## Provide Adequate Floor Space For Poultry

#### Herbert C. Jordan Retired Poultry Specialist, Penn State

Day-old baby chicks may require as much as 500 square inches of floor space per pound of live body weight, whereas an adult bird may need as little as 20 square inches of floor space per pound of (trim) live body weight.

No one knows why this is so, we can only speculate.

Specialization is, for instance, that we can no longer give birds space based on size (volume) of bird or enterprise. We must give floor space based on age, physical activity, desire, emotional security, or normal behavior.

Since young stock are more active, have higher metabolism, and feel more insecure because they were hatched artificially, we must give day-old birds more and more space to run, play, learn to eat and drink, and learn to get along with each other in captivity.

Adequate space prevents many health or behavioral disorders. So as a rule of thumb, give adult domestic poultry 20 to 72 square inches per pound of live bird and give baby chicks to teen-week birds 72 to 500 square inches of floor space per pound of live body weight.

These figures are from what succeeds from actual field observations on many flocks of chickens, turkeys, water fowl, and ornamental poultry. If birds are crowded, give them roosts or open-end boxes to roost on.

If all else fails in getting growth or reproductive performance, give poultry more floor space or roosts or a four sided open ended box.

Feed, labor, and bird cost per pound of live capons are higher than building cost per pound of live weight bird, so give them space.

### Voices Never Heard

Hatchery Manager:

Open unhatched eggs after baby chicks are removed and examine them. Reasons for the unhatched eggs can be found to improve percent hatch next time. If you neglect to open unhatched eggs, the results of human ignorance are compounded and may be increased.

Wide variation among causes of poor hatch is common.

- Inadequate care of parent or breeder birds is frequently found.
- The wrong selection of breeders is found.
- Failure to grow breeders slow and carefully is common.
- Malnutrition, untimely nutrition, pollution, toxicity and incompatible drug use can be found. Poor vaccine use can be found.

In most hatcheries where unhatched eggs are opened frequently the percent hatch is improved. The bad news is that opening unhatched embryos is messy, variable, difficult to interpret and may not show a clear diagnosis.

Ninety percent hatch of fertile eggs or above is valuable. Most people are satisfied with 70 to 90 percent hatch of fertiles. Below 70 percent hatch of fertiles means slow bankruptcy, loss of money, time, effort, and skill. Below 70 percent hatch of fertile eggs results in a loss of labor, loss of breeder function, loss of market share, loss of customers, and loss of capital position. The greatest loss is that many birds that never hatch have superior potential for growth, egg quality, marketability and efficient use of feed.

# Association Names Outstanding Producer

SMITHSBURG, MD. — Samuel Hunter, has been named the 1994 Outstanding Polled Hereford Breeder by the Maryland Polled Hereford Association.

Hunter was honored at the 72nd National Polled Hereford Convention, Nov. 2, in Kansas City, Mo.

Winners of the award were recognized for their farm/ranch management, their support of state and national Polled Hereford and cattlemen's activities, community involvement, and long-time contributions to the Polled Hereford breed.

Hunter maintains a herd of nearly 100 head and raises alfalfa and grass hay, along with corn, wheat, and oats. His breeding program produces moderate-framed, easy-keeping cattle that are growthy and well muscled.

He's served as director of the Maryland Polled Hereford Association (PHA) for 13 years, has been treasurer and director of the Pennsylvania PHA, and has served as director and past president of the Mason-Dixon PHA. He's also a member of the Pennsylvania Cattlemen's Association. He's active in his breed's performance records program and participates in steer feeding tests.

He's been a Washington County 4-H leader for 20 years and is a Smithsburg FFA Chapter Honorary Farmer. He's served on the Washington County AG Expo board and is on the Extension Advisory Committee.

## **Public Auction Register**

Closing Date Monday 5:00 P.M. of each week's publication

#### DECEMBER

SAT. DEC. 10 - 9:30AM Farm machinery, tools, etc. Held at 4932 Stoney Lane, Manchester, Md. From Manchester, take Md. Rt. 30 N. approx. 2 miles, turn rt. onto Tracey's Mill Rd., go approx. 1½ miles, turn it. onto Stoney Lane and go ½ mile to auction. Michael & Patty Knott, owners. Nevin E. Tasto, auct

SAT DEC. 10 - 9.30AM Large Cat Attachment & Late Model Cat Equip. Grantville Pa. 15 miles E. of Harrisburg, off I-81 (exit 28) North of Rt. 743 one mile to the sale site Alex Lyon & Son, aucts.

SAT DEC 10 - 10AM Truck and autos, tools, lawn tractors & misc. equip. At the Robert Mullendore farm 6 miles S. of Hagerstown, Md. on the Boonsboro-Williamsport Road (Rt. 68) 4 miles W. of Boonsboro, Md. & 2 miles E. of Sharpsburg Pike (Rt 65) at Lappars Crossroads. Robert C Mullendore, auct

WED DEC 14 - 2PM Cow and heifer sale at the Belleville Livestock Auction Consigned by Glenn Fite, agent for owner.

WED DEC. 14 - 3:30PM Brad Smith Auction Co. IH Farmall Super A, antiques, tools, etc Located along Rt 74 S. of Red Lion, York Co Bradley K. Smith Auct.

WED. DEC. 14 - 5.30PM Antiques and collectible, 1550 Sandhill Rd., Hershey Pa. Wooden carved bear and tree hall tree Ziegler Auction Co.

FRI. DEC. 16 - 9:30AM
Forklifts, wood & metal
working equip, welders, air
comp., etc. Held at Diffenbach's New Holland Auction Center, 100 W. Jackson St., New Holland, Pa.
For Stoltzfus Hardware.
A&C Diffenbach Auction
inc.

FRI. DEC. 16 -1PM Kish Valley Dairy Sales. Located on the corner of S. Walnut Street and the Front Mountain Rd., Belleville, PA

Bryan D. Imes, auct.

SAT. DEC. 17 - 9:30AM Construction equip, land-scape, dump trucks & truck tractors. Flemington, NJ Interstate 1-78 to exit 11, (Pattenburg, NJ) proceed to sale site at route 173 & Stroutz Road N. side just off the interstate. Alex Lyon & Son, aucts.

SAT. DEC. 17 -10AM Repossession Sale. Approx. 175 Repo's & off lease vehicles. Keystone Public Auto Exchange, 1111 Rt. 22-322 Dauphin, Pa.

## NEXT REPOSSESSION SALE

Saturday, December 17th, 1994 at 10:00 a.m.

Approximately 175 Repo's and Off Lease Vehicles will be offered 150 Dealer and Public Units



PUBLIC AUTO EXCHANGE AH-000057-L

## IN ADDITION TO THE SALE OF DECEMBER 17, 1994

by Art Hanna for Tim Grabowski on Page B36

Greenhouses, Trucks,
Tractors and Small
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