

POULTRY PROFIT NOTEBOOK

LICE AND MITES WANT YOUR EGG PROFITS!

It's true—these pests could cut your egg production by 5 to 10 per cent this summer—unless you take steps to prevent it. Such a profit loss could be highly critical now that egg prices are being squeezed even tighter.

Here are several excellent tips from poultry experts: First, make sure the laying house is constructed tightly enough to keep wild birds out. Mites are frequently carried from one flock to another by English sparrows that have a habit of lining their nests with chicken feathers.

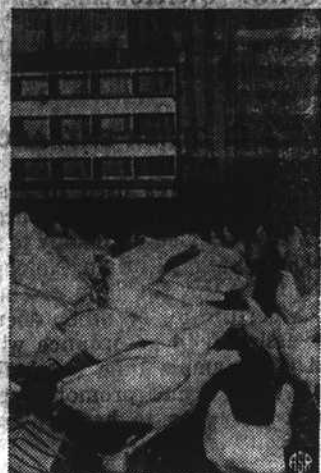
Second—check your flock at regular intervals. In looking for chicken mites, examine roosts, nests and crevices for mite eggs, skins and excreta which will appear as tiny black and white spots somewhat smaller than fly specks. Mites can be seen as tiny red spots moving over eggs in the nests.

You can spot the Northern fowl mite on infested birds that have soiled feathers and scab spots about the vent, neck and back. Tiny, dark-colored mites can be seen running on the skin of infested birds. Unlike the chicken mites, the Northern fowl mite spends its entire life on the bird. They are both blood suckers.

You may find any one of several species of lice attacking birds. The body louse is the most common, but you may also run into such species as the shaft louse, fluff louse, wing louse, head louse and others.

Your best defense against all these pests is to observe strict sanitation and to use corrective chemical treatment.

For Control in Buildings: Spray walls, roosts, and ceilings with an effective all-purpose insecticide such as malathion, using either the one pound 25 per cent wettable powder or three-quarters cup of 57 per cent emulsion in



three gallons of water, using one gallon of spray for 100 square feet of surface.

For Control on Poultry: Again, either spraying or dusting are equally effective when applied directly on poultry. Use about one gallon of malathion spray for each 100 birds, relying on one-half pound of 25 per cent wettable powder or one-quarter pint of 57 per cent emulsion for each three gallons of spray. Apply a second spray four weeks later. A 4 per cent dust of malathion can also be used effectively at a rate of one pound of dust for each 100 birds to be treated.

A chemical treatment program aimed at controlling lice and mites is just one more important detail of management that will pay off in bigger profits for you this summer.

Farmers May Want to Reconsider Plans for Sweet Potato Cutback

North Carolina farmers who had planned to reduce or omit sweet potato plantings this year may want to reconsider in view of prospects for a reduction in national acreage.

"It could be a good year to be in sweet potato production," comments Henry Covington, extension horticultural specialist at North Carolina State University.

Covington explains that it is normal for acreage to drop following a year when production is high and prices low. Last year was a relatively low price year. Reports of farmer intentions indicate that 1966 acreage will be down.

Tar Heel farmers are expected to plant about 21,000 acres, or 1,000 fewer than they plant-

To control aphids, lace bugs, spider mites (red spiders), etc. on azaleas, spireas, pyracanthas and other similar shrubs, use Malathion spray or dust, as suggested for strawberries.

This is a good time to treat your lawn for grubs, ants, and Japanese beetles (larva or worm stage.) Heptachlor, chlordane, and dieldrin are all effective controls for these pests. Use according to directions on the container.

If your lawn needs to be fed with a complete fertilizer, such as an 8-8-8, you can purchase a formulation containing one of the above named insecticides, thus accomplishing two purposes when applying.

Watch out for Japanese beetles in the adult (beetle) stage and knock them out as soon as they appear. Sevin is good; and safe.

ed last year. "No state is expected to plant more sweet potatoes than they had last year," Covington related.

New Jersey and Virginia join North Carolina as states where planting reductions are anticipated. Louisiana, Texas, Mississippi, and Georgia are expected to plant about the same acreage as a year ago.

The total U. S. acreage, based on grower intentions, will be around 200,600 acres. Last year it was 205,400.

Covington believes some farmers may be making a mistake by eliminating sweet potatoes from their farm. "A man shouldn't get in and out of sweet potato production year after year," the specialist said. "I believe a farmer will do better by staying with the crop, planting as much acreage as he can do a good job conditions were very favorable."

with." Commenting on the tradition of growers cutting acreage or going out of production following a poor year, Covington commented that, "Because prices were low in 1965 doesn't mean they will be low this year."

He added that last year's conditions may not be repeated, which could lead to lower national production. "Just about everybody had a good crop last year," he said. "Growing con-

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GARDEN TIME

by M. E. GARDNER
North Carolina State College

A snapbean grower in Cleveland County has been having trouble controlling rust on his plants. He has been using sulphur dust but thinks he can get better results by applying a fungicide as a spray.

I talked with Prof. J. C. Wells of the Department of Plant Pathology and he recommends Manzate as a spray instead of sulphur. Sulphur may cause leaf damage, if applied under high temperature conditions, which may reduce yields.

While a dusting program is very satisfactory for controlling pests on many plants, I have always felt spraying, if properly done, is more effective because a spray adheres longer to plant parts and is not as easily washed off by rains.

"What can I use to control insects and diseases attacking strawberry plants in my home garden?"

Here again you have a choice of using either a dust or a spray. I would suggest Captan for diseases and Malathion for insect control.

If you are not equipped to spray your plants, I would suggest 7.5 per cent Captan as a dust, and 4 per cent or 5 per cent Malathion.

If you are equipped to spray, you can use Captan, 50 per cent wettable powder, at the rate of 2 lbs. per 100 gallons of water, or two tablespoons per gallon; and Malathion, 57 per cent emulsifiable concentrate, at the rate of 1½ pints per 100 gallons of water or two teaspoons per gallon.

At least three days should elapse between the last application of malathion and the pick-

ing of the ripe fruit.


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