

Poultry Association

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to Coatesville Producer's Co-op. From the late 1950s to about 1965, the number of hens declined. From 1965 until 1980, Menno L. concentrated on dairy milk production, but when his son Dennis L. took over the farm, he built a 60,000 layer house. Dennis, his wife and three sons continue to care for the layers.

Dennis Forry's great grandfather, John M. Forry, purchased the the Manheim farm in 1911. He started with a flock of 300 Leghorn layers. Benjamin H., Dennis's grandfather, built a chicken house during the 1930s for 1,100 layers. B. Musser Flory expanded in 1966 when he converted the laying house to accomodate broilers and

he built a new chicken house to raise a combined total of 60,000 birds.

In 1978, Dennis L. came into the operation. He bought another farm and built a 60,000-bird house. In 1986, he added a second house for a combined total of 80,000 layers, which he continues to operate.

Three generations

Victor Wheelock, Chambersburg; John O. Stoltzfus, Lancaster; and Robert Brubaker, Manheim; operate farms that have been in the family for three generations.

Although the Wheelocks do not live in Lancaster County, they are members of the Lancaster County Poultry Association and well known in the state. Ellis Wheelock

started in 1930 with approximately 50 chickens in Warren. His wife dressed the chickens and sold eggs to businesses and from house to house.

His son, Walter, helped with the chickens and later started raising turkeys, which he dressed and sold for Thanksgiving and Christmas. In 1953, Walter started a poultry business with 500 chickens in Chambersburg. He continued to increase the flock and started a small hatchery with six Jamesway incubators. The business expanded until he was able to hatch 100,000 pullet chicks per week.

When Walter died, his son Victor took over the business and increased the size of the hatchery that now has capacity for 8 million pullet chicks a year.

John O. Stoltzfus's grandfather, John D., started with 3,000 layers at 148 Marticville Road, Lancaster, in 1950. The layers were gradually increased to 70,000 in 1972 by Samuel Z. Presently, John O. has 44,000 birds. He said, "We are growing a larger bird so the houses are full in eight weeks."

Three generations of Robert Brubakers have raised poultry at Valley View Farm in Manheim. Paul and Martha Brubaker started with two broiler houses in 1963. He raised more than six million birds for Victor Weaver Inc., before his retirement in 1980.

His son Bob built two 24,000 square feet broiler houses in 1969 and expanded to four houses in 1977. In 1990, Bob and Lois formed a partnership with their son Bob Jr., who will marry this year. The Brubakers have purchased a farm with a 85,000-pullet house for Bob Jr. and his wife to manage.

The two Manheim poultry operations are located at 1908 Valley Road, and at 2871 N. Colebrook Rd.

Bob Sr. said, "We have seen many different ideas and feeding programs over the years, some experimental, some with limited success, and some with vast improvements. Despite the changes in the past two decades, we feel our chicken houses and equipment are still comparable and competitive with new broiler houses and should last for many more years. We now contract with Tyson Foods."

Second generation awards

Three families received second generation awards for keeping the poultry business in the family.

Last year, Donald and Luann Brubaker took over the family poultry business located in Strasburg. Beaver Creek Farms was started by Harold and Miriam Brubaker in 1952 with 3,600 layers in an old three-story bank barn

located between Beaver Creek and Little Beaver Road.

In 1959, the Brubakers built a house for 8,000 pullets, which they raised for Dekalb. In 1961, they built another house to raise a total of 16,000 pullets.

The Brubakers switched to broilers in 1967 and raised 22,000 broilers for Miller and Bushong and later Pennfield. Another house built in 1974 increased the operation to 56,000. Harold died in 1989. Donald and his mother worked together until Miriam retired. When Donald took over last year, he built another house, increasing the operation to 90,500.

Esh Egg Farm was started in 1964 by Samuel B. Esh in Gordonville. He started with 5,040 birds in stair step cages. When he first graded eggs, the grader did six cases each hour. These eggs were transported by pony cart to community customers and sold at farmer's markets. In 1974, cages were changed to three-tier to house 12,000 birds.

Now son David expanded and processes eggs from 100,000 birds. They pack 50 cases per hour and eggs are delivered to five surrounding states.

Penns Peaceful Meadow Farm was begun in 1978 by J. Harold and Jean Musser. The Mt. Joy

operation began with a 60,000 layer house. A partnership was formed in 1979 and another 60,000 layer house built. In 1983, A.I. Fluenza wiped out both houses. In 1984, one house was destroyed by

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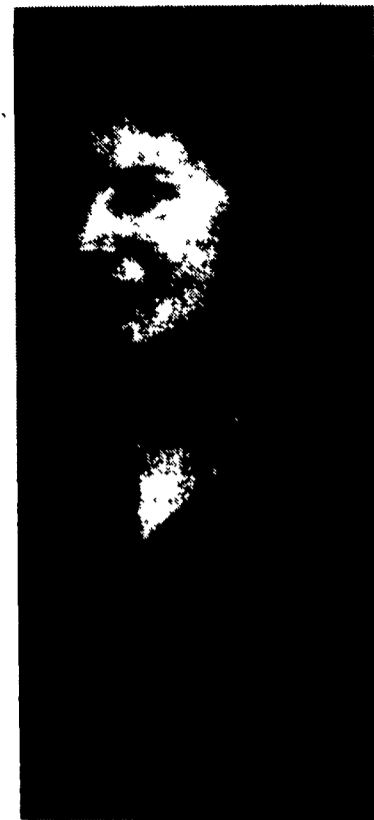
J. W. Irwin, county Extension director emeritus, hands a Poultry Family Spirit Award to Donald and Luann Brubaker who are the second generation to operate the family poultry farm in Strasburg.



Dennis Eby, Gap, and Dennis Flory, Manheim, receive Poultry Family Spirit Awards from Jay W. Irwin, county Extension director emeritus.



John Hoffman questions one of the speakers at the day-long poultry seminar, Cathleen Marquardt, about her theories on how to put people's rights ahead of animal interests.



Kathy Matuskik



A rat perched on Larry Kendall's shoulder illustrates the necessity for rodent control on poultry farms. With Infrared photography film, Kendall of Purina Mills, Inc., showed the destruction rodents pose in chicken houses.



In recognition for keeping the poultry farm in operation for four generations, Jay Irwin, right, awarded, from left, Robert L. Sr., Paul H., and Robert L. Brubaker Sr., Manheim, and Victor Wheelock, Chambersburg.