

INDUSTRY BOOSTED BY ANNUAL TURKEY SHOW

Development Of Improved Birds Noted

Advancement Pronounced Since First Show, in 1929; Top Honors in Nation Now Held By Broad Breasted Breed.

Organized in 1929, the Northwestern Turkey show has exerted a far more powerful influence upon the turkey industry than is realized by persons not closely associated with the history of the show. Year by year the quality of birds exhibited at Oakland has shown marked improvement, while Oregon birds entered in poultry shows in other

parts of the country have consistently won all top prizes, thus indicating that the birds shown at the Northwestern show are the world's finest.

Such was not the case when the turkey show first was conceived. J. C. Leedy, county agricultural agent, is credited with leading the way to the first show. At that time the county was being allotted a sum of money for county fair purposes, but as no fair was being conducted, the money was being used for roads.

Mr. Leedy called attention of farmers to this fact, together with the fact that the turkey industry, one of Douglas county's principal sources of income, needed aid.

First Show Had 256 Birds.

Meetings were held with leading turkey growers and the first show was planned and was held on the dates of December 13 and 14, 1929. Only 256 birds were exhibited and were judged by A. D. Walker.

The turkeys exhibited at that show would not be permitted in the barnyard of the average grower

today, but at that time were considered quite choice.

Growers exhibited great interest in that first show and picked up considerable information concerning the selection of birds for display purposes. Improvements were made with the thought in mind of carrying off prizes. When the second show was held on the dates of December 19 and 20, there was a very noticeable improvement in the quality of turkeys shown as well as in number. It was in 1930 that the first showing of dressed birds was held with only 39 on display. The dressed department was the plan of C. R. Dear, who later moved from the county, whereupon the management was taken over by T. B. Garrison, and this year was put in the hand of L. F. Stearns.

New Type Introduced.

It was through the Northwestern Turkey show that the broad breasted turkey, now recognized as the world's finest, first gained recognition. When this variety was first exhibited, the judges, having no standards covering this type of birds, refused to consider it in competition. Later, however, the rules were expanded, and the broad breasted turkey has consistently won top honors at all poultry shows in late years.

Because of the successes resulting from the Northwestern Turkey Show, the Oregon broad breasted turkey has been generally accepted throughout the nation as the leading bird for all purposes.

Breeding of these birds, however, can be conducted successfully only in the mild climate of Pacific coast areas and consequently the growers in California, Oregon and parts of Washington have the field practically without danger of competition from other sections.

Big Industry Built.

This has resulted in the past few years in the creation of a very large industry in breeding stock, eggs, poult, etc. Many growers are going into this department on a large scale rather than raising birds for meat.

Among the growers prominent in the breeding field is H. P. Griffith, chief judge in the live division of the turkey show, who recently moved to larger quarters at Sonoma, Calif., where he engages in the sale of eggs and breeding stock almost exclusively.

Through the Northwestern Tur-

Speaker at Annual Banquet



A plea for agricultural and other industries to provide additional sources of income was made by E. B. Mac Naughton of Portland, speaking at the annual Turkey show banquet. Mr. Mac Naughton paid high tribute to the show for its part in stimulating improvements in turkey growing in the state.

key show the production of turkeys has become a major industry rather than merely a side issue in diversified farming, and Oregon has been placed in the forefront in the production of high quality birds.

Canned Turkey Business Developed on Big Scale

A popular commercial exhibit at the Northwestern Turkey show, an exhibit which marks a rapidly growing industry, was made by Victor Baird, a resident of Oakland, who had a most attractive display of canned turkey in the windows of the room occupied by the dressed show.

Mr. Baird started canning turkey meat three years ago in a plant set up at his home. The demand developed rapidly and he got in a commercial canning outfit and has been producing about 40 cases daily. During the past summer, he reports, he canned and sold more than 19,000 pounds of turkey meat and the business still is growing.

The decorations at the high school gymnasium, where the Turkey show banquet and banquet were held, won high praise from dancers and others. The decorations were planned and placed by a group of high school boys who received no aid from faculty members or any adult advisers.

Upsets Highlight Award of Prizes For Top Turkeys

Several interesting upsets occurred in connection with this year's turkey show at Oakland, when new exhibitors and some who previously have not placed in the upper brackets came into prominence.

Jensen Brothers of Junction City, who have been exhibiting at the Oakland show for four or five years, but have failed to place in the higher prize lists, this year were among the top winners in the live utility division.

Another interesting upset was that provided by Mike O. Barick of Eugene. Mr. Barick has been successful in raising turkeys for only two years and this was his first exhibit at the Oakland show. He entered five birds one of which won second place among young toms, where the stiffest competition is to be found.

His daughter, Anna Barick, a student at University of Oregon, also was an exhibitor. She is a student in the university's physical education department.

Mr. Barick and his daughter each had five birds on display and plan to be back next year, the former declares, for more prizes.

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