



KEN BARR EXAMINING LEGHORN STRAIN

CDA develops new strains in poultry

New genetic material in the form of new White Leghorn strains has been released by the Canada Department of Agriculture to Canadian breeders of egg laying stock.

This is one of the results of a five-year-old project which is now putting together combinations of genes never before achieved in poultry breeding, said Drew Davey, director of the federal Poultry Division. The project has been highly successful and shows promise of being a continuing source of breeding lines useful to the industry.

The first stocks to be released as pure lines were hatching eggs distributed to breeders on December 1, 1963.

How these strains will ultimately reach commercial production will depend on the use of them by the breeders; they will decide how to incorporate them into their breeding flocks.

FURTHER TESTS

There is a need to further test the new stocks in three-way combinations, said Mr. Davey and the British Columbia department of agriculture is programming such tests. It will, of course, be several months before any results will be available from this program.

Mr. Davey said the project began in 1960 under the direction of Dr. S. S. Munro, a geneticist, who has since left federal service for industry. W.K. "Ken" Barr of the poultry division, who worked with Dr. Munro, has continued the development of the project over the past two and one-half years.

First steps in the project were the development of 181 new strains of White Leghorns. These birds were tested for performance as pure lines; that is mated with birds of the same strain. The pure lines were then mated in various combinations and their progeny tested.

The records of three years of testing proved that although some strains showed no improvement over birds already available to the industry, others in particular combinations produced progeny that performed as well as and some better than the best available to the industry. These findings were confirmed in subsequent tests and the first release of the parent strains were made to Canadian breeders registered in the Na-

Monal Poultry Breeding Program

This was the first distribution of pure lines and it was undertaken only after progeny from the crosses had been tested on several private and provincial establishments across Canada in order to get a variety of test environments. Some male chicks of the pure strains were also sent to breeders for use on their own stock. The results of all these tests were evaluated before making the December 1 release.

The project is continuing in order to develop other strains to replace those discarded, said Mr. Davey. The significance of the new strains is that in combination with others available to the industry, they may produce progeny that will better anything we have in this country and compete with the best in the export markets.

Egg price support program

OTTAWA — Details of a new price support program for eggs were announced a few weeks ago by Agriculture Minister J.J. Greene. The program is for the 12-month period ending next September 30.

Reflecting the trend to larger laying flocks in Canada, the program provides price support for a higher proportion of Grade A Extra Large, Grade A Large, and Grade A medium size eggs marketed by a producer. The maximum amount of eggs for which a deficiency payment may

be made has been raised to 10,000 dozen per producer from the previous ceiling of 4,000 dozen.

Producers marketing a minimum of 500 dozen eggs during the 12 months will be covered by the program which provides a support price of 34 cents per dozen for the first 4,000 dozen, and 31 cents for each additional dozen up to the maximum of 10,000.

Egg prices have been supported at 34 cents per dozen for the past three years. Total cost of a 43 cents per dozen deficiency payment for the 1964-65 support year is estimated at 1.8 million.

In addition to marketing at least 500 dozen eggs, a producer to be eligible for a deficiency payment must be registered with the Agricultural Stabilization Board and must have sold eggs through an approved grading station, or be a registered producer-grader selling directly to retail outlets.

PEOPLE ROAM DESERT

Mauritania, a desert country twice the size of France, has about 750,000 inhabitants, most of them widely-dispersed nomads.

APPOINTS BISHOP

WASHINGTON (AP) — Pope Paul Wednesday named Msgr. Humberto Medeiros of Fall River, Mass., as Bishop of Brownsville, Tex. The bishop-elect has been chancellor of the diocese of Fall River and pastor of the Church of St. Michael there.

Poultry management tips to help increase profit

By GERALD JOHNSTONE
Poultry Fieldman

STARTING CHICKS—0-6 WEEKS

Brooder House — thoroughly clean and disinfect house and equipment.

Litter — 2 to 4 inches deep, dry and clean, cover with paper or sacks the first four days. Never re-use litter.

Brooder Slates — Allow no more than 500 chicks per brooder, adjust slates a few days before chicks arrive.

Temperature — Start chicks at 90 degrees to 95 degrees F., reduce gradually 5 degrees per week down to 65 degrees. Check temperature 6 inches outside brooder, 2 inches above litter.

Chick Guard — Use just week to 10 days, place about 24 inches from edge of hover at start, adjust as necessary.

Feeders — Fill completely full for the first 3 days, then never over 1/2 full to avoid waste. Scatter feed on new egg flats or paper, the first two days. Keep feeders adjusted to back level of birds. Allow 8 linear feet of feeder space per 100 chicks.

Water Space — Use 1 gallon glass or plastic water fountain per 100 chicks the first week. Allow 3 linear feet of water space per 100 chicks up to 8 weeks of age.

Floor Space — Allow 8 square feet per chick up to 8 weeks of age.

GROWING PERIOD

4-22 WEEKS

Floor Space — allow 1 1/2 to 3 square feet per bird if confined. If ranged allow one acre of good range for every 400 pullets.

If ranged — Allow one 10 x 12 foot range shelter per 100 pullets.

Waterers — 4 linear feet per 100 birds.

Feeders — 13 linear feet or 4 hanging tube type feeders with 80 inch circumference per 100 pullets.

Warm Treatment — at 10-12 weeks of age; 4 weeks later; again 3 days before housing.

TEMPERATURE

Peak efficiency with layers is obtained between 50 degrees and 70 degrees F. Temperature in the house should be held above 50 degrees in winter months and as low as possible in the summer. When the temperature is over 90 degrees F., reduce feed intake, decreased egg size, lower egg production, loss in body weight and increased water consumption may be expected.

When the temperature is under 45 degrees, thinner egg shells and increased feed intake may be expected.

LIGHTING REQUIREMENTS FOR LAYERS

(a) Spring hatched pullets— at

22 weeks of age, start using morning light with a weekly increase of 15 minutes to the length of day.

(b) Summer hatched pullets at 12 weeks of age, start with a 12-hour day. Maintain this level to approximately 32 weeks of age, then increase light 15 minutes per week during remainder of production period.

(c) Use an intensity of 1 watt per bird; use 40 watt frosted bulbs.

(d) Suspend lights 7 feet from the floor. Reflectors are strongly recommended.

(e) Clean bulbs regularly, replacing as necessary.

(f) Locate lights so that greatest intensity is provided over feeding and watering areas.

HANDLING EGGS FOR MAXIMUM QUALITY

Collect eggs every 2 hours when the temperature is over 90 degrees and at least 3-4 times per day when house temperature ranges from 32 degrees to 90 degrees. Place in cooler immediately. Precool egg cases, flats and fillers. Avoid excessive handling since every extra handling

yields 1-3 percent more checks or cracks.

RECORD KEEPING

Keep accurate records of daily feed consumption, mortality and other flock reductions, vaccinations, medication, and egg production. Use medication with discretion. Excessive use will add to the cost producing eggs.

Good management and sanitation practices will greatly reduce or eliminate the need for medication.

OYSTER SHELL AND GRIT

Begin feeding oyster shell as the pullets come into production and see that a plentiful supply is kept before them thereafter. Also use only clean highgrade shell (6 linear feet of feeding space per 100 birds). Hard mica and granite grit of proper coarseness must be kept constantly available.

PROJECT QUALITY AND INCREASE INCOME

Practice good litter management. Keep litter dry and uncaked. Wire off roosts at areas. Avoid flat surfaces, not covered by litter. Provide one nest for every 4 layers and keep nests clean. Break up floor nests as soon as they are started.

DISEASE PREVENTION

Prevention is better than cure. Good management practices are the best disease preventive.

Prevent disease by:

1. Rearing chicks by isolation.

2. Avoid mixing chicks of different ages.

3. Bar all visitors from our poultry houses.

4. Vaccinate for those diseases prevalent in your area.

5. Avoid all contact and traffic between young birds and the most important source of disease — the older chickens on the farm.

6. Clean and spray houses properly before housing the new flocks.

7. Allow houses to remain idle at least three weeks prior to housing a new flock.

8. Be sure windows, vents, and other openings are screened to keep out predatory animals and WATER CONSUMPTION

Gallons of Water per 100 Birds per day

Age

1 to 3 weeks of Age 0.4 to 2.0

3 to 6 weeks of Age 1.4 to 3.0

6 to 10 weeks of Age 3.0 to 4.0

10 to 18 weeks of Age 4.0 to 5.0

Pullets 3.0 to 4.0

Non-laying hens 5.0

Laying hens (mod temp) 5.0 to 7.5

Laying hens (90°F. or above) 9.0

INSERT CAUTION

Care must be taken when putting medicants in the drinking water during the summer. A sudden hot spell may double water intake, resulting in consumption of too much of a particular drug. This caution applies especially to Sulfa drugs.

For further information on Poultry management, contact the Poultry Division, P.E.I. Department of Agriculture, Box 2, 000, Charlottetown, P.E.I.



GERALD JOHNSTONE

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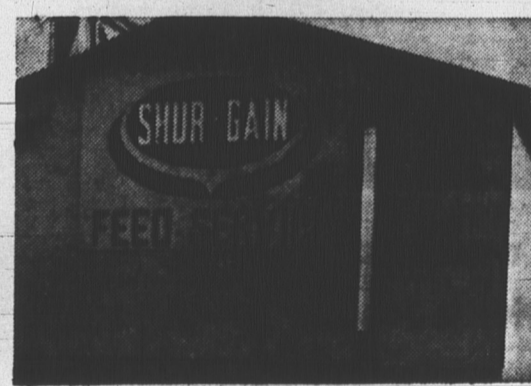
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