

POULTRY IPM RESEARCH FOR 1996

Dr. Charlie Pitts
 Professor of Entomology

One of the main users of integrated pest management (IPM) technology in the animal production area is the poultry industry in Pennsylvania.

This industry is valued at a little more than half a billion dollars and plays a significant role in the economy of the commonwealth.

Within the framework of the industry — that is, layer, broiler, and turkey production and breeders — the main entomological problem is habitat pests.

The habitat pests pose the greatest threat to the poultry industry because of two major insect problems, the house fly and the lesser mealworm. The house fly also causes problems with the non-poultry producing neighbors because flies migrate to surrounding houses and are a nuisance as well as presenting potential health

hazards.

In addition, house flies can do damage to the paint surface of houses and other structures, many times requiring a new paint job.

The lesser mealworm does structural damage to poultry houses by boring into the structural timbers and insulation causing permanent damage. In addition, at cleanout time, the lesser mealworm will migrate to surrounding houses and becomes a household pest for the neighbors.

During the last few years, poultry producers have been using a feed additive insecticide called Larvadex. Many times feed through insecticides, along with residual sprays and fogs, were the tools that producers utilized. The feed additive approach for control of flies can result in poor fly control, which we think is due to development of resistance by the house fly to the insecticides.

Rapid development of resistant populations is evidence of poor pesticide management in controlling pests. It appears that in recent years we have had more com-

plaints about flies around poultry production units and we feel that this is partially due to resistance to Larvadex.

Integrated pest management strategies being used in managing insect populations consists of cultural, biological, and chemical tactics. The research for the basis of these tactics has been done all over the USA, financed mostly by the USDA.

Penn State has participated mostly in the chemical control tactic. Most of the producers in Pennsylvania are using management and chemical tactics with some beginning to utilize parasites in their programs.

The standard IPM program for layers in a high-rise poultry house consists of using cultural, biological, and chemical tactics. This approach was started by Axtell at North Carolina State University where he first published on the integrated approach to fly control in caged poultry houses. At that time, the integrated approach was basically selected use of chemicals.

In 1981, Rutz and Axtell conducted a study on house fly control in breeder poultry houses using pupal parasites: both indigenous species and releases of commercial *Mucidifurax Raptor*. This study laid the basis for many studies to come on the use of parasites for house fly control in poultry houses.

Many studies have been com-

pleted but no one has answered the question as to how many parasites should be released to control house fly populations in layer houses.

This year, the Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture has funded a research program to answer the questions: "How many parasites do you release in a high-rise poultry house?" and, "When do you release the parasites?"

These results will be updated in Poultry Pointers later in the year.

If there are topics or questions that you would like to see addressed in future articles, please send them to Charlie Pitts, Department of Entomology, 501 AS I Building, Penn State University, University Park, PA 16802, or phone (814) 863-7789.

Farm Groups Find Common Ground

CINCINNATI, Ohio — National farm groups that have found themselves on opposite sides of an issue in the past found that they have a lot in common.

The dialogue occurred at National Farmers Union's 94th Anniversary Convention. The farm leaders featured at the panel discussion were John Lacey, president of the National Cattlemen's Beef Association and David Senter, representing Farm Aid and the Association of Farmer-Elected Committee.

Following opening comments by both panelists, including an explanation of the recent merger of beef producer organizations, comments and questions from Farmers Union members opened the session. Audience questions

included concerns with the new beef organization's co-mingling of administrative funds from the beef industry's mandatory check-off with funds collected for lobbying.


"We need to look at the big picture. There needs to be better communication between the various agriculture groups," Lacey said in response to a question on how agriculture can avoid tunnel vision and work together constructively. "Agriculture groups need to get together to discuss how we are going to get respect for agriculture back."

"I believe family farmers are in this together, so we had better work together," Senter said. "We had also better work with coalition

groups, such as consumers, environmental organizations and bankers, all of whom play a vital role in federal policies affecting agriculture."

Very few people in the U.S. have really gone hungry, unlike in Europe where agriculture is supported and respected," Lacey said.

The panelists and audience seemed to agree on importance of agricultural groups do agree. Proposals included joint advertising that educates the public on the production practices, environmental stewardship, and value of family agriculture, as well as conferences that involve all agriculture organizations. "We don't have an organization that unifies us, and it's high time we got one," Lacey said.



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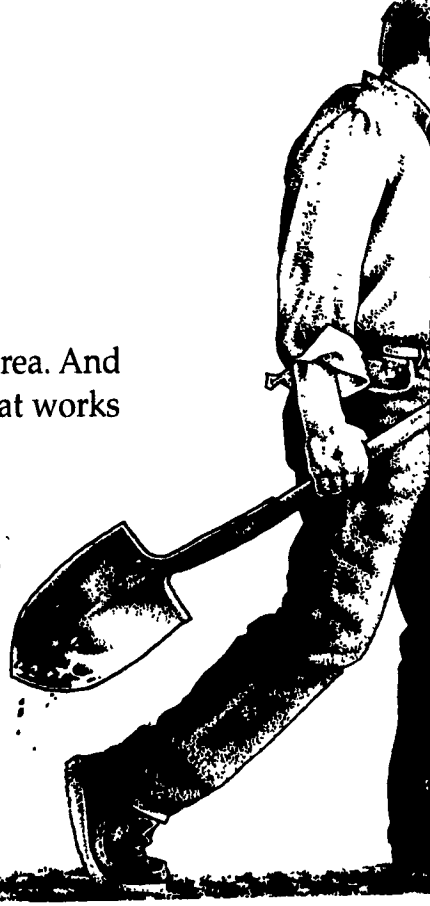
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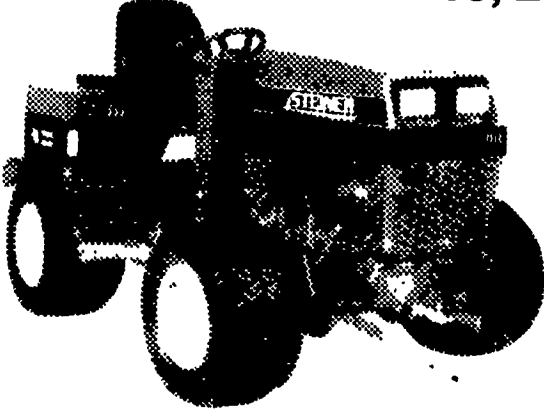
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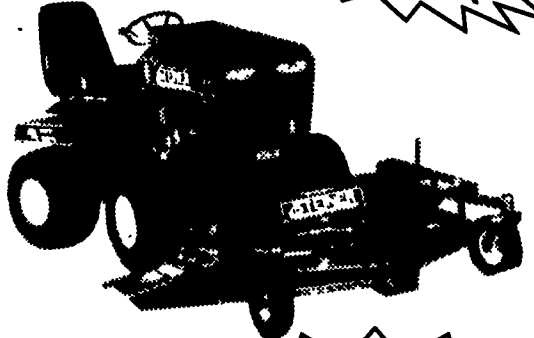


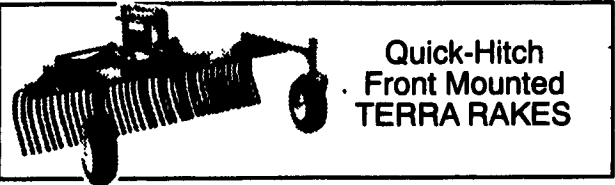
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