had required that a paid diversion of at least 5 percent be implemented for 1983.

"This strong action by the secretary demonstrates his effective use of the farm program tools provided by Congress in the 1981 farm bill, which I introduced and supported. Despite difficult economic circumstances, this legislation has been effective in aiding the American farmer."

"I am also pleased with the allocation of an additional \$60 million for the farm storage facility loan program. These are short-run actions which will boost the farm economy and help farm prices," Helms said.

"The public should note that these actions today will ultimately provide savings to the taxpayer through reduced government

spending on surplus commodities in the future," Helms said.

"I must caution, however, that government production controls is not the long-term solution to problems in the grain sector of economy. We cannot indefinitely reduce U.S. production in the face of expanded plantings in other countries. In fact, I have been concerned that a very large paid diversion would allow other countries to expand export sales at our expense," said Helms. "However, the reports of record-breaking fall crops in the U.S. make this action necessary."

"Farmers want and need profits in the marketplace. The Reagan Administration is aggressively seeking world markets for our products, and this action will further help to balance supply with demand."

rabbits are reported to be active in Utah. Some say Rex rabbits are now quite valuable.

Capital moves out of the rabbit business in most cases. It is not a profitable business yet. There is an "X" or unknown factor in rabbits which means some earn profit from rabbits while many people lose money or break even. Investment in rabbits vary from \$10 to \$50 per doe for housing and equipment. This variation is too wide to predict net income of a business.

Income at auction or in the industry varies from 10 cents per pound to \$4 per pound or more live which is too wide to understand.

Here is a budget of cost of producing live rabbit. This producer was not earning net income for meat markets so this total cost of production would have to be reduced:

## Del. broiler housing seminar Oct. 6

NEWARK, Del. — The 21st annual National Broiler Housing Seminar will be held Wednesday Oct. 6, at the University of Delaware Georgetown Substation.

A diversified program involving safety, litter, ventilation, solar heating, housing and equipment has been planned. The meeting will start at 8 a.m. and adjourn at 3:15 p.m. The \$15 registration fee covers a fried chicken luncheon,

coffee and donuts, and a copy of the proceedings.

Key speaker will be David Sainsbury of Cambridge University, England. He will describe broiler production in Europe and tell how this has been influenced by the animal welfare movement.

For further information contact Extension poultry specialist George Chaloupka at 302/856-5250.

### JUDY FARMS DAIRY HERD DISPERSAL

FRI. OCT. 15

at 7:30 P.M.

at Penns Valley Livestock Auction Centre Hall, PA, at the intersection of Rt. 45 and 144.

Featuring 68 head, (38 cows, all stages of lactation, 7 Registered, 30 heifers, all stages, 8 Registered.)

Watch next issue for more information

Ron Gilligan, Auctioneer

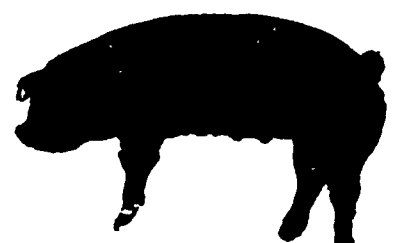
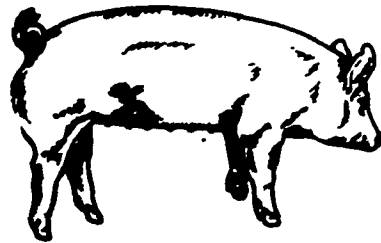
For more information call 814-364-9096

## ARNOLD'S 24TH PRODUCTION SALE

OF

Yorkshires

Durocs



Auctioneer: Harry Bachman, Annville, PA

APPROX. 70 BRED GILTS (All gilts are hand mated)

25 Yorkshire - bred Yorkshire,  
30 Landrace bred Duroc or Yorkshire,  
15 Duroc bred Duroc

Due November - December - early January

40 BOARS (Seven to eight months old)

Feed efficiency & Test Station information

25 Yorkshire — 15 Duroc  
50 OPEN GILTS (Ready to breed)  
YORKSHIRE, CROSSBRED, DUROC

Soundness and production are top priorities in our breeding program. Our Yorkshire herd is unsurpassed in production per sow for herds this size. Our animals have done well in test stations. Pennsylvania's 1st Superior Certified Duroc Meat Sire came from our herd. We also had the top indexing boar over all breeds, Pa. State 1979 ("Hustle") and the top boar in Delaware 1980 (Explorer). All animals vaccinated for Erysipelas & Lepto & Rhinitis. Validated Brucellosis & Pseudorabies Free herds.

Friday Evening  
NOVEMBER 5, 1982, 6:00 P.M.

SALE TO BE HELD AT THE  
Lebanon Area Fairgrounds

(CORNWALL & EVERGREEN ROADS, 1½ MILES SOUTH OF)  
Lebanon, PA

CALL OR WRITE

Yorkshires  
Leon L. Arnold, R.D. 7, Box 705  
Lebanon, PA 17042 — 717-273-5880

Durocs  
Lawrence Arnold, 1245 Cumberland St.  
Lebanon, PA 17042 — 717-272-9827  
Farm 272-2179

CATALOGUES AVAILABLE OCTOBER 15  
NEXT SALE FEBRUARY 12, 1983

### PUBLIC SALE

OF GUNS

To be held at McLaughlins Auction House, 440 Ramsey Avenue, Chambersburg, Franklin Co., Pa.

ON FRIDAY EVE., OCTOBER 8, 1982

6:00 P.M.

SEVENTY-EIGHT - 78 GUNS

Large Remington Gun Collection. Including 4-Model 8; 8 Model 14; 3 Model 14½; 3 Model 25; 3 Model 141; 7 Model 721; 12 Model 722; 6 Model 725; 10 old Series Model 760 including 150th anniversary 1816-1966 gold insignia, a collectors item; 7 new series Model 760 new in a box; Remington Model 700 - 222 Cal. B.D.L. Varmint with scope. Remington Model 870 - 12 ga. Skeet Bicentennial, new; Remington Rolling Blocks; Remington Falling Block; Winchester Model 25, 12 ga. pump; Winchester Model 66, Centennial, new; 3 glass door, 20 gun, gun cabinet, hart wood, very nice.

Auctioneer Note - This is a great Remington collection. Many key guns; lets say all in mint condition. Just beautiful. Guns will sell as numbered. Doors open for inspection at 1 P.M. sale day. For a complete listing send self-addressed, stamped envelope to McLaughlins Auction House, 440 Ramsey Avenue, Chambersburg, Franklin Co., Penna. 17201.

Terms: Cash or approved check.

J. Robert Myers, Auctioneer  
& Manager  
Phone 717-264-2224

### PUBLIC AUCTION

VAL. GUNS, ANTIQUES, HOUSEHOLD GOODS  
SOME TOOLS, ETC.

Having purchased the contents of Dorothy Girton Home & selling on premises at 120 Carpenter St., Muncy, Pa.

THURSDAY EVENING, OCTOBER 7

Starting 4 P.M.

Rare John Trout (Williamsport) over-under shotgun-rifle dbl. 30" brl. hammer gun w/tiger maple stock & gold inlays - patchbox - a beaut; Weatherby 300 Mag. Mark V bolt made in germany-unfired; Win 35WCR mod. 1895; Win. model 20 410; Win. Mod. 9422M 22 mag.; Win. 270 mod. 70; Rem. 270 mod. 760; Win mod. 1906 & Rem. 1909 22 pumps; Sav. Mod. 99 243 & 22-250 rifles; Rem. 35 mod. 14; Rem. 32 mod. 141; Win. mod. 54 30-30; Italian 6.5 w/curly maple stock; Marlin 357 mod. 1894 rifle; Glenfield mod. 25 22; Rem 760 6mm; black powder pistols & guns; quantity of ammo; Oak ice box w/raised panels; Oak side by side; Oak kitchen cupboard; hanging medicine cabinet; old tiffany tye kero. hanging lamp; childs roll top desk; set of 6 brass back bells; much much more not listed.

Auct. Note: Everything sells to highest bidder regardless of price (No minimums - no reserves).

Owner  
EARL RENE REYNOLDS

Conducted by Fraley Auction Co.  
546-6907