

AROUND THE FARMS IN CHOWAN COUNTY

By C. W. OVERMAN, Chowan County Agent

Light Management for Laying Stock: We have been artificially lighting the laying house for many years. At first it was thought by poultrymen that the value of artificial light was that it gave the chicken more time to eat. Actually, light is beneficial because of the stimulation which it produces of the pituitary gland. This gland releases hormones necessary in the production of eggs.

Once production has started to peak (about 70-75 percent production), natural daylight or natural plus artificial light should provide at least 14 hours per day. Decreasing light produces slumps in egg production. Increasing light stimulates egg production.

For optimum production and to provide one-foot candle of light at the floor level, one 60-watt bulb with a reflector located seven feet above the floor space should be used. Dirt and for each 200 square feet of floor dust will drastically reduce the light output below the desired level. It is necessary to clean the fixture every two weeks to maintain adequate lighting.

Sufficient light should be reflected on all portions of the floor to stimulate the entire flock. In houses 36 feet wide, a row of lights should be placed down the center with a row 8 feet on either side of this center row. Space the bulbs approximately 16 feet apart in the rows. Place nests in an area that is not brightly lighted in the fringe areas of illumination. Place feeders and waterers in the well lighted areas.

Under this system, when the chicks arrive, the date when the pullets will be 22 weeks old must be determined. Using a table of daylight hours, figure the number of hours of natural daylight when the birds will be 22 weeks old. To this figure add seven hours. This latter figure is the hours of light given the chicks in the first week of brooding. The light period is reduced each week thereafter by 20 minutes until the 22nd week of age. Then the light period is increased 20 minutes each week until twenty hours of light is reached. The amount

of daily light is then held constant.

Crabgrass Control on Lawns: If you have a pretty lawn and want to fight crabgrass and win, here are some rules for the battle. First, make sure you are growing an adapted grass for your area. Consult your County Agricultural Agent or write for Bulletin No. 292, "Carolina Lawns". Second, make sure you are cutting your grass at the proper height and fertilizing it at the proper time. This information is also in the above bulletin. Now after doing these two things you may still have some crabgrass, but it can be controlled—even eliminated. Here is how:

In late March or early April, before crabgrass seed starts germinating (about corn planting time) apply a pre-emergence weed killer. Research work at State College shows that Simazine, Dacthal, Zytron, Trifluralin, give good control. Trifluralin gave the best control, but it is not commercially available this year. The next best was Dacthal. Dacthal, sold under various trade names, was applied at the rate of 10 lbs. of active material per acre. In two experiments it gave 92 and 82 per cent control of crabgrass at the end of six months. 2,4-D and Chlordane were much less effective than the three herbicides mentioned.

Simazine was applied at the rate of 2 lbs. active material per acre and gave effective crabgrass control for three to four months. After six months' time it was still providing 80 to 82 percent control. Zytron was applied at the rate of 20 lbs. of active material per acre, and at the end of six months gave 78 to 92 per cent control.

None of these chemicals damaged the existing grasses which were Bermuda, Zoysia and Fescue. Until further research is done it would be best to apply Simazine to Bermuda, Zoysia, and Fescue lawns only. Zytron can be applied to St. Augustine, Centipede and Bluegrass lawns in addition to Bermuda, Zoysia, and Fescue. Dacthal is safe to apply to Bermuda, Zoysia, Fescue, Bluegrass and Bentgrass.

The chemicals all gave around 80 percent control on annual broadleaved weeds.

You will, of course, have some crabgrass come through. This can be removed by hand or you can spray with disodium-methylarsenate. This material is sold under various trade names such as Sodar, Methar, DSMA and others. This material may temporarily discolor your sod, but it will soon recover and little damage is done to Bluegrass, Fescue, Zoysia, or Bermuda. Do not use this material on Centipede, Carpet, or St. Augustine grass. DSMA will also control in home plantings can be ob-

tained with a less complicated spray program than is required in commercial ones.

Home Fruit Sprays For Disease and Insect Control: Home growers who plant a few fruit trees, raspberries, grapes, blueberries, strawberries, etc., would like to produce fruit as pretty as that pictured in the catalog. Such is rarely accomplished. In fact, to produce disease and insect-free fruit of highest quality one would have to follow the same kind of exacting, complicated spray schedules required by commercial growers in producing fruit for market. However, fairly satisfactory results in home plantings can be ob-

tained with a less complicated spray program than is required in commercial ones.

Repeated applications of certain "all-purpose" spray mixtures should give a fair degree of control of most common diseases and insects that attack the fruit crops in the home plantings. One fairly effective and safe "all-purpose" mixture may be prepared as outlined below. These chemicals will not leave harmful residues, if used according to the label on the package.

Mixture: Captan 50% wettable Powder plus Methoxychlor

50% Wettable Powder, 3 table-spoonsful of each per gallon of water or 3 ounces of each per 10 gallons of water. Malathion 25% Wettable Powder, 4 table-spoonsful per gallon or 5 ounces per 10 gallons.

Ready-mixed commercial packages of these pesticides can be purchased under various brand names, or, the separate materials can be purchased and combined as listed above. In either case, read the labels on containers for content of ingredient and directions for use.

Spray all fruits every two weeks with the same mixture.

LACK OF STORAGE COSTS FARMERS MANY DOLLARS

Hundreds of dollars are lost by Chowan farmers each year due to the lack of adequate storage facilities.

Loans for purchase of storage bins and drying equipment are available through the local ASCS office. These loans are repayable in four annual installments for drying equipment. The interest rate for both types of loans is 4 percent.

TRY A HERALD CLASSIFIED

AT GREAT LAKES

Robert F. Privott, son of Mr. and Mrs. Carlton Privott of Rt. 1, Edenton, completed recruit training March 23, at the Naval Training Center, Great Lakes, Illinois.

The nine-week training includes instruction in such naval topics as seamanship, ordnance and gunnery, damage control and military customs and courtesies.

A full-dress parade and review before military officials and civilian dignitaries marked the end of the training period.

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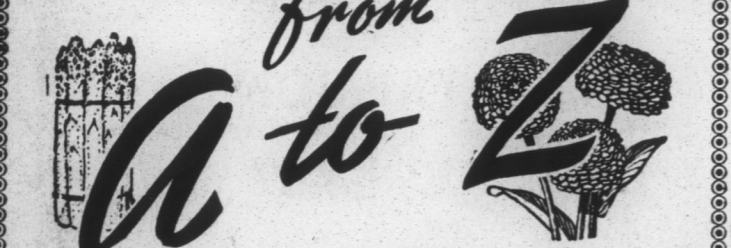


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