

Broiler test data given

GEORGETOWN, Del. — As a service to the broiler industry, poultry scientists at the University of Delaware Agricultural Experiment Station periodically conduct performance evaluations of recent broiler crosses. In 1983 five commercial broiler crosses were evaluated for a number of economic traits. The tests were conducted at the university's Georgetown substation in cooperation with the U.S. Department of Agriculture Poultry Research Laboratory in Georgetown, and the University of Maryland. A bulletin on the results, "1983 Delmarva Broiler Progeny Test," is now available.

Traits evaluated in the test include egg hatchability, grow-out

performance, and processing yield and quality. Broiler progeny used in the trials were selected on the basis of a local industry survey and involved the following crosses: Arbor Acres x Arbor Acres, Peterson x Arbor Acres, Ross x Arbor Acres, Ross x Ross and Hubbard x Hubbard.

Researchers found that broiler cross had a significant effect on most parameters evaluated. General conclusions from the three trials which were replicated over a one-year period indicate the hatchability was 7.2 percent less with matings involving the Ross sire. However, Ross paternal progeny had 84 grams more weight at 52 days of age, fewer breast blisters, superior conformation

and improved eviscerated carcass, total breast and breast meat yields.

The H x H cross had inferior feed conversion and more leg disorders, particularly in male progeny. Both R x AA and AA x AA progeny had higher carcass and abdominal fat yields than P x AA and R x R birds. Leg, wing and back yield as a percentage of total parts was highest among AA x AA and P x AA progeny, while R x R and R x AA yielded the greatest proportion of breasts.

Other than broiler cross effects, sex and processing age significantly influenced most market traits, according to the evaluation team.

Copies of the bulletin are

available by writing to extension poultry specialist George Chaloupka, University of

Delaware Substation, R.D. 2, Box 48, Georgetown, DE 19947.

No-till meeting on March 27

COCHRANVILLE — "Chester County Farmers can test no-till corn and soybean planting for themselves again this year", John Stoltzfus of Stoltzfus Farm Service, Cochranville, reports. "An information meeting is being held Thursday, March 27, at 7:20 p.m. at the Farm Service shop."

"Farmers will be able again to use rental equipment to test no-till corn and soybean planting against their conventional tillage practices," Keith Zanzinger, County Agricultural Agent, explained. "This will give them a chance to see for themselves what is involved in no-till planting before investing in equipment."

The program was started last year with the encouragement of the Chester County Extension Service and the Conservation District. Nearly 300 acres of no-till corn and soybeans were planted by farmers using the rental planter. A telephone survey by Conservation District staff indicated that 90 percent of the users surveyed, were satisfied with the results.

Pownall Jones, Toughkenamon, Conservation District Director, has used no-till seeding of alfalfa in corn residue. He reports an excellent stand. He has been advocating no-till planting for

several years. He has planted both corn and soybeans no-till. He has been well satisfied with his yields.

At a recent Crops Day, sponsored by the Extension Service, Jones reported on his 1983 experience. "I feel certain that my no-till corn out-yielded corn grown in nearby fields using conventional tillage. The corn was planted nearly the same day, weather conditions were the same, but my no-till had a good fifteen to twenty bushel higher yield."

Jones has all of his no-till planting done by custom operator Lewis Wilkinson, Landenberg. District Directors are encouraging custom operators of no-till equipment to promote their services. It is hoped that the seed, fertilizer and chemical suppliers will assist in bringing prospective new users and equipment or custom operators together. The availability of rental equipment or custom planting services permits the farmer to sample this technique without a huge commitment of money.

Participants at the March 27 meeting will include Steve Fisher, FMC Corporation; Richard Breckbill, Agway; J. Omar Stoltzfus, Stoltzfus Crop Spraying. Four farmers will discuss their experiences with no-till planting.



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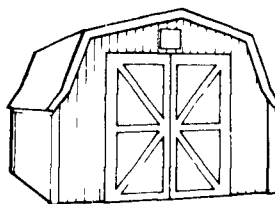
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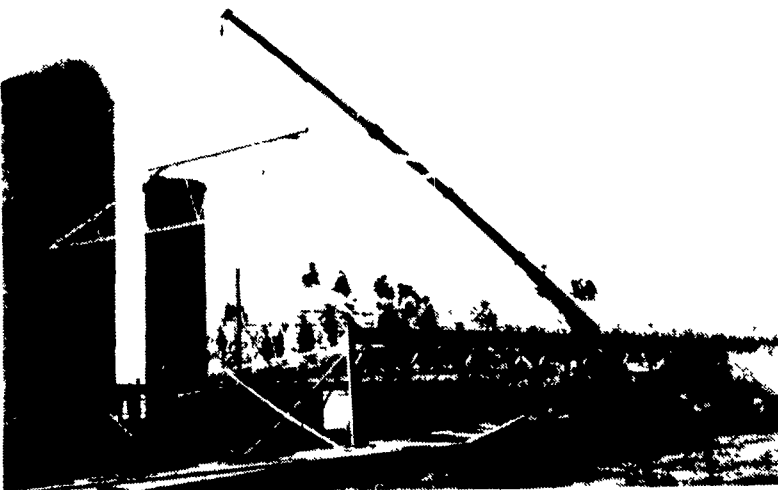
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