

Poultry Producers May Face Overproduction

Directors of the Southeastern Poultry & Egg Association predict that broiler and turkey producers may be heading for serious economic problems by the end of this year and the first half of 1987, according to an article in a recent edition of *Feedstuff's* magazine. The reason for the gloomy prediction is overproduction.

According to the article, five major factors point out the coming hard times.

First, the number of broiler breeders being placed or planned has jumped up 2-10 percent over last year. Alabama alone has reported a hike of two million placements this year.

Secondly, industry expansions are being seen in every area. A

large number of processing plants are operating double shifts. Average increased production is running 3.5 percent in volume.

Thirdly, the demand for housing space for breeders is very strong. Every house capable of growing and maintaining breeders is being used.

The demand for boneless breast is cited as the prime reason for the booming broiler business, which has prices reaching peaks at more than 58 cents per pound at docks in Georgia. Costs are being estimated by analysts at more than 40 cents, allowing a good margin of profitability.

Lower feed costs are also contributing to increased product volume. According to one com-

modities expert, the industry can continue to expect low feed prices in the coming months.

One of the major problems facing the broiler industry is what to do with mounting supplies of

dark meat now in storage. Some in the industry recommend more research on developing new uses for drumsticks, necks and backs.

Turkey producers have been sharply increasing poultry

placements. Output of turkey meat from federally inspected plants during the first quarter was 14 percent more than it was a year ago.

(Poultry Post)

Water Softening Facts Offered At Ag Progress

UNIVERSITY PARK — Hard water is a problem for many well water supplies in Pennsylvania. Calcium and magnesium, which are dissolved in the water, form scale in pots, hot water pipes, and water heaters.

"These minerals also interfere with the cleaning action of soaps and detergents, forming films on

skin, clothing, and fixtures," says Nancy Frazier Wagner, extension regional program leader in home economics at Penn State's Altoona Campus. She is coordinator of an exhibit on "Water Quality in the Home" in the college of Agriculture Building at Ag Progress Days, August 19-21.

At the exhibit, extension home economists will answer your

questions about water softeners, including how water hardness is measured, and offer tips on how to maintain your water softener system, and the health effects of softened water. Free fact sheets on water quality issues have been prepared by water specialists in Penn State's Department of Agricultural Engineering.

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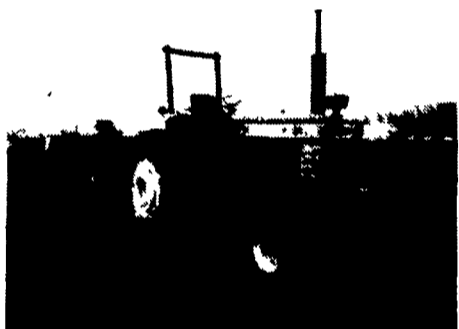
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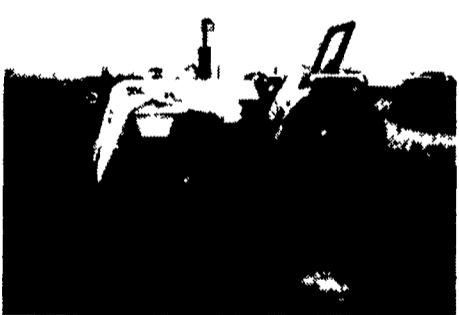
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