

## Poultry pest data available

NEWARK, Del. — Most farmers welcome warm spring weather for obvious reasons. Unfortunately, milder days also trigger the appearance of unwelcome pests, including insects and weeds around poultry houses.

Poultry producers — especially those with caged table egg or broiler breeder flocks — are often troubled by flies. The common house fly is the major problem, though another insect called the lesser house fly can also be a pest. Growers, as well as their rural neighbors, regard these insects as an annoyance and possible health hazard.

University of Delaware extension poultry specialist George Chaloupka says there are several ways to reduce or prevent fly problems on poultry farms. These include sanitation, manure management and use of biological control agents and insecticides.

Extension bulletin No. 132, "Insect Pest Management for Poultry in Delaware," contains up-to-date recommendations for controlling flies, lice, mites and darkling beetles. Because of the presence of avian influenza in nearby states, one material mentioned in that publication as having a pending federal label, Larvadex, was recently approved for use in fly control on a limited basis in New Castle County, Delaware, and Cecil County, Maryland. For further information regarding the use of this insect growth regulator for fly control, Chaloupka suggests poultry producers contact extension entomologist Mark Graustein at 451-2526.

Weeds are also troublesome around poultry, livestock and farm utility buildings. Besides being eyesores, weeds growing close to these buildings can impair ven-

tilation, provide cover for vermin and predators, and are a continual source of seeds for further infestations.

Periodic mowing is one effective control for noxious weeds. Chemical weed killers are another. Chaloupka says there are some

excellent herbicides or herbicide combinations which, when used properly, will effectively control annual or perennial weeds.

For further information on this subject, he recommends producers obtain a copy of the Delaware extension fact sheet, "Weed

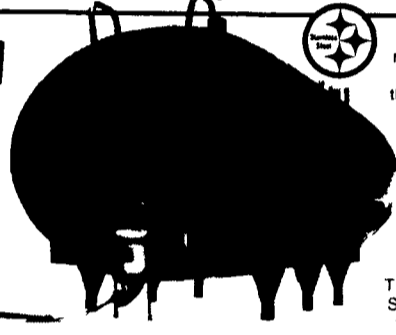
Control Around Poultry and Livestock Buildings."

Both publications are available from county extension offices in Newark (451-2506), Dover (736-1448) and Georgetown (856-5250) or by calling George Chaloupka at (302) 856-5250.

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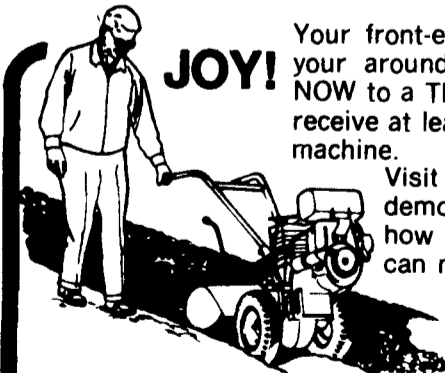


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