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Massachusetts Chicken and Turkey Broiler Test, Inc., Records

1953-1959

1 box (0.5 linear feet)

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An early example of cooperative research between industry and academia, the Massachusetts Chicken and Turkey Broiler Test, Inc. was founded in 1954 to conduct tests to improve poultry productivity. Taking advantage of the professional skills of the staff and students in the Poultry Science Department at UMass Amherst, the Test facility was located adjacent to campus and over its five year course of operations, gathered scientific data on a number of variables, including rate of growth, rate of feathering, age of maturity, and egg production and hatchability.

The records of the Broiler Test consist of minutes, financial documents, correspondence, and test results.

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Background on Massachusetts Chicken and Turkey Broiler Test, Inc.

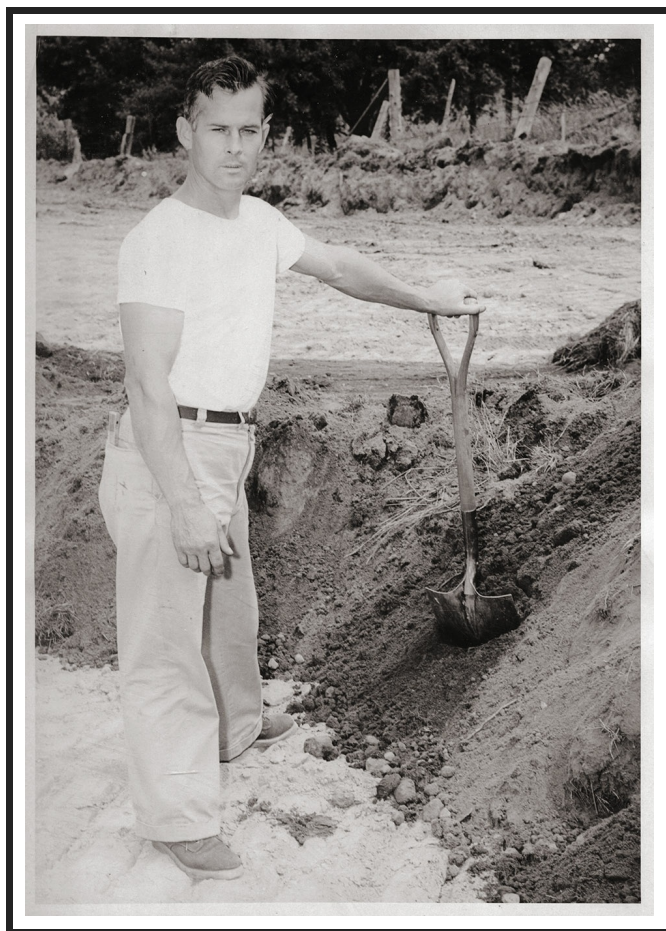
An early example of cooperation in research between industry and academia, the Massachusetts Chicken and Turkey Broiler Test, Inc., was first conceived in 1953 as the Chicken of Tomorrow Contest, drawing upon the professional expertise in poultry science among the faculty at the University of Massachusetts Amherst and applying it to the industry's goals of efficiency in production. With funding of almost \$5,000 from poultry industry sources covering near all of the costs, the Broiler Test committee purchased nearly six acres adjacent to UMass Amherst and a mortgage of \$12,000 enabled them to construct a modern test house designed by Thornton Stevens, the poultry plant manager, and constructed under the direction of UMass student, Terry B. Kinney. To achieve sustainability in operations, the committee planned to fund operations through the \$25 entry fees.

With construction of the test house completed during the summer 1954, the project got under way, with the first tests coming during the fall. During the five year course of the project, three chicken tests and one turkey test were conducted annually, with chicken tests lasting for ten weeks and turkeys lasting eleven, evaluating various breed combinations. At 24 weeks for hens and 26 for toms, all birds were evaluated for body weight, conformation, and finish "before and after dressing" at the Brocton Co-op. According to industry publicity, the testing succeeded in producing a notable improvement in growth and efficiency in both the chicken and turkey operations, "accomplished by vigorous selection on the part of breeders, superiority of rations, and sound poultry health programs."

With the research and testing considered complete and the Broiler Test shuttering its operations, the UMass Board of Trustees voted in Jan. 1959 to purchase the property adjoining the Tillson Poultry Farm on East Pleasant Street and equipment for \$14,000.

Scope of collection

The records of the Broiler Test consist of minutes, financial documents, correspondence, and test results.



Terry B. Kinney, poultry major, breaking ground for the Broiler Test, July 1954

Inventory

History

1953-1957

Folder 1

By-laws and incorporating records

ca.1954

Folder 2

Minutes

1953-1958

Folder 3

Financial records

1954-1960

Folder 4

Correspondence

1953 June-Dec.

Folder 5

Correspondence

1954 Jan.-May

Folder 6

Correspondence

1954 June-Dec.

Folder 7

Correspondence

1955 Feb.-Dec.

Folder 8

Correspondence

1956

Folder 9

Correspondence

1957 June-1959 Aug.

Folder 10

Announcements: test

1954-1958

Folder 11

List of entries

1953-1959

Folder 12

Entry blanks: chicken broiler test

1954-1955

Folder 13

Entry blanks: chicken broiler test

1957-1958

Folder 14

Entry blanks: turkey test

1955

Folder 15

Test result reports

1953-1958

Folder 16

Surveyor's drawing of test site, with specifications on test house

1954

Folder 17

Dedication announcement [event program]

1954 Oct. 22

Folder 18

News clippings: publicity

ca.1953-1954

Folder 19

Administrative information

Access

The collection is open for research.

Provenance

Gift of Thomas W. Fox, 1985.

Processing Information

Processed by I. Eliot Wentworth, July 2017.

Language:

English

Copyright and Use (More information)

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Search terms

Subjects

Chickens--Breeding

Poultry industry--Massachusetts

Turkeys--Breeding

University of Massachusetts Amherst. Department of Poultry Science

Contributors

Heiligmann, Carlos [main entry]

Genres and formats

Photographs

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