# **Poultry Pointers**

(Continued from Page A24)

levels of calcium in a layer diet (3.5-4.25 percent) contribute to poorer phosphorus retention by the

Birds with a dietary deficiency in vitamin D do not utilize phosphorus well, and a new study from Georgia suggests the active form of vitamin D (found in the bird's body) is even more effective than the precursor form of vitamin D normally supplied in poultry diets. These studies showed that the addition of 1,25 dihydroxy form of vitamin D to feed reduced phytate phosphorus excretion by 35 percent and improved total phosphorus retention by more than 20

Phytase enzymes can also be added to the diets of birds that contain high levels of the less available phytate phosphorus. At the level of 1,000 enzyme units per kilogram of diet, one can expect at least a 10 percent improvement in phosphorus retention and 10 percent reduction in phytate excretion into the manure.

In the future, recycling of the

phosphorus excreted by laying hens may be a practice with greater acceptance. Workers at Auburn University have shown experimentally that the mineral components in poultry waste, when allowed to settle in special lagoons, can be reclaimed as calcium/phosphorus sources and re-fed to hens (30 percent calcium and 0.9 percent phosphorus). Feeding levels of 2.5, 3.25, and 4.0 percent in the diet resulted in egg production, feed consumption, and egg weight equal to birds fed traditional mineral sources.

The new nutrient management legislation in Pennsylvania will call for research to look at the impact of gaseous emissions from animal agriculture on water quality. Farmers in the Netherlands have been issued a mandate to reduce ammonia emissions by 50 percent by the year 1995, citing acid rain as a motivating factor. If this kind of legislation were enacted in the United States, all of the above techniques could be brought to bear in managing the nutrients from poultry production.

## **Dairy Industry Summit**

(Continued from Page A29) increased the milk-producing efficiency of dairy workers so as to eliminate a lot of need for labor.

The result is the current situation where more milk is produced every year by fewer cows and fewer people.

At apparent odds with the growth of the dairy industry is the traditional single family farm, which requires more labor and overhead costs than larger, multifamilial operations using state of the art facilities and which may produce a million gallons of milk per year per worker.

The day-long summit was divided into a morning and afternoon session with two different panels of "discussants" and 'presenters.'

The forum was set so that, in turn, each presenter was allowed time to provide information and a position about the dairy industry.

Immediately following, a panel of people representing various segments of the industry were to openly discuss the information and positions presented.

However, in several cases, that did not bring about open discussion of an idea or concept, but an

unrelated statement concerning another issue.

Most of the testimony was in favor of the federal government changing its federal order management system of the milk supply ensure a tighter correlation between supply and demand.

Generally, comments were to create a "level playing field" for milk production, especially with international competition, but also within the United States.

Some specific concerns were directed toward a proposed North American Free Trade Agreement with Mexico and Canada (NAF-TA), which proponents say will provide a market for U.S. dairy products because that country's dairy sector is underdeveloped.

However, some suspect that investors world wide would quickly build large dairies and perhaps even relocate to Mexico because of a lack of regulations and fees associated with doing business, and then compete in the U.S. market. Many food processors do not require whole fuild milk, which has some distribution restrictions and higher costs associated than dried or concentrated milk and milk component products.

Also receiving attention is the several-year-old Uruguay Round of talks that is supposed to lead to an international trading agreement under the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT).

Agricultural subsidies have been a major stumbling block and so has a controversial Section 22, which would give the U.S. the ability to impose retalitory actions against trading partners found to be dumping in order to break into markets, etc.

Espy talked about the use of U.S. export subsidy programs, such as DEIP (Dairy Export Incentive Program), which can help the U.S. develop foreign markets for agricultural products.

Fewer than a quarter of those attending Monday's national dairy summit were members of the National Farmers Union, but their presense was obvious — they wore buttons which stated support for a two-tiered federal milk pricing system, they held cardboard signs stating support for the pricing system, they testified for the system and when someone presented an idea that was not in line with theirs, they booed or activated mechanical pocket devices which sounded off cow sounds.

Members of the NFU from a (Turn to Page A35)

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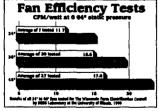
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