



# Poultry Patter

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## ITEMS OF INTEREST TO MINNESOTA'S EGG INDUSTRY

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### Minimum Wage Law

The December issue of Poultry Patter called your attention to possible state workman's compensation coverage effective January 1, 1974 for workers on some Minnesota farms. The Minnesota Fair Labor Standards Act also became law January 1. Basically this set the state minimum wage at \$1.80 per hour and the maximum work week at 48 hours before overtime pay. Employees not covered are listed in the law and include individuals under 18 employed on a farm.

Farmers who hire the equivalent of two full-time workers in a calendar year are subject to this law. The law defines the equivalent of a full-time worker as one who is employed 40 weeks in a calendar year. However, according to Arley Waldo, Extension economist in Public Policy, labor and industry regulations define a week of work as any portion of a week worked by an employee. Farmers who hire more than four employees on any given day come under this law and must pay the minimum wage for those days.

Affected farmers must comply with certain record-keeping requirements and post information about the law on their premises. A summary of the law and a copy of the information poster is available from the Department of Labor and Industry, Labor Standards Division, 444 Lafayette Road, St. Paul, Minnesota 55101.

R. W. Berg, Extension poultry specialist, has arranged a series of area turkey meetings to discuss both the minimum wage and workman's compensation topics. Arley Waldo will be the speaker. Members of the Minnesota egg industry are also welcome to attend. The dates and locations follow:

April 23	Willmar	Freda Bord
April 24	Faribault	Lavender Inn
April 30	Detroit Lakes	Erie Junior
May 1	Melrose	Meadowlark Country Club

The meetings start at 7 p.m. Those interested in purchasing their dinner meal at these locations prior to the meeting should arrive by 6 p.m.

### Possible Tax Benefits

Philip R. Goodrich, University of Minnesota extension agricultural engineer, has offered these brief facts on tax benefits for feedlot pollution control. Facilities and equipment for poultry as well as livestock may be eligible for benefits under these provisions.



- A 10 percent tax credit may be taken on Minnesota tax returns for feedlot pollution control equipment and facilities.
- Real and personal property used primarily for pollution control may be exempt from property taxes.
- Certified pollution control facilities may be eligible for a 60-month amortization period when figuring federal tax returns.

An investment credit of 7 percent is available on certain depreciable property bought for farming. Some pollution control equipment is eligible for this 7 percent investment credit.

For more information, get Agricultural Engineering Fact Sheet 20, "Tax Benefits for Feedlot Pollution Control," from your County Extension Office or the Bulletin Room, 3 Coffey Hall, University of Minnesota, St. Paul, Minnesota 55101.

### Residues in Poultry and Eggs

Poultrymen must be aware of the statistical sampling and monitoring programs for chemical residues in poultry and eggs. The egg producer generally does not need to use as much medication for his flock as he might with other classes of livestock and poultry, but each producer is responsible to see that materials used are within prescribed dosages and meet withdrawal requirements. Be sure drugs are approved for use with laying flocks so that eggs from these flocks will not contain unpermitted residues.

Remember, it takes only one isolated instance of a contamination problem, blown out of proportion by publicity, to adversely affect the entire industry. Producers who have any doubt about the use of a particular material or practice should consult a competent authority for the latest recommendations and advice. Observe the directions attached to the feed tag or invoice when using medicated feeds.

To avoid illegal drug residues, the Food and Drug Administration has formulated the following list of precautions:

1. Comply strictly with withdrawal requirements before slaughter. Be safe—take the bird off medicated feed sufficiently ahead of sale.
2. Use medicated feeds only for purposes and the type of poultry—broilers, layers, turkeys—indicated on the label.
3. Follow feeding instructions exactly.
4. Heed all warning statements on the feed label.
5. Do not give any other drugs to birds on medicated feeds without first checking with a veterinarian.
6. Follow label directions when adding a drug to poultry drinking water.
7. Do not permit feeds to be contaminated with other drugs, chemicals, or pesticides.
8. Never mix a drug or chemical into a feed unless so authorized under state and federal law.

9. Instruct all feed handlers to follow label directions.

Residues in poultry and eggs can also result from improper pesticide usage. There are many common sense steps to the proper use of pesticide materials and most poultry producers have carefully followed these steps when pesticide use has been necessary. It is important to review some of these suggestions periodically to help minimize pesticide residue problems. It is especially important to provide adequate training for your employees who may not be fully experienced in pesticide application or aware of the residue problem. The following general recommendations for pesticide use should be observed:

1. Always read the entire label on the container every time a pesticide is used. Pay special attention to cautions and warnings.

2. Follow the latest recommendations when using pesticides on feed crops and in buildings. Be sure they are for the current year.

3. Store pesticides in their original labeled containers away from food and feed. Be sure to keep containers tightly closed and preferable in a locked cupboard or closet where they are out of reach of children, pets, or livestock.

4. If you use a pesticide that has not been recently purchased, make sure the recommendations are not out-dated. When in doubt check with your dealer, county extension agent, or extension specialist.

5. Discard any unlabeled pesticide container or any with a damaged label. Do not guess at its contents.

6. Do not use pesticide drums or containers for other purposes because they are never completely empty. Destroy all

empty pesticide containers promptly and properly to prevent reuse.

7. Be sure pesticides are approved for use directly on birds and in the building, if such use is necessary. Keep pesticides out of feed and watering equipment.

8. Thoroughly clean equipment used for spraying after each treatment. Use plenty of soap and water, then rinse several times unless otherwise directed by the pesticide container label.

9. Use pesticides only at the recommended dosages and recommended timing to keep residues on crops and animals below legal tolerances.

10. Use care in transporting pesticides to avoid contamination of vehicles and their contents.

Pesticides and medications are important parts of a good poultry management program. The future use of pesticides and medications may well be determined by how wisely these materials are currently used in management programs.

#### Egg Industry Meeting

"An In-Depth Look at Egg Quality" will be the subject of an egg industry meeting at 7:30 p.m. in the upstairs meeting room of the Hutchinson City Hall, April 1. It should interest egg producers and allied industry personnel in McLeod and surrounding counties. Mel Hamre, Extension poultry specialist, will discuss egg formation, structure, quality measurement, and factors influencing quality. If you are in the business in this area contact some of your associates to join you for dinner at a Hutchinson restaurant and then attend this meeting. Contact your county extension agent or extension poultry specialist if you would like similar meetings in other Minnesota locations.

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