

## 19 Years of Pedigreed Poultry Improvement Indiana U.S.R.O.P.

Clair Willows



Clair—or "Chab"—is one of the field men for the State Association. An Oklahoma A. & M. poultry graduate, Clair went directly into the show when he moved to the M. A. College. Clair worked at the Oklahoma Egg Laying Test where he had opportunity to work with birds from many different breeders. A good position was the Finance of the National. Clair knows his poultry and raises work—Any Size.

This is the 19th year for U. S. R. O. P. in Indiana—nineteen years of steady improvement by Indiana R. O. P. Breeders, improvement that has well passed those minimum standards begun 19 years ago, improvement that is still seeking to produce a better quality chick for the Poultry Industry.

"The purpose and objective of the Association shall be to produce better strain of poultry possessing an inherent ability to lay heavily and having superior meat qualities." Thus, these words taken from the constitution of the Indiana R. O. P. Poultry Breeders Association give you the standard sought by R. O. P. in Indiana. R. O. P. is the third of the four breeding stages of the National Poultry Improvement Plan.

The very best birds which a breeder has are the ones entered as candidates for ROP. These birds, usually wing-banded or pedigreed birds, are carefully selected from hundreds or thousands of pullets. This selection is based upon the appearance of the bird and her family background. Only superior individuals with excellent family records for hatchability, livability, fertility, growth and rapid feathering are banded as ROP candidates. These birds must be free from standard disqualifi-

cations and must be a true type representative of the breed.

All ROP candidates which make their record and are officially approved and banded are Indiana, USROP hens. The record which the birds must equal or better is to have laid 200 eggs their candidate year. The weight of these eggs must average 1 ounce each or 14 ounces per dozen. The body weight of the birds must be 3½ pounds on light breeds and 4½ pounds on heavy breeds. Before these birds are banded they are again checked for Standard disqualifications and breed characteristics.

A pedigreed male or a wing-banded male is not an ROP male. An ROP male is the offspring of an ROP hen and ROP male in single male matings, properly pedigreed and wing-banded and after reaching 6 months of age, is inspected, approved and officially banded. Each ROP male is carefully selected, usually on a family or record basis and must be free from standard disqualifications and be a true representative of breed and variety. Each ROP male shall be a healthy, vigorous bird possessing masculine traits denoting constitutional vigor.

ROM is the fourth breeding stage of NPIP—with these qualifications.

ROM female is an ROP bird that has 50% of her daughters entered in US ROP qualify for US ROP and a minimum of four that qualify.

An ROM male is an ROP male that has 50% of his daughters that are entered in US ROP qualify for US ROP with a minimum of 20 that qualify.

Again, as in the years past, ROP in Indiana continues to grow. More candidates are being entered in ROP. There is an increasing demand for ROP males to head breeding flocks. This demand is being met by Indiana ROP Breeders of White Leghorns, White Rocks, Barred Rocks and New Hampshire.

Indiana ROP breeders still continue producing birds capable of wearing a copper band—a band of quality.

The following chart shows the growth of ROP in Indiana:

	1928-29	1929-30	1930-31	1931-32	1932-33	1933-34	1934-35	1935-36	1936-37
No. ROP Breeders	11	11	11	11	11	11	11	11	11
No. Pullets Entered in ROP	11,245	11,245	16,877	13,711	18,570	18,570	18,570	18,570	25,400
No. Females Qualified as ROP	2,284	2,428	4,451	4,880	5,719	6,215	7,200		
No. Qualified ROP Females in Pen	1,970	2,215	4,264	4,307	4,664	4,622	4,768		
No. Qualified ROP Males	1,223	1,213	2,741	2,977	3,260	4,015	12,470		



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