

# Pope addresses state poultrymen, urges working together

**BY LAURA ENGLAND GRANTVILLE** — Working together as a group is one way poultry industry men can change policies on controversial egg issues, said United Egg Producers president Al Pope.

Pope, one of 12 speakers at the Pennsylvania Poultry Federation

convention Oct. 27, told poultrymen that they need to work through their organizations and make the organization work for them.

"We have to become stronger as a group to change policy," he said. One policy Pope cited was the foreign rate of exchange. "It's an

open door policy," he said, "and it's only a one way door. This is what's frustrating."

With this came the shipment of 43,000 cases of eggs by European markets in September. The imported eggs, which came from France, Spain, and Finland, tempered the market, Pope said,

and it came at a time when the industry and the administration were working together to improve market conditions.

"It is kind of ironic," Pope said, "that we have an administration that would allow this to happen."

Pope added that France, Holland, Belgian and Spain want



Al Pope

the eastern markets, and "they're trying to take them away from us." What the poultry industry needs to do, he said, is make some changes and get some touchdowns.

"Right now we just need to survive," he said, "so we're not making too many long range plans."

Pope also spoke on the number of provisions in marketing orders and urged the poultrymen to keep an open mind and to evaluate each provision.

Provisions he mentioned were: marketing allocation in giving the industry authority to ship to preferred as opposed to un-preferred markets; the flow of products to the market and how much to ship on a regular basis; and research and promotion headed by the American Egg Board.

Pope also noted the provisions of reserve stocks, grade and size, standardization of shipping and packing, and the allocation program quotas.

With research and promotion by the AEB, Pope suggested a mandatory check-off program at one cent per dozen eggs. The maximum would be up to five cents per case credited to the state for its promotion which would tie in with national promotion themes, he said.

"A program like this should be considered," Pope said. "We need to be out there selling eggs. I think we can increase egg consumption per capita consumption."

Pope ended his talk by posing the following four questions and asking for a hand vote by the poultrymen: 1)How many would support a promotion and research order with a mandatory check-off with five cents going to state promotion; 2)Should the industry have the authority to export eggs on a regular basis; 3)Should a mandatory cut-back across the board of five percent of birds be in effect; and 4)Should the industry have the authority to develop quotas.

Pope said a varied opinion on these questions exists across the country, and the majority of the people will have control. It's the democratic process, he said, and it's why poultrymen need to get involved in policy issues.



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