

"Let's Talk Turkey"



Milton V. Fleck, Purdue Extension Poultryman. A native of Warrensville, Indiana, the "heart of the Hatchery Industry." Fleck, a Purdue grad, had two years turkey experience in Texas and Iowa before returning to Indiana to work for a large manufacturer of all kinds of home and poultry equipment. After five years in Canada, Agent work in Canada to Purdue to serve poultrymen's interests.

Have you ever taken time to figure just how much labor you could save in raising for your turkeys with the use of modern labor saving methods and devices? Also you feeding the turkey that will receive the top market grade when faltered and at the same time give you the most efficient gains?

Yes, there are some of the questions that every turkey grower will be required to answer during the next few years. We cannot expect the margins of profit to continue at the rate which has been in existence during the past several years. Turkey meat is no longer considered a luxury item just for the holiday season, therefore it will be necessary to compete with other meats. Turkey growers will be able to meet the competition too, because the turkey industry is in the hands of a small number of large commercial producers who have the advantages of mass production methods. This means then, that if

Indiana growers expect to compete with other areas, it will be necessary to employ all methods and practices which will make for increased efficiency.

What is Efficient Production?

Efficient turkey production means a well rounded program of good breeding, proper feeding, the best of management and quality marketing.

It is not the purpose of this article to answer your production problems, but rather to cause you to spend some time in analyzing your turkey program.

Good Breeding

Too many low quality poulters are still finding their way to Indiana farms. However, we have made great strides in Indiana during the past several years to overcome this handicap, thanks to turkey hatcheries with a good breeding and palarum control program.

A good quality poult is one that will live, make efficient gains and at the same time dress out to satisfy market demands. How many turkeys did you market out of each hundred poult started in 1946? Many Indiana growers are marketing 90% to 95% of all turkeys started, with 95% in the top grade at 26 weeks of age.

While it is a good idea to choose a breed that you like, it is also good business to select one that has strong market demand. During the past several years turkey producers have not been required to pay much attention to the consumer desires. When turkeys again become competitive with other meats it will be necessary to satisfy this demand.

There is a definite place in the future

Feeding and watering part of the U.S. 100 turkey growers on the farm of Jim Kellerman, Muscatine, Iowa, Sept. 1944. Courtesy, Dept. of Agr. Shows how feeders and waterers save and plenty of eating space and promote the best job of feeding. Large brown-drone, self-feeding, self-watering used to fill large troughs. Each feeding trough is built high enough to hold plenty of rough and water, and yet low enough for most turkeys during wet periods.

Turkey
Poult



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