

Speakers Discuss Nutrition, Production, Marketing At Layer Seminar

HERSHEY (Dauphin Co.) — Poultry nutritionists and specialists attending a seminar at the Hershey Convention Center here were told the presence of oyster shells in layer rations is effective in improving shell quality even when diets contain generous levels of calcium.

Dr. Kavous Keshavarz, of Cornell University, reviewed research on calcium requirements at a seminar on nutrition, production, and marketing hosted by The Fox Company of Newfield, N.J. and American Stone-Mix, Towson, Md.

Andrew Wadsworth, general manager of the Egg Farm Division of Wegman Food Stores, Wolcott, N.Y., told attendees Wegman decided to build their own egg production facilities when they were unable to get adequate supplies of eggs that met their standards of high quality.

As part of their quality assurance program, Wadsworth said they add oyster shell to pullets' diets at 16 weeks of age and include them in all rations through 79 weeks of age at the completion of the laying cycle.

Dr. Lance Minear, manager of poultry research services, Southern States, Providence Forge, Va. said one of the major challenges and opportunities facing the layer industry is the ability to get "fresh flesh" into rations.

The Northeast, in particular, has many opportunities to utilize by-products from the meat and fisheries industries. Extruders, he said, offer a great deal of potential for adding such products directly to rations.

Minear cautioned his audience to be extremely careful in obtaining pullets that are adequate for housing in a new type of facility. The inability of birds to adapt to a new system may be a root cause of difficulty in getting them to the proper body weight to support early, high production.

While computers have become a useful tool in record-keeping and formulation, Minear told his audience they are still underutilized in flock management.

Keshavarz reviewed trials at Cornell which showed the substitution of oyster shell for 50 percent of pulverized limestone in diets improved shell quality both

at high and low temperatures.

He also reported on trials with gypsum as a source of supplemental calcium. When combined with oyster shell at the 50 percent level, gypsum was able to support good eggshell quality. When calcite crystals were used, the gypsum failed to support eggshell quality.

Other work at Cornell by Keshavarz and associates to determine the effect of calcium source

on separation in commercial operations were also discussed.

Studies conducted on two farms indicated that more particles of oyster shell than calcium chips were available to birds along feeding lines.

J.C. (Mac) McLaurin, president of the recently formed Egg Association of America, told the audience the new organization was formed because of a need to operate more effectively in addressing

the needs of the industry.

An example of an effort to provide more beneficial programs, cited by the speaker, is the new Northeast Egg Promotion Campaign. The program will focus attention on the major media markets of the Northeast, and it is a cooperative venture of Northeast state and regional associations, individuals, and the Egg Association of America.

Student Named Outstanding

UNIVERSITY PARK (Centre Co.) — Richard Hissong, a Penn State senior from Mercersburg, has been named the 1993 Outstanding Senior in the College of Agricultural Sciences. He was honored at the college's 1993 Spring Commencement, held Saturday, May 15, on Penn State's University Park Campus.

Selection for the award, which is sponsored by the College of Agricultural Sciences Alumni Society, was made by honor students in the Coaly Society, college faculty, and alumni. Competition for the award is based on academic achievement, leadership in college

clubs, recommendations, an application essay, and contributions to university and community activities.

Hissong, the son of Ronald and Judith Hissong of Mercersburg, will receive a bachelor's in agricultural systems management and technology (ASMT). His first association with the college was as a student in the 1988 Pennsylvania Governor's School for the Agricultural Sciences.

He was president of the ASMT Club in 1992 and was a member of the Coaly Honor Society, the American Society of Agricultural Engineers, and the Ag Student

Council. He served as an ag advocate, a group of select students who represent the college at major events and support efforts to enhance the image of agriculture and recruit highly qualified students.

Hissong was a winner of the 1991 Guldin Speaking Contest, an annual college event in which undergraduates deliver research-based addresses on issues in their field of study.

Hissong has lived and worked on his family's 400 acre Mercer-Vu Farms, where he plans to return after graduation.

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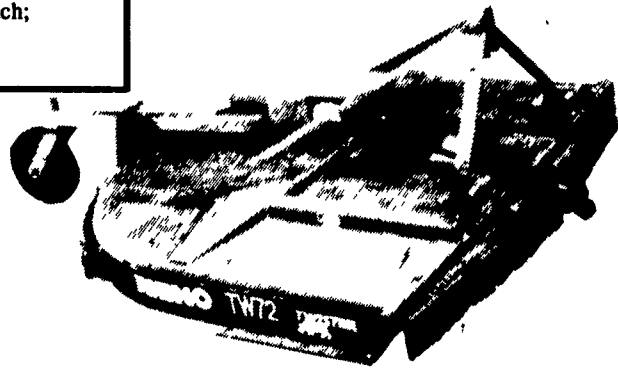
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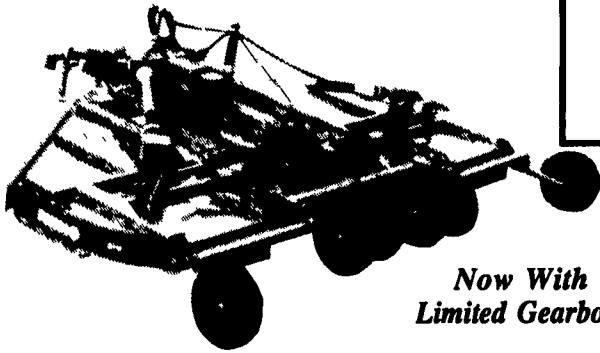
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