

summer of 1946. The differential, however, between the price of feed here and there, was not so great on commercial feeds as many may expect. Two and a half to three dollars per ton would cover it in most cases. Unless we make equally efficient use of our labor, our prior advantage on feed can be offset. Incidentally, in Delaware, they talked about barrels of corn instead of bushels.

Of outstanding importance is the development of dressing plants in the area. These are both co-operatives, and private or corporate owned. Their capacities will run up to 2,000 birds dressed per hour. Dressing equipment is being added to a number of the plants.

While going through these plants, I was impressed not only with their efficient on-the-line set up but also with the waste of by-products. In an area where the lack of protein feeds, it seemed most inconsistent to see an almost steady stream of rich blood pouring into the sewer. Some plants do have machinery for molting the feathers. Others are now making a feed food out of the entrails, heads and feet.

The eviscerating plants. Large scale dressing drives home the necessity of finding ways and means of making advantageous use of our by-products.

Among other impressions was the difference between the hatcheries of

the peninsula that I visited and those of Indiana. The hatcheries there had almost no office force. They do not need them. There is no mail order business to mention. Orders are made by for 10,000 to 40,000 chicks instead of for 100 to 500. Most of the chicks are sold on the basis that they will be paid for when two weeks old. Those that die before then don't count.

Commendable is the service of the Neppco Hatchery Division in putting and disseminating promptly the reports on the number of chicks started and the number of broilers that will be ready to market. This is an invaluable guide to producers, hatcheries and dressing plants.

Commendable also, is the work of the University of Delaware at their sub-station near Georgetown. There, in the heart of the broiler producing section, they carry on experimental work under conditions duplicating those found in the field.

Many of the practices followed by Indiana broiler raisers have been learned from the peninsula producers. Their practices have much to commend them, — deep litter, self-feed hoppers that work, automatic waterers, no heat, adequate cross ventilation in summer, — but just because something works in Delaware is no assurance that it should be followed here. On some things we may be able to teach them a thing or two.

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