



# Poultry Patter

Volume 14, Number 6—August-September 1976

## ITEMS OF INTEREST TO MINNESOTA'S EGG INDUSTRY

Melvin L. Hamre, Professor and Extension Poultry Specialist

### Egg Day

An egg day program for egg industry personnel will be held on the University of Minnesota St. Paul campus, Thursday, September 23 from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. in Peters Hall auditorium. With the program variety there should be material of interest to persons involved in all phases of egg production. There will also be time to visit the chicken research facilities and discuss the University's research program.



noon golf tournament before the seminar starts. Registration material and program details have been mailed to the egg marketing and handling segments of the industry. Others interested in the seminar can obtain registration materials from the Extension Poultry Specialist, University of Minnesota, St. Paul, MN 55108.

## PROGRAM

### Thursday, September 30

- 1:30- Golf — Greenlea Golf Club
- 5:30
- 5:00 Registration
- 6:00 Dinner — Program: Marketing Alternatives for Midwest Eggs  
—Jerry Weber, Midwest Egg Producers

### Friday, October 1

- 8:30 Registration
- 9:00 Opening Session  
—Mel Hamre, moderator, University of Minnesota, St. Paul
- Egg Production and Packing Costs  
—George Rogers, Economic Research Service—USDA
- A Progress Report from the American Egg Board  
—American Egg Board Representative
- Coffee Break
- Prices and Buying Practices of Midwest Dealers  
—L.Z. Eggleton, Iowa State University, Ames
- State Checkoff, Promotion and Research Programs  
—Iowa: Russ Wells  
—Minnesota: Lloyd Stone
- 12:00 Lunch
- 1:00 Afternoon Session  
—L.Z. Eggleton, moderator, Iowa State University, Ames
- Egg Research at the University of Wisconsin  
—Art Maurer, University of Wisconsin, Madison
- An Update on Compliance with Egg Laws and Regulations  
—Region: William Sutherlin, USDA, Des Moines  
—Iowa: Iowa Department of Agriculture Representative  
—Minnesota: Roy D. Carlson, Minnesota Department of Agriculture
- Reviews of Recent Egg Quality Research  
—R. Hasiak, Iowa State University, Ames  
—M.L. Hamre, University of Minnesota, St. Paul

## PROGRAM

### Thursday, September 23

- 9:00 The Poultry Industry—1776-1976  
—R.N. Shoffner, professor, Department of Animal Science
- 9:45 Should Force Molting Be a Part of Your Management Program?  
—Neil Allen, assistant professor, Department of Animal Science
- 10:15 Coffee
- 10:30 Mycotoxins and Their Effects on Poultry  
—Richard Meronuck, Extension plant pathologist
- 11:00 Your New National Egg Promotion and Research Program  
—Dean Portinga, member, American Egg Board
- 11:30 Lunch
- 1:00 Recent Egg Quality Research  
—M.L. Hamre, Extension poultry specialist
- 1:30 What Can We Do About Infectious Bursal Disease?  
—Dr. B.S. Pomeroy, College of Veterinary Medicine
- 2:00 Should We Vaccinate Replacement Pullets for M.G.?  
—Dr. John Newman, College of Veterinary Medicine
- 2:30 The Chicken Research Program and Facilities at the University of Minnesota  
—R.W. Touchberry, head, Department of Animal Science

### Egg Marketing Seminar

The Eighth Annual Minnesota-Iowa Egg Marketing Seminar is set September 30-October 1 at the Kahler Motel, Albert Lea, Minnesota. Many Minnesota egg processors and egg handlers attend these educational sessions. The program follows previous formats with a Thursday evening session followed by Friday morning and afternoon sessions. There will be a Thursday after-

### Minnesota Nutrition Conference

The 37th Minnesota Nutrition Conference is set September 20-21, 1976 at the Thunderbird Motel in Bloomington, Minnesota. It is



of interest to nutritionists and others involved in livestock and poultry feeding. The program includes a symposium on preservation of livestock feeds and associated problems. For more information contact the Office of Special Programs, University of Minnesota, St. Paul, MN 55108.

### Egg Production Outlook

WASHINGTON, August 17—Look for continued strong egg markets, according to a summary of USDA's Poultry and Egg Situation. Egg production has been above a year earlier since January. Output during January-July totaled about 1 percent more than last year. Layer numbers were down, but the decline was more than offset by a rise in the rate of lay. Layer numbers likely will gain in coming months, relative to a year earlier. Together with a continuation in the higher rate of lay, this fall it will result in egg production around 1 percent above 1975. Larger output will likely continue into 1977. The cost of producing eggs rose in late spring—a result of rising feed prices—and currently is running above year-ago levels. However, egg prices have advanced faster than production costs and are expected to remain above production and marketing costs during the rest of 1976. Egg prices in recent months have been stronger than earlier expected and well above 1975 despite larger production. In late August, wholesale prices for Grade A large in New York averaged 67 cents a dozen, 6 cents above last year. Although seasonal rises this fall likely will be less than usual, prices should remain strong and average in the mid- to high 60's.

### Feed Efficiency

Since feed accounts for more than 60 percent of egg production cost, it is important for producers to watch feed efficiency closely. Variations in feed required per dozen eggs produced are as great as 0.4 pounds or more between poultry operations. With a feed cost of \$130 per ton, an egg producer with a 4.0 feed efficiency has a 1.3 cent per dozen feed cost advantage over a producer with a 4.2 feed efficiency. With other cost factors equal, this producer can expect a 23-25 cent per hen income advantage over the less efficient competitor. This additional income amounts to more than \$2,300 per 10,000 bird unit during the production year.

A number of factors influence feed efficiency: management practices, feed or water quality, environment, disease and parasites, and egg breakage. From field observations, it appears that feed wastage is a common cause of poor feed efficiency, yet good management can largely eliminate wastage. A number of things contribute to feed wastage: holes in troughs, loose auger joints, worn auger tubes, poorly adjusted feeders, troughs too full, trough design, overflowing feed lines, and consumption by rodents and birds. Nonproductive layers, debeaking, and type of waterer can also influence feed efficiency.

Mechanical feeding systems should be checked periodically for necessary repairs and replacement of wornout parts. Because spilled feed often falls in the manure pit or is scattered, it is easy to overlook or minimize the importance of reducing this waste. Carelessness on the part of workers can result in spills at bins and in cart-feeding. Filling troughs too full adds to feed wastage, especially with poorly debeaked flocks. Check on your helpers to see that they are aware of the potential losses from wasted feed.

Rodents and other pests can also waste considerable feed, as well as creating disease and parasite problems and damaging equipment and insulation. Before long, many Minnesota pests will be looking for comfortable housing for winter. Check your houses to eliminate sources of entry for rodents and other pests. If entry to the house can be controlled, populations can be kept in check with a good baiting program.

Consider removing obvious nonproducing layers from the house after the birds reach 10-12 months of age. Many nonlayers will eat nearly as much as birds in production. Most of these birds will never be profitable producers and have little salvage value since many will be condemned at the processing plant. If you have 200-300 of these nonproductive birds in your flock, you may be wasting 50 pounds of feed daily. This can amount to around \$100 feed loss per month which could be saved in a couple of hours by a two-man cull removal crew.

Feed prices are high. Egg income to the producer at this time is also good. Don't let feed wastage eat up your potential profits. Evaluate your house management. You might increase your income 5 to 20 cents per bird through feed savings.

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