

Poultry groups air problems

HARRISBURG — At a recent joint meeting of the Pennsylvania Egg, Broiler, and Turkey councils, members got to air their views on a variety of different issues, mainly

production controls and methods of assuring contract producers of financial protection in the case of bankruptcy of the contractor. The discussions were led by the

presidents of the two councils — Oren Kelly, Empire Kosher Poultry; broilers, Bill Patterson, Weaver's Quality Eggs; eggs, and NTF representative, Leroy Zimmerman, an independent turkey grower.

Concerning marketing orders, the broiler and turkey councils agreed that since they produced such a small percentage of nationwide output, marketing orders would only hinder them economically. Plus, they cited Pennsylvania is a deficit-production state in both commodities.

The Egg Council, on the same topic, was of the opinion that more and more producers favor an amendment to the 1937 Ag Marketing Act to permit the issuance of

marketing orders for eggs. It was pointed out that such an amendment would have a difficult time gaining approval in the present administration.

There was also some discussion about changing the tax laws to discourage production by eliminating the various tax deferrals which make it attractive for non-producers to put money into agricultural production because losses can be written off. This proposal was greeted with mixed reactions and it was pointed out that farmers are more divided on this tax question than they are on production controls.

On the topic of providing producer protection from bankruptcy, the broiler and egg councils were divided, with producers saying

that immediate payment such as cattlemen get under the Packers and Stockyards Act was impossible because processors have to market their product through distributors and may not get the money for the product for sixty to ninety days. They added that many times they must hold the birds which also delays payment to the processor.

Egg and broiler producers disagreed however, saying that no one would buy a product and hold it unless they had the money to do so, and that prompt payment could be made if managed correctly.

The turkey council said that this was not an area of importance since the industry was not large enough in Pennsylvania.

Potassium

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reproduction," Waggoner emphasizes, "when one realizes that both treatment levels of potassium

were higher than typically found in commercially available protein and energy supplements (0.5-0.75% potassium).

Table 3: Pregnancy rates as affected by cow age and level of potassium fed in the winter supplement (Wyoming winter, 1977-1978).

Item	2.25% potassium supplement (%)	4.15% potassium supplement (%)	Age Mean (%)
Pregnant to Synchronized service			
3 year olds	30.0	51.8	40.9
4 year olds	55.2	41.4	48.3
5 years old and older	44.1	55.2	49.7
Treatment means	43.1	49.5	
Pregnant at end of 45-day breeding season			
3 year olds	83.3	92.6	88.0
4 year olds	93.1	86.2	89.6
5 year olds and older	94.1	97.0	95.6
Treatment means	90.2	91.9	

"This data illustrates the potential potassium supplementation has on improvement of reproductive efficiency," says Waggoner. "This would be of major importance regardless of weather estrus synchronization

and artificial insemination or bulls were the mainstay of the operation. In all cases, the goal of successful producers is to wean as many and as heavy calves as possible. Potassium appears to influence both."

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