

POULTRY INDUSTRY IN YAVAPAI COUNTY

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To people in other parts of Arizona, it is something of a surprise to learn of the development which has taken place in the poultry industry in Yavapai County within the past few years.

Viewing the situation from what I hope is an unbiased standpoint, I am inclined to believe that the progress which has been made is due very largely to the exceedingly efficient work of the Yavapai County Poultry Association. This association seems to have solved the problem of hitching up the so called fancy poultry industry with those who are maintaining poultry for production of eggs and poultry meat. Generally these two branches of the poultry industry do not team together in a very commendable manner, but in Yavapai County, it seems to be the exception. I found that the organization has two branches: one that caters to the breeders and encourages the poultry shows, while the other has succeeded in forming a marketing machine which has done some fine work for the commercial poultrymen. Yavapai County people work together in most things, and this poultry association has succeeded in getting co-operation from both branches of the industry.

Mr. E. L. Chase, who through his connection with the Arizona State Fair as Assistant Superintendent and as Superintendent of the Yavapai County poultry show, is quite well known throughout the state. He is the Yavapai County member of the Arizona State Poultry Federation, and I believe a great deal of the success which has attended the Poultry association in Yavapai county is due to the efforts of Mr. Chase. Mr. L. O. Tucker, President of the Association at the present time is doing some very effective work in helping out all branches of the poultry industry.

I was told by Mr. Tucker that there are some ten or twelve thousand laying hens in Yavapai county, - not all in the vicinity of Prescott, however, - a considerable number being across the range in the Verde Valley. However, a large percentage of all the producers belong to the association.

The method of handling the eggs is through dealers. Each member has his own personal number and stamps eggs with the association name and his individual number. These eggs are then marketed through the two dealers, each member selecting whichever dealer he prefers. They are graded and he is paid accordingly, on a graded basis. Members of the association are receiving about five cents a dozen above the wholesale market price in Phoenix, at this time. The association also promotes the use of association eggs by carrying advertisements in the publications of Yavapai county, calling attention to the superior quality of association eggs. These eggs, of course, are guaranteed, and there is a good healthy demand for the eggs. When eggs sell for about 30 cents a dozen a fund of one-half cent a dozen is reserved for advertising. This is the only cost to the members. This method of marketing makes it unnecessary to reserve any special amount for marketing expenses or sinking fund.

With a limited number of producers and the limited amount of the product, this plan adopted by the association has proved very satisfactory, and is instrumental in promoting the poultry industry. An annual show is held in the county, and the quality of birds is constantly improving.

I have been particularly impressed with the ~~very~~ ~~large~~ growing demands of Yavapai County producers for a branch of the State Poultry Experimental Station at Prescott Experimental Farm. This demand seems to be very reasonable, and as it could be carried on at a

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moderate cost, it would seem that the state would be justified in the small additional expense for such a branch. This would help to stimulate the interest in poultry to a much larger extent. Yavapai has some advantages for poultry, and at the same time conditions are quite different from what they are in the lower elevations. Several commercial farms in the vicinity of Prescott have demonstrated that poultry will pay, and we may expect that there will be a marked increase in the number of commercial farms in this section of Arizona within the next few years.

On the farm of Mr. Bert Tucker, some two miles out of Prescott, some very substantial buildings have been put up, and a new building is being built. Bert Tucker is the son of L. O. Tucker, President of the Association. He is now putting up a house about 20 x ~~20~~ feet, which ^{is similar to a house which} was built to be used as a brooder house or combination brooder and laying house. This is built with a cement floor and the construction is building paper on a studding covered with inch poultry mesh, and this plastered with cement plaster. This has proven very satisfactory. The front is built half open with sliding frames covered with canvas, which makes it possible to close it almost entirely. It has been found, in this climate, necessary to provide ventilation at the top and substantial ventilators are so arranged that they may be closed up during the coldest weather.

Mr. Tucker procured his birds, this season from Colorado, from a location of about the same elevation as Prescott, and has a very thrifty flock, which will go into the laying pens this Fall.

A neighbor of the Tucker's is Mr. Keith J. Howie, whose poultry plant, Hilcrest Ranch, adjoins the Tucker farm. Mr. Howie

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has been in the business a little longer, and has some of the finest breeding stock to be found in Arizona. This year he has been hatching from his own stock, the breeding flock being of the Richardson strain mated with cockerels from the Morgan-Tancred strain. These have produced some chicks which are thrifty and teeming with vitality. Although this is his first years experience, and there is a more or less general belief that eggs do not hatch as well in the higher altitudes, he has had hatches of 60 to 70 percent, and is raising a very large percentage of the chicks.

Mr. Howie is studying the poultry problem in all it's phases and is enthusiastic. Both Mr. Howie and his wife are working hard to build up a large flock. The success which has attended their efforts so far, does not make it difficult to fore-cast the success of the future, and we predict that this will become, in the near future, one of the best known flocks in the state. Mr. Howie has 26 pullets from the Morgan-Tancred ^{farm} ~~strain~~ which are being trap-nested. Several of these, up to May 20th, had gone past the 200 marke. He believes that at least 20 of these 26 pullets will qualify for the breeding pens next year, and they will be mated with high class cockerels direct from the Morgan-Tancred farms.

Mr. Howie, has after much thought, designed a combination breeding house and brooder house, which is proving to be very satisfactory. This house is 10 x 24 feet, divided into three pens 8 x 10 feet each. One of these pens has a capacity of three or four hundred day-old chicks, when used as a brooder. The pens are ideal size for a breeding flock of 15 to 25 birds. The floor is cement and canvas covered frames are used to regulate the front, making it possible to leave the front almost entirely open or closed

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as weather conditions indicate. Ventilators are provided somewhat similar to those used on the Tucker farm.

The location of both the Howie and Tucker farms is not only ideal for poultry, but picturesque in the extreme. Located on the gently rolling slopes of pine covered knolls, with intervals of fruit trees and open spaces where barley is planted for green feed, the scene is inspiring and at the same time idealistic, from a commercial standpoint, as well as from residential desirability. Water is easily developed and pumps and tanks on both places have made it easy to distribute the water all over the places, for use for the poultry, or for irrigation when necessary.

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