

# Md. poultry growers cautioned on Avian

COLLEGE PARK, Md. — Instead of running its course, as expected, avian influenza continues to loom as serious health threat for poultry flocks on the Delmarva peninsula.

That's the word from Dr. Edward T. Mallinson, Extension poultry veterinarian at the University of Maryland in College Park.

Dr. Mallinson notes that, so far, the malady has been restricted to the northern half of nearby Lancaster County, where the number of infected broiler and layer flocks has increased from 10 in early July to 17 by early August.

With nearly 2 million birds involved in the infected flocks, the southeast Pennsylvania situation represents the nation's largest outbreak of avian influenza among chickens in nearly 50 years, Mallinson said. He is an associate professor in the Virginia-Maryland

In late July, Maryland's Dr. Mallinson noted at a luncheon

While not a health hazard to consumers of poultry and eggs, the virus disease has caused mortality rates among Pennsylvania flocks, ranging from 2.5 to 15 percent for broilers and up to 2 percent for layers. Egg production drops in infected layer flocks have ranged from 4 to 40 percent, with many in the range of 10 to 30 percent.

In Maryland, the situation is of most immediate concern to poultry producers in Cecil and Kent counties — where the population of layers has jumped from almost nothing to more than two million in the last five years. Carroll county, which likewise borders Pennsylvania, also has a large population of layers.

And, there is an ever-present threat of the disease moving down Maryland's Eastern Shore as a scourge to the big Delmarva

broiler industry.

IN late July, Maryland's Dr. Mallinson noted at a luncheon meeting in Salisbury that waterfowl — while relatively resistant themselves — are major carriers of avian influenza. Thus, he foresaw increased possibility of a disease outbreak among Delmarva broiler flocks this fall as the migratory season for wild ducks and geese becomes a reality. That warning still stands.

Pennsylvania investigators have reported there is a suspicion that the rash of avian influenza cases in Pennsylvania has begun last spring by children tracking waterfowl fecal droppings into a poultry house after playing near ponds frequented by migratory wild ducks and geese on the Atlantic flyway.

In addition to the waterfowl connection, the Maryland veterinarian lists the following as possible infection carriers:

- Equipment repair persons, exterminators (pest control operators), servicemen and deliverymen, people involved in hauling poultry to processing plants, and others who go from one poultry farm to another in the normal course of business. Social callers could also be included.
- Coops, crates, trucks, and filler flats.

Regarding the last item, Dr. Mallinson advises that filler flats should not be allowed in layer or breeder houses unless they are either new fiber flats or cleaned and disinfected plastic flats.

Until the extent of the problem in Pennsylvania has been fully defined, Dr. Mallinson advises Maryland producers to not allow persons in their poultry houses who have been on farms in Lancaster County — unless they don protective headwear, cleaned and disinfected boots, and freshly laundered cover-alls.

Farmers themselves should keep such clean, sanitized clothing on hand for visitors, the Maryland Extension specialist said. He commended the Lancaster County

Poultry Association for its very active role in promoting highly ungraded sanitation security programs for all persons who visit poultry houses in southeast Pennsylvania.

Mallinson notes that avian influenza can spread quite readily among poultry flocks, and even to livestock — especially swine. It is similar in contagiousness to Newcastle disease, another virus scourge of the poultry world. There is no specific medication for the disease. That's why health precautions have to be very rigid.

He commented that ways to insure safe movement of pullets and slaughter fowl to Maryland from suspect areas are being explored.

## Small is 240

(Continued from Page D10)

of Sweet-Haven Tradition, formerly the number one bull in the country.

The stud collects, evaluates, extends, packages in straws and freezes semen at the dairy, and markets their semen through an agreement with Carnation Genetics.


The dairy herd size is 650 cows with 540 milking. Approximately 250 of these are registered Holsteins. Production average for

the total herd in 1982 was 19,924 pounds of milk and 678 pounds of fat. The milking herd average was 23,449 pounds of milk and 798 pounds of fat.

This is another dairy which raises its own replacements, both registered and grade. All bull calves are sold at one day of age except those resulting from special matings. Many of the outstanding brood cows are in a program of super-ovulation and embryo transfer.

IT'S MAGIC  
How quickly  
You Get Results  
From Our  
Classifieds!

PHONE  
717-394-3047  
or 717-626-1164



**CALL US FOR FREE ESTIMATES**  
on TOP QUALITY BARN SPRAY & BRUSH PAINTING

Try Our New Concept In Penetration And Adhesion.  
In 1983

To earn a dollar - give a dollars worth of service and work. Pay only \$750 for the best kind of barn painting on an average barn - if you pay more you paid too much

On barn siding painting - temperature and timing are factors as well as penetrating kind of quality for adhesion are helpful guides for long lasting under average conditions of siding type and age

I will share helpful guidelines on roof maintenance of steel roofs by brushing on at prime time.

The farmers in Lancaster Co. are lucky because of the amount of competition in barn painting.  
Check with us for the best deal!

**BRUNING**

**PHARES S. HURS** Years of experience plus self  
Rd 1, Box 420, Narvon, PA 17555 employment gives you quality  
215-445-6186 work for less expense.

**BIG WHEEL**

**HOG FEEDERS**

Big Wheel  
Owners Tell Us They  
Have No More Feed Waste



A Proven  
Concept In  
Hog Feeding!

**balzer**  
YOUR NEW  
HIRED HANDS

**STATIONARY CONVEYOR BOX**



All Hydraulic Drive  
Variable Speed!

Feed Your Blower Automatically!

Pintle chains used throughout  
with heavy worm drive!

2-wheel axle  
& tongue with  
jack standard!

Rugged construction!

Driven with electric  
motor or flow control  
hydraulic motor! Just  
hook up your hydraulic  
line to the conveyor box  
and you're operational!

**ADD OUR  
14' HYDRAULIC RAMP**  
for use on most all Stationary Conveyor Boxes



Increases capacity speeds up your  
operation eliminates the need for an extra  
truck!

Saves time & manpower  
Dump a full truck load,  
no waiting! Go right back to  
the field while conveyor box  
feeds the blower! Fast...  
Easy to hook up! Just push into  
place!

**SPECIFICATIONS**  
Length 14' Width 9' 8"  
Height of Sides 40"

**And You Have Your Whole Crew**

**balzer** mfg corp  
highway 60 east  
mountain lake, mn. 56159  
phone (507) 427-3133

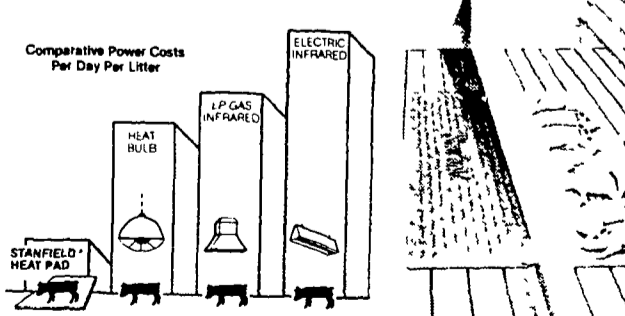
IN THE HEART OF AMERICA'S FARM INDUSTRY

**HEATING PADS**

Quality  
**Stanfield**  
Product

The Proven Plan To Increase Your  
Hog Confinement Profits.

Stanfield® Heat Pads are the lowest cost source of extra heat for your young pigs in your hog confinement operation.



Comparative Power Costs  
Per Day Per Litter

HEAT RULB  
ELECTRIC INFRARED  
L.P. GAS INFRARED  
STANFIELD HEAT PAD

**TRI-COUNTY SWINE SYSTEMS**

608 E. Evergreen Rd.  
Lebanon, PA 17042  
**(717) 274-3488**  
Hours: Mon.-Fri. 7:00 to 4:30