

Better Poultry In Arizona

National Poultry Improvement Plan Is Making Steady Progress in State

By W. R. VAN SANT

Continuous improvement of the poultry which farmers raise is necessary if the poultry industry is to maintain its place of importance in American agriculture and contribute its part to the national economy. This is a job not only for individual breeders and hatcherymen, but also for state and national organizations of such individuals, because there are many activities that must be handled by organized groups.

Official Agency

The Arizona Poultry Improvement Board is the result of such an organization and has been designated the official state agency by the Bureau of Animal Industry, United States Department of Agriculture, to supervise poultry improvement work under the National Poultry and Turkey Improvement Plans in Arizona.

Poultry improvement work began in the late '20's with the organization of the Arizona Accredited Hatchery Association. The organization carried on an improvement program with the hatcheries in the state.

In 1937 with the adoption of the National Poultry Improvement Plan, the Arizona Poultry Improvement Association was organized and functioned as the official state agency to supervise the National Poultry Improvement Plan. The program progressed with improvement in breeding and disease control for a period of nine years.

At the annual meeting in June 1946, the members of the Arizona Poultry Improvement Association voted to set up the Arizona Poultry Improvement Board as the official state agency to supervise the National Poultry and Turkey Improvement Plans in Arizona.

The members of the Arizona Poultry Improvement Board are from the

following groups: (1) a hatcheryman, (2) a R.O.P. breeder, (3) a chicken hatching egg supply flock owner, (4) a turkey hatching egg supply flock owner (one of the above four to be elected each year for a term of four years), (5) the Director of Agriculture Extension Service, University of Arizona, (6) the Animal Pathologist, University of Arizona, and (7) the Head of the Poultry Department, University of Arizona. (The last three to be permanent members of the Board)

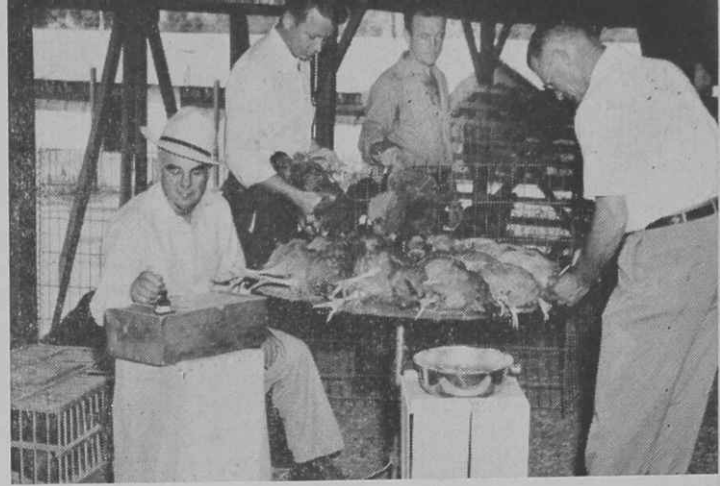
The objectives of this program are to improve the breeding for production and to reduce losses from pullorum disease, to identifying the quality of breeding stock, hatching eggs, and chicks by authorized terms that are uniform in all parts of the nation.

Four Breeding Stages

The National Plan provides for four breeding stages as follows: (1) U. S. Register of Merit (U. S. ROM) for the breeders in which males and females are progeny tested with production requirement for their daughters; (2) U. S. Record of Performance (U.S.R.O.P.) for the breeders with pedigree males and females meeting production requirements; (3) Certified (U.S.C.) for the commercial poultryman, the matings being U.S.R.O.P. males and selected females, and (4) U. S. Approved (U.S.Ap.) Selected males and females.

The National Plan provides for three Pullorum disease-control classes as follows: (1) U. S. Pullorum Clean (U.S.P.C.) All birds used as breeders are tested for Pullorum disease with no reactors in two consecutive tests not less than six months apart; (2) U. S. Pullorum Passed (U.S.P.P.) All birds used as breeders are tested for Pullorum disease with no reactors on last text; (3) U. S. Pullorum Controlled (U.S.P. Col.) All birds used as breeders are tested for Pullorum and less than 2 percent reactors on last test.

In 1949-50 there were 11 Arizona



Testing for Pullorum. Culls go into crate at left. Tested birds with no reaction to Pullorum are leg-banded and taken to laying house.

ON THE COVER is shown an example of trapnesting for egg-production records, for the Record of Performance (R.O.P.) breeding phase of the National Poultry Improvement Plan supervised by the Arizona Poultry Improvement Board.

hatcheries participating in the program, which is 44 percent of the estimated number of hatcheries in the state. The participating hatching capacity was 50 percent of the total estimated hatching capacity.

In 1949-50 there were 2 Pullorum Clean, 6 Pullorum Passed, and 3 Pullorum Controlled hatcheries participating in the program. This is the largest number of hatcheries participating in the higher Pullorum Phases since the beginning of the program.

In 1949-50 there were 3 hatcheries that were U. S. Certified, (The highest classification for a hatchery) participating in the program. This is the largest number of certified hatcheries to date.

The percentage of certified flocks has increased greatly in the last two years. This is an important step to increase the inherent production abilities of the laying flock. Also, there were more flocks mated with males from U. S. Certified and U.S.R.O.P. Candidate matings.

Fewer Reactors

There has been a decrease in the percentage of Pullorum reactors found in all breeding flocks producing hatching eggs. In 1935-36 there were 5 percent of the birds tested reacted to Pullorum, and in 1949-50 there were only 0.3 of 1 percent reacted.

The records show that the quality of baby chicks offered to Arizona Poultrymen has improved with more hatcheries and flocks being classified in the higher breeding stages and in the higher Pullorum Classes with less Pullorum reactors in the breeding flocks.

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