



The "three Johns" of Longenecker's and L&W Hatcheries are pictured amid some of the fruits of their labor. From left are L&W manager John Brubaker, president John G. Longenecker and vice president John M. Martin.

## Longenecker's Hatchery

(Continued from Page A24)

momentum as more families find less time for cooking.

And, thanks to modern nutrition and genetic research, the chicks are learning how to get more done in less time, as well.

"Back in the '40's, it took about 15 to 16 weeks to grow a four-pound bird, and now the time required is down to less than seven weeks," points out the company's president who was recently named the Pa. Poultry Federation's Broiler Industryman of the Year, for his longstanding commitment and contributions to the industry.

And other family members share John Longenecker's interest and enthusiasm for the business as well. Active in the broiler business since 1946, John's wife Elizabeth is currently corporate treasurer and worked in the hatchery until a decade ago, when she assumed responsibilities in the office.

"I used to sex and debeak the chicks," recalls Mrs. Longenecker, who adds that her least favorite task was gathering eggs.

Longenecker's son-in-law, John Brubaker manages the L&W Hatchery, and another son-in-law, Don Hilsher, is flock supervisor for Longenecker's breeder flocks. And Don's son, Daryl Hilsher, is also employed at Longenecker's, representing the family's fourth generation of broilers producers.

So with avian influenza and other setbacks behind them, it appears that the Longenecker family will continue to put all of their eggs in the broiler industry's basket.



Teaming with Victor F. Weaver, Inc., of New Holland, in the construction of the L&W Hatchery in 1977 has boosted Longenecker's total capacity to more than 60 million broiler chicks per year.

## Manure systems paper offered

WEST CHESTER — "Farmers need to take a serious look at the costs and benefits of animal manure handling systems," Harold Kulp, Pottstown, Chairman of the Chester County Conservation District warned recently. "With increasing fertilizer, labor and equipment costs, farmers need to do a thorough study of the cost/benefit ratio of daily haul, liquid systems, stacking, and silo storage systems".

The value of the nitrogen, phosphorus, potassium and other nutrients retained in the system may be the best part of the system for some farmers, Kulp explained.

Other farmers may find that the efficient use of equipment and labor will be the biggest benefit.

Some farmers may need a manure management program to prevent pollution of neighboring property, ponds, streams and water supplies.

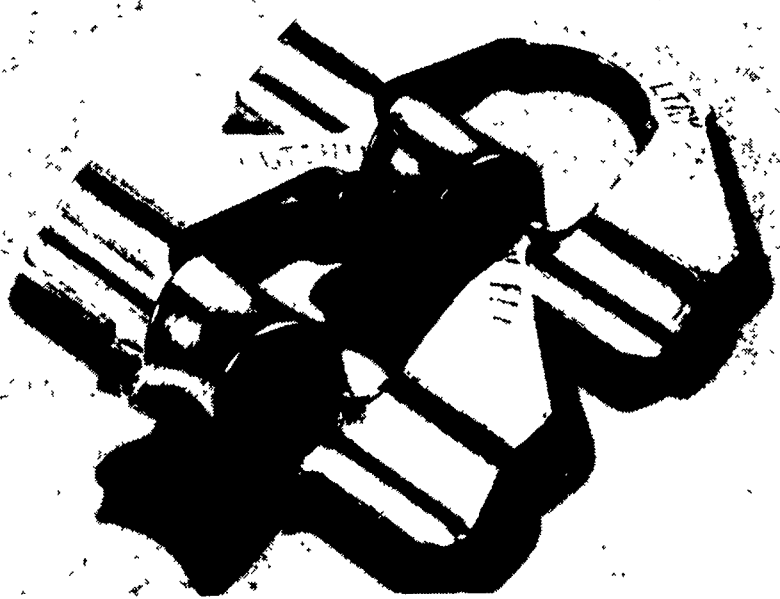
"Comparing Costs and Nutrient Retention of Manure Systems," a paper prepared by Robert E. Graves, Cooperative Extension Service, Penn State University, is available from the Chester County Conservation District, 235 W. Market St., West Chester, PA 19382. (ph: (215) 696-5126).

"Successful farmers need to pay close attention to details. Spending a few hours during the coming slack season, planning and calculating a manure management system — could pay back several times over for the time involved," Kulp concluded.



L&W recently added this spray unit to insure against Newcastle bronchitis.

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