

Come and see the U of A's

# New Poultry Plant

M. W. Pasvogel

Poultry Department

Designed primarily as a research unit, the new U of A Poultry Experiment Station is dedicated to the investigation of breeding, feeding and management practices which will enable Arizona poultrymen to produce eggs and broilers more economically. Even the plan of construction used in the physical plant of the station is such that it can be adapted to any commercial broiler or laying operation.



**M. W. PASVOGEL** shows how birds are trapnetted from a center alleyway in the breeding house.

## Designed For Arizona

This is an Arizona poultry farm designed for Arizona conditions. Research will be directed to studying the requirements of poultry under conditions here in this state, and also to find the most economical and efficient ways of producing, preserving, and marketing eggs and poultry in Arizona. When eggs, for instance, can furnish a pound of protein at a price that is competitive with other protein foods, the housewife will buy more eggs. That means the job of the new Poultry Experiment Station is to see that those eggs can be produced economically.

Located on 18 acres of land, the modern research center is made up of five buildings and two growing ranges. A

feed mixing room is in the administration-laboratory building. Here all diets fed at the station are scientifically compounded, mixed, and bagged. Because of the large amount of eggs produced daily by hens used in the various experiments, a modern egg room has been constructed in the building. Eggs are mechanically graded and weighed, and then stored in a mechanically refrigerated walk-in storage room designed for conditions common to southern Arizona climate.

The hatchery and chick nutrition rooms also are located in this building. All replacement chicks, broiler chicks, and chicks used in nutritional studies are hatched here in three modern Jamesway incubators. Because of the scientific experiments being carried on, facilities have been installed to clean and sterilize all equipment after each hatch is taken off.

## Study Chick Nutrition

The chick nutrition room contains three starting batteries designed specifically for nutritional studies. Chicks on diet tests are kept in these batteries for four to five weeks. The studies being conducted concern nutrition principles that should be used in compounding rations used under Southwest conditions.

Laying operation management, breeding studies, and nutritional research will be conducted in the new laying house. Experimental work on a total of 900 birds in 18 different pens will include studies on egg shell texture, interior egg quality, egg production, and the feeding methods necessary to produce high-quality eggs.

The building also houses a 500-hen demonstration pen for a commercial, floor-managed laying operation. This unit is to be used for comparing floor and cage-managed systems of egg production under strict commercial conditions. The separate cage house, also to be operated under strict commercial laying operation conditions, holds 520 individual cages.

## To Pedigree Chicks

This comparative demonstration will give Arizona poultrymen an opportunity to view both systems in operation under commercial conditions common to Ari-



**THE** administration - laboratory building as seen from the highway. It is the center of poultry teaching and research on the farm.

zona. It will be the basis for accurately evaluating each of the systems, helping to increase efficiency of management in commercial operations throughout the state.

The new breeding house will enable the Poultry Department to pedigree all chicks produced. Facilities are such that all prospective dams are trapnetted and records kept of all eggs laid by each individual bird, and each family. Principle research planned for this unit concerns breeding studies to determine if a heat-tolerant strain of White Leghorns can be produced for Arizona conditions.

The eight-pen central brooding unit will serve a dual purpose. All flock replacement chicks will be brooded on the floor under gas or infra-red brooder stoves. These chicks are kept in the house for approximately eight weeks, and then are moved to range shelters on one of the two growing ranges. After replacement chicks are moved out, the brooder house will be used for broiler production research under Arizona conditions.

## Located Near Highway 84

The U of A Poultry Experiment Station is located at the north junction of U. S. Highway 84 and the Tucson Freeway. It is open to the public from 8 to 5 Monday through Friday.

**SHADED** range area below shows the range house, feeder, and waterer.

