

# 1st Poultry Progress Day attracts 200

BY DEBBIE KOONTZ

LANCASTER — The first day-long Lancaster County Poultry Progress program attracted almost 200 people to the Farm and Home Center, Thursday, to represent this county's \$167 million industry.

From poultry financing to pest control, from ventilation equipment to the dreaded Marek's disease, the agenda included such highlights and more as Secretary of Agriculture Penrose Hallowell and State Senator Noah Wenger delivered the latest in agricultural legislation from Harrisburg.

Presenting an update on the "Right to Farm Act," Wenger told

the audience that the bill was intended to "give assurance to farmers that they would not be forced out of business before they had a chance to pay their loan or to make it in farming."

The bill states that ordinances cannot be passed after its adoption which put restrictions on a farmer's operation practices.

"But people then questioned, what about constitutionality? Can you really keep people from bringing suits against farmers?" Wenger elaborated.

"To my knowledge no one has really brought any suits against farmers," he said. "When it comes to the matter of public health, we

have to be careful that farmers don't use this as an excuse to run a sloppy operation." He cited one example of a person who contacted him about a farmer spreading hog manure so close and in such concentration by his home, that it was coming through in his basement.



Noah W. Wenger  
State Senator



Carl Brown  
General Manager,  
Farm Credit Assn.

In financing, Carl Brown, general manager of Farm Credit Association, assured the audience of their desire to work with the poultry industry.

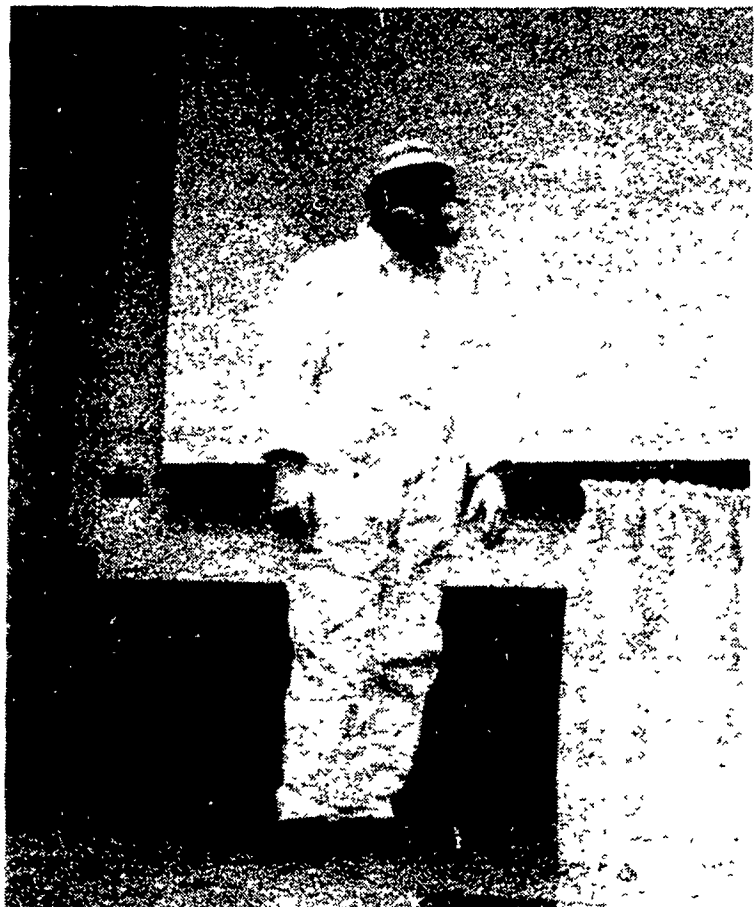
In retrospect, Brown noted several examples of management moves made in the past that are now "haunting" poultry producers. Chief among these is that "poultry houses were being built with the idea that this would be a cure-all for all financial problems. I haven't seen one that

has done that yet. I think some loans were made that way."

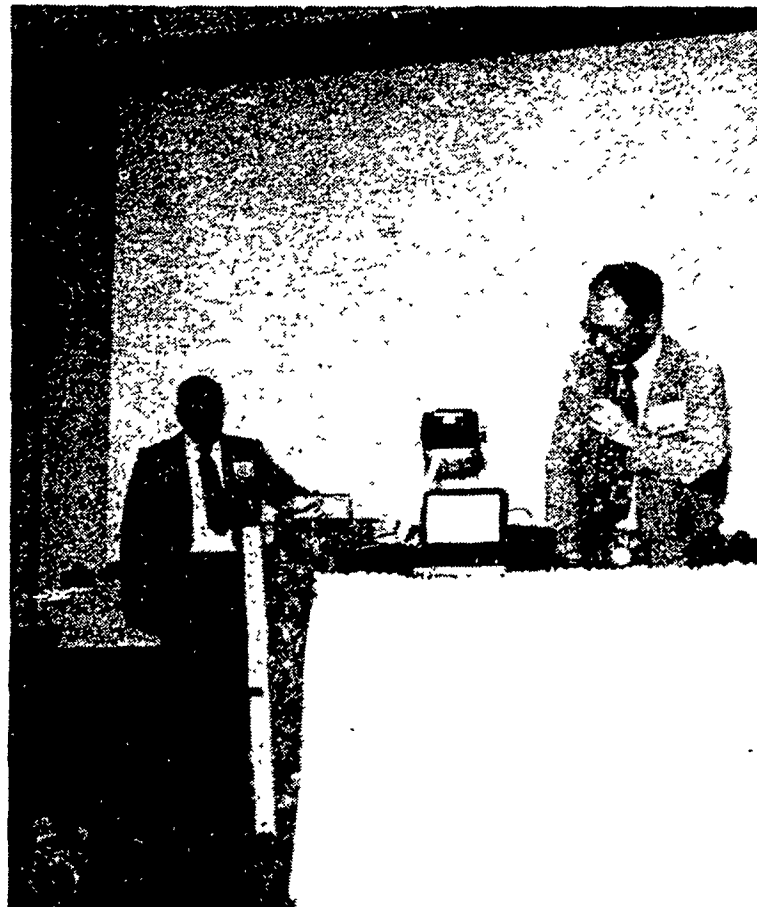
Poultry pests and their control was discussed by Clarence Collison from Penn State Extension. Citing three beetles which cause extensive structural damage to poultry houses, Collison said, "As with all operations, the best control is sanitation."

Of the three beetles, (the Lesser Mealworm, the Hide Beetle, and the Larder Beetle), the lesser

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Poultry Specialist Forest Muir, from Penn State Extension, donned this gear to help Extension agent Jay Irwin demonstrate proper clothing for applying pesticides. Take note of the boots and gloves as well as the suit and goggles.



Forest Muir, left, and Robert Graves, engineer, right, demonstrated ventilation equipment, helping the audience draw their own conclusions as to which systems are most efficient.

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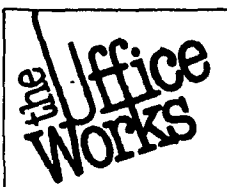
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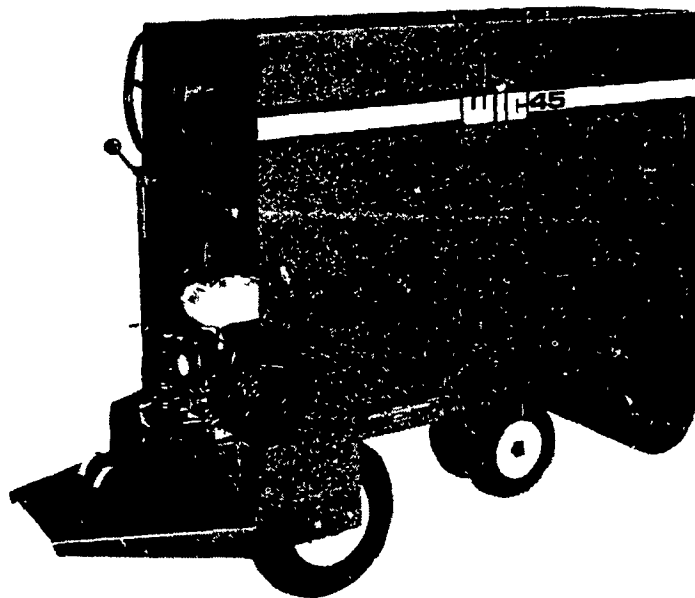
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