

Youngsters: Set Goal To Raise Quality Pullets

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mouth should be pink, and there should be no lesions or health disorders of any kind present. The bird should have a complete, normal beak. Vent, abdomen, comb and body capacity must be adequate to superior in development. A Mark I pullet can be pastured, while lower quality pullets may not do well on pasture.

A Mark II pullet may have two pointy primary wing feathers unmolted on the end of each wing. She may be toward the top or bottom of the accepted body weight range for the particular breeder. Some soft abdominal fat may be present but no hard fat nor excess soft fat can be present. Muscle and bone should be dense and adequate. Skin in mouth or on head may appear slightly anemic. Bird must be properly debeaked. Eyes must be clear and health must be adequate. Wings, legs, and feet must be normal. Vent, abdomen, comb, and body capacity must be normal or adequate but need not be superior.

A Mark III pullet may be debeaked but otherwise normal. It may be retarded, obese, too thin and/or have a light body weight, be too heavy, poorly feathered, or have poorly developed comb, vent,

abdomen, leg, or foot as well as have a pale head or bleached legs. This bird, if cared for properly, could do reasonably well in the laying house.

These pullets may range in price from \$3 to \$9 each when sold in small numbers, depending on the market and quality of the pullet.

The pullet project does not return large profits. It does, however, give a pleasant sense of accomplishment when a high quality pullet is grown. A high quality pullet is like a fine timepiece—the quality is remembered after the price is forgotten.

A growing trend in Pennsylvania since 1970 is to molt a laying pullet at 60-70 weeks of age and return her to a normal second cycle of egg production. This must be done only if the pullet is grown well and has the breeding to do so.

Pullet quality is low in some areas of Pennsylvania. Our goal is to improve pullet quality with every flock. From day-old, give the pullet the necessary environment, nutrition, grit, pure water, health program, and behavior to succeed. Be careful with surgery on a pullet — do it right or not at all.

Farm Leaders Demand GATT Agreement

ROME, Italy — The president of the National Farmers Union (NFU) said world farm leaders are deeply concerned about instability in the global farm sector, and say a sound agreement under the Uruguay Round of international trade talks would help.

NFU President Leland Swenson, who also serves as a vice president of the Paris-based International Federation of Agricultural Producers (IFAP), said new trade conflicts are imminent since commodity surpluses have built up in many countries and low prices threaten producers.

The IFAP executive board, meeting in Rome this week, passed a resolution urging a successful conclusion to the current General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT) negotiations by the end of the year as a way to stave off such conflicts.

IFAP President Hans Kjeldsen, a farmer from Denmark, said the surpluses are creating a serious income problem for farmers everywhere, but particularly in exporting and developing countries.

IFAP has supported proposals to do away with export dumping and other trade practices aimed at doing away with surpluses. But Swenson said farm organization leaders believe long-term, production-based farm programs

must be maintained to stabilize world commodity supplies and support farmers.

IFAP leaders add that national reconstruction of farm policies is taking place in nearly all industrialized countries without a multilateral agreement to make them consistent. Swenson said many farmers are disappointed that regional trade discussions, such as the proposed U.S., Canada, and Mexico free-trade agreement, are taking place without analyses of their effects on the rest of the world.

Swenson said GATT won't solve the problems farmers face, particularly if an agreement is reached which would weaken domestic farm programs. But, he said, farmers everywhere are frustrated with depressed prices, pressure on government agricultural budgets, and the inability of governments to agree on a policy framework.

"The drift from the land is accelerating again," said Kjeldsen. "And this time, it's the young, educated farmers who are leaving."

IFAP is a federation of 81 national farmers organizations from 55 countries. It represents several hundred million farmers in developing countries as well as farmers in the industrialized nations.

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