

# Choose Poultry Replacements Carefully

COLLEGE PARK, Md. — With spring rapidly approaching, the time to buy day-old chicks for your poultry flock has arrived.

Dr. Charles J. Wabeck, extension poultry and food science specialist at the University of Maryland's Lower Eastern Shore Research and Education Center in Princess Anne, offers some advice on buying and caring for your chicks.

Wabeck said that one of the most important factors in buying day-old chicks is that you purchase the stock from a reputable source. The source has a large influence on the health and reproductive capabilities of your flock. He warns growers to be wary of hatcheries that sell bargain day-old chicks at low prices. Often these are the source of weak, non-productive poultry.

Wabeck stresses that buyers should make sure their hatchery source is part of the National Poultry Improvement Plan (NPIP), which regulates standards of cleanliness and sanitation to ensure a healthy flock. NPIP flocks also have been tested free of pullorum-typhoid, a disease that shows up in the infected parents' offspring as unthriftness, slow growth, diarrhea, and mortality. Buying from clean hatcheries is an important management practice that improves flock health.

"It's important that proper man-

agement and health practices are followed once the stock reaches your premises," said Wabeck. If the following practices are put into use, you will have a greater chance of having healthy and profitable poultry:

- Always feed a commercial starter ration that has vital nutrients necessary for proper poultry development.

- Give baby chicks a medicated feed with a coccidiostat which prevents an internal parasite that decreases growth.

- Provide fresh water at least

once a day.

- Practice good biosecurity to decrease spread of disease. Do not let persons with clothing worn in other chicken houses enter your premises and do not visit other people's chicken houses without clean, disinfected clothes. Also, keep your birds confined, so they can not roam and contract diseases from wild birds or animals.

- Keep wild birds and rodents off your premises. They eat feed that is costly and are carriers of diseases, as well.

The Cooperative Extension

Service, University of Maryland at College Park, provides two valuable publications for the use of small flock owners. "Sources of Poultry and Supplies for Small Flock Owners" provides a partial list of commercial firms that supply eggs as well as day-old and grown birds. It can be obtained from the Department of Poultry Science, Room 3115, Animal Sciences Center, University of Maryland, College Park, MD 20742 or from the Lower Eastern Shore Research and Education Center, 11990 Strickland Drive, Princess Anne, MD 21853-1247.

A second publication, "Your Home Flock" (MEP 400), provides management and health maintenance information for small flock owners. For a copy, write to Information and Publications, University of Maryland, 6200 Sheridan St., Riverdale, MD 20737.

Your county cooperative extension service is a source of additional educational materials. Look for the telephone number under county government listings in the blue pages of your telephone directory.

## Angus Test Results Released

STATE COLLEGE (Centre Co.) — The Pennsylvania Angus Association announces the results of the Angus bulls on test at the Pennsylvania 21st Annual Performance testing program.

Twenty-seven outstanding Angus bulls completed the testing program February 15. Out of this group, the best 24 Angus bulls were selected to be included in the 21st Performance Tested Bull Sale on Friday, March 25. The sale is scheduled for noon in the Ag Arena on the campus of Penn State University.

These bulls have had to pass rigid exams, including structural correctness screening, the breed-

ing soundness exam, and the collection of semen from each bull.

The Angus bull that attained top-indexing honors is a GDAR Gold Nugget 766 son consigned by Joe and Bobbi McMullen. This bull exhibits a very desirable combination of the lowest birth weight EPD, +0.6 pounds and the second fastest gain of the 75 bulls, of all breeds, on test. This bull gained 4.62 pounds per day on test and recorded the adjusted yearling weight of 1,354 pounds. This was the second highest among the Angus.

The Angus bull with the highest yearling weight is the second-highest indexing Angus. This R&J

Maxima son was an embryo transfer calf and gained 4.42 pounds per day on test. This large, growthy bull had an adjusted 365-day weight of 1,328 pounds and was consigned by ErReR Hill Farms.

Paul and Bette Slayton consigned two GT Maximum sons, which will be lots 24 and 26. These two bulls gained very well on test and finished as the third and fifth highest indexing black bulls. The lot number 24 bull had the highest average daily gain of any of the 75 bulls of all breeds on test. This gain of 4.63 pounds per day on test ratioed 124.

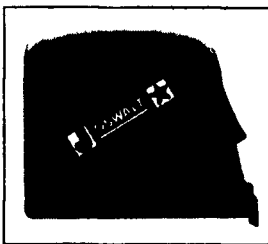
The Association has a great selection of Angus bulls with cal-

ving ease, low birth weights, muscularity, and high growth rates to choose from. It also has individual feed efficiencies, pelvic measurements, and scrotal circumferences available on all of these bulls. Bulls that have this much information available on them, as well as the objectivity under which the information is gathered and calculated, are unavailable anywhere else in Pennsylvania.

To request a catalog or more information about the bulls, contact Glenn Eberly, Director, Meat Animal Evaluation Center, 651 Fox Hollow Rd., State College, PA 16803, (814) 238-2527 or (814) 865-5857.

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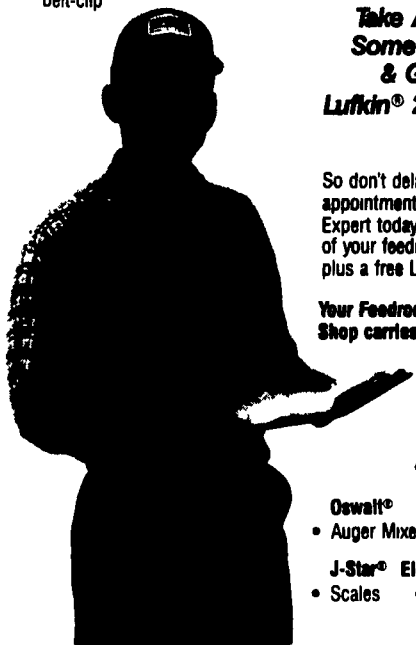
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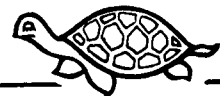


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