Seaboard expansion doubles N.J. egg production

WARREN COUNTY, N.J. -After many years of rather steady decline in egg production in New Jersey, the poultry industry is about to boom. And boom it will as Seaboard Foods' new poultry facility in southern Warren County gets into full swing The new operation, located a few miles north of Asbury, is being built to house 1.2 million layers.

Most recent New Jersey Crop Reporting Service statistics indicate a state total of about 1.2 million laying hens. So, the poultry industry in the state will double!

Seaboard is by no means at capacity. The first two buildings in operation are 52 by 546 feet in size, and have a capacity of 84,240 layers per building. Additional buildings are scheduled.

The houses are environmentally controlled, windowless, there will be 14 in all on completion. There are 400 light bulbs per house, 9,140 water fountains. Birds are in a staggered high rise installation. Manure drops into a huge basement-like area. There are 25 fans, 48" in size, in each house to move air.

The system for egg collection involves 54 miles of egg belt in the production units and cross convevors.

Feed Consumption

It is estimated that the 1.2 million birds will require about 12,000 acres of corn to supply the corn requirement for one production year. The birds will eat 140 tons of feed a day, drink 48,000 gallons of water daily.

There will be a feed mill constructed on site. The farm expects to buy local grain for most of its needs. The farm is located in proximity to some of Warren and Hunterdon County's best land. This was one of Seaboard's early considerations in deciding on location.

Manure disposal is an important item in planning. Poultry manure is an excellent fertilizer. Cook

College Poultry and Soils Specialists, concur on that The value of poultry manure stored in the lower level of a house of this

type is well documented. John Bezpa, Poultry Specialist at Rutgers, tells us that 1.2 million laying birds will produce over 14,000 tons of manure annually. And that's enough fertilizer for about 1,400 acres of cropland.

Close To Market

New Jersey, back in the 40's and 50's, was a major egg producing state. This was to great degree becaus of our closeness to market. The industry underwent great changes in the late 50's, 60's and 70's that saw the table egg industry move to the south. At least, it moved out of New Jersey.

Now with higher transportation costs, advances in technology, the shift is back to areas closer to the big markets. And that made New Jersey, and specifically, southern Warren County a good choice. The state now produces only 13% of the state's egg needs and 5% of the eggs consumed in the NJ/NY area

Seaboard has numerous large poultry operations in the east, in Maryland, Ohio, and Pennsylvania. Seaboard headquarters is in Lakewood, N.J.



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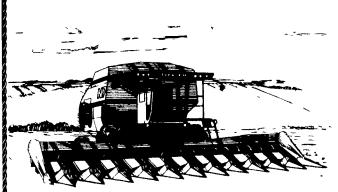
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