

Growth and Development Of Local Poultry Industry

Four Hatcheries Are Producing Many Chickens

By C. C. GAMBILL

The poultry industry in Wilkes county is growing by leaps and bounds and to one that has watched its progress for the last 15 years it is almost unbelievable to note the increase.

In 1929, we took over the Wilkes Hatchery and after making a thorough survey of the county, we could find only three properly constructed brooder houses with heat units, these, of course, were very small, the largest one being 12x14 feet. There was a scattering of small, fairly well built laying houses, but for the most part chickens roosted in barns, up in trees or in very small, poorly constructed unsanitary houses.

Mr. J. C. Henry, former owner and founder of the hatchery, had bought some good foundation stock and had a few very good flocks of Barred Rocks, and Rhode Island Reds. When we started out to find hens to supply eggs we canvassed this and three adjoining counties, taking on all flocks that the state inspector would pass. We tested flocks of only 30 birds and after we had tested all we could find in this and two adjoining counties, we found we had fifteen hundred breeders. We put in our first eggs in February and closed about May 20th. We hatched and sold thirty thousand chicks that season, and thought we had almost performed a miracle.

After we closed the hatchery for the season, we started a campaign to have brooder houses built. Brooder stoves sold high and for the most part the type in use at that time were unsatisfactory and dangerous. Most of them used kerosene.

Up to that time brooding chickens had rarely been profitable as the death rate was very high, often amounting to 50 per cent, or even more, of the chicks started, and people were slow to invest money that was considered at best an uncertain investment.

Secured from the Alabama College a blue print of a

home-made furnace that most any one could construct with brick or field stones, at a cost. If all materials had to be bought, at from \$2.50 to \$5.00. We went to the printer and had thousands of the cuts printed and mailed them to any and everybody we ever heard tell of. That fall, we attended all the surrounding county fairs, and carried a few painted chickens to draw attention. We distributed hundreds of the brooder plans, and we also had some brooder house plans to give out.

By the opening of the next hatching season we had succeeded in having 150 brooder houses erected in the local territory. That fall we had plenty of pullets to fill our machines with eggs. Each year since that time more and more chickens have been raised, five hatcheries now operate in the county that have around one hundred thousand tested breeders.

Four of these hatcheries will this year turn out half-million chicks each, and at this time cannot half supply the demand.

If the present trend continues, Wilkes county will be one of the largest poultry centers in the south.

Those that are in position to know and have gathered statistics say that income derived from poultry and eggs amounts to more than two million dollars per year. This year will double any previous year.

Poultry houses are springing up like mushrooms. As you travel about the country-side you can see them on every hand. The type of houses now being built are better than I have ever seen in any of the country I have visited.

Our geographical location makes Wilkes county an ideal poultry-growing section.

North Wilkesboro is, and has always been, one of the best poultry markets in the western part of the state. As the industry increases, buyers from a distance will be attracted by our supply.

With the new egg driving plant that will strengthen our market and use our local surplus of eggs, the poultry industry in Wilkes county faces a brighter future than ever before.

Costa Rica expects to produce this year 2,000 more tons of sugar than the record crop of 24,000 tons in 1942.

GAMBILL TELLS OF POULTRY GAINS



C. C. Gambill is shown here in a portion of The Wilkes Hatchery, a pioneer firm in the poultry business in Wilkes and which he has owned and successfully operated for many years. Mr. Gambill, one of the leading poultry authorities in this part of North Carolina, has produced many prize winning chickens for many fairs and expositions. An article on poultry progress in Wilkes accompanies this picture.

Late Mails Blamed on War; Hold Your Complaints Down

If you are not getting your letters and your newspapers on time complain as little as you possibly can. The Journal-Patriot, as all other papers, has felt the slowing up process, but postoffices cannot help in every case. Just blame it on the war.

It often happens that letters from Washington to New York or vice versa take two or three days. They use to take a little more than one.

The same applies to transcontinental mail; a letter from Kansas City, for instance, may take as long to get to New York as one from Los Angeles before Pearl Harbor.

At the Post Office Department, reasons given for delays are sum-

med up as:

"There's a war on." The nation's post offices have lost about 10 per cent of their men (including some of the most experienced) to the armed services. The department says it has asked for no draft deferments. Around 30,000 mail clerks, carriers and handlers have gone into the army or navy.

Meanwhile war has increased the mails. In 1942 the department figures it handled more than 30 billion pieces of mail. This was 881 million pieces more than in 1941.

Postmaster General Frank C. Walker indicates that practically all kinds of mail have increased, the only clear exception being third class mail, which includes certain types of catalogues and circulars. Mail order firms, he says, are sending out fewer of these.

First class mail—ordinary letters—is up about 10 per cent. Congressmen say government mail will exceed \$70,000,000 in postage value this year.

Mail trains are delayed by troop movements going all over the country. The army has taken some of the department's postal cars for army kitchens to serve these moving troops.

Train delays count heavily because in many cities deliveries have been cut down to one a day—so if the morning train gets in too late for the morning delivery, the whole mail is held up 24 hours.

Sorting, handling and carrying have been slowed because the crack men lost to the armed services have been replaced in most cases by novices.

Many women are becoming clerks and handlers, but there's no official encouragement to be found here for the idea of women mail carriers. The average pack weighs six pounds and holds 35 pounds of mail. A city carrier sometimes makes 500 calls a day, going up and down almost that many sets of steps. Women, officials say, can't stand up to such a grind as a rule.

Air mail is delayed, it is explained, because in the first place the armed services have taken roughly half the mail planes. Meanwhile there's been more than a 50 per cent increase in the amount of air mail to be handled. "The armed services have priority on all mail plane space, the ordinary air mails have to wait for the next plane or go by the quickest alternate route.

Postmaster General Walker says every effort is being made to keep mail service up to standard with the limited manpower and facilities available, but deliveries and collections have been cut.

Neither he nor any other postal official indicates any improvement is in sight.

"There's a war on," they say, and turn back to the job of making do what they have.

SOYBEANS GOAL IS 12 MILLION ACRES

Of the oilseed crops, the goal for soybeans is 12 million acres, and for peanuts 5 1-2 million acres. Most growers will plant the acreage of cotton permitted, producing about 1 1-4 billion pounds of cottonseed oil.

Students from Queen's university are helping with the mail during rush periods at the post office in Belfast, North Ireland.

PEANUTS PLAYING VITAL ROLE IN OUR WAR EFFORT

Atlanta, Ga. — The peanut, unrecognized as it was once regarded, is playing an important part in the war today. From emergency life-boat rations to emergency rations for munitions, peanuts and peanut products are being utilized thoroughly in amazing variety.

"Peanut production was doubled in 1942 to 3,100,000,000 pounds, answering the appeal of the Secretary of Agriculture, and a large portion of this all-time record crop, 'goes to war' directly and indirectly," according to Roy E. Parrish, president of the National Peanut Council, Inc., which sponsors National Peanut week.

PUT IN LIFEBOATS—Millions of pounds of peanuts have been exported in soups and other foods for lend-lease, and other millions of pounds have been purchased by the War Relocation Administration of the

U. S. Department of Agriculture to supply the vitamins in peanut butter to school children's lunches.

Fourteen pounds of peanuts are placed in British navy lifeboats as emergency rations, because raw peanuts contain all the requisites of the human system. War workers in this country are eating more and more peanuts and peanut products as housewives learn about the concentrated nutritive value, and peanut butter is a "regular" on the mess-table of Army camps.

FUEL FOR ENGINES—Scientific research is making the peanut important, and peanut oil, for example, is providing fuel and lubrication for Diesel engines. Peanut oil supplies glycerine for explosives.

As a substitute for olive oil, it is used in hospitals for massaging

patients; in medicine, it serves as a "carrier" for such drugs as adrenalin and bismuth. On our submarines, it is used as cooking oil because it gives off little smoke.

WORK AROUND CLOCK—In laboratories working around the clock, new uses are being devised for the humble "rocker." It is being tested now as a source of plastic material, and as a source of furfural, an ingredient of synthetic rubber.

From parts of the peanut come synthetic wool soap, insulation material, shortening, margarine, paper boats, and feed for livestock. Iron and steel foundries find a peanut product useful for polishing bearings, flanges, and castings.

MENDING CLOTHES WILL SAVE MONEY

Home economists urge regular mending, repairing and altering of the family's clothing. This results in actual money savings through the longer life of garments.



Victory Is In the Making! Food Is Needed

Without Food the War Would Be Lost!
LIBERTIES GIVEN UP AND FREEDOM FORGOTTEN! IT'S A SERIOUS MATTER THIS JOB OF WINNING THE WAR, AND THE EFFORTS OF MORE THAN 130 MILLION PEOPLE CAN DO A LOT TO SHORTEN THE CONFLICT AND SAVE THOUSANDS OF PRECIOUS LIVES THAT WOULD OTHERWISE BE LOST

Uncle Sam's Men MUST HAVE FOOD!

FOOD IS FIRST...
THE LIST OF "MUSTS" IN WAR EQUIPMENT, AND MOST OF US CAN PRODUCE SOMETHING TO EAT... EITHER ON OUR FARMS, OR MEANS JUST A BACKYARD GARDEN. BUT ALL WILL HELP IF WE PRODUCE PART OF WHAT WE CONSUME. THEN OUR FIGHTERS CAN HAVE MORE OF THE SURPLUS. IF YOU THINK SERIOUSLY, YOUR OWN CONSCIENCE WILL TELL YOU WHAT PART YOU CAN PLAY TO HELP WIN THE WAR.

BUY WAR BONDS AND STAMPS

Band Box Cleaners

S. B. Moore, Manager
Telephone No. 611 North Wilkesboro, N. C.



Where This Flag Flies— Victory Is Being Won!

And may it be recognized for its honor and integrity the world over! Our men fight with our allies, for world freedom, and we must give our best in some production of food and other essentials to win the war. We can all help in some way. Wilkes soil can and will be a valuable contribution to final victory.

Feed Our Fighting Men So They Can Fight to Victory!

Don't Forget to Take Care of Your Shoes—Have Us Rebuild Them And Save Cost of New Ones!

10th Street Shoe Shop

N. A. Howell, Prop.
TENTH STREET North Wilkesboro, N. C.