

AMERICAN POULTRY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Preserving the Poultry Industry of the Past, For the Future

The American Poultry Historical Society was organized in 1952. Its stated purpose was to identify and preserve the history of the development of the poultry industry in North America. This history is reflected in the Society's two books, *American Poultry History - 1823-1973* (now out of print) and *Volume II-1974-1993*. A third commemorative book on poultry history was published for the centennial celebration of the Poultry Science Association in 2008.

Every three years, APHS selects individuals for induction into the Poultry Industry Hall of Fame, which currently includes 99 Canadian and U.S. industry leaders representing organizational leaders, educators, and industry innovators from commercial companies.

The APHS displays representative samples of publications and equipment that reflect the development of North America's commercial poultry industry, and the Society's two books at the major U.S. industry conventions (the International Poultry Exposition in Atlanta and the Midwest Poultry Convention in St Paul) each year, plus other events when appropriate. Visitors are encouraged to join in the effort to collect and preserve such materials and to honor individuals who have contributed to the industry's progress. The APHS recognizes the contributions exhibition poultry and the fanciers made over the years, especially their role in the development of commercial poultry strains. This is reflected in the book chapter on Breeding. However, the focus is definitely on the commercial poultry industry.

The society receives and contributes published materials on the poultry industry to the National Agricultural Library in Beltsville, Maryland, and aids in getting these materials catalogued so they are accessible to interested parties at the library or through interlibrary loan.

The Society also promotes the preservation of poultry equipment used in the past. This would include a large variety of items. Unfortunately, we do not have a good place to keep and display these. Some items have been sent to the Smithsonian Institute (Washington, D.C.) and the National Agricultural Museum (Bonner Springs, Kansas). Both places have limited space, and the Smithsonian uses the items in rotating displays, so they are in storage the rest of the time. A number of our members also have their own collections. Some are related to their individual special interests (such as egg scales or crock waterers) and others are more general.

A third major effort to preserve the industry history is through interviews and voice recordings with older industry leaders. It is often easier to get people to talk about their memories from the past, than to have them provide a written record. The recordings are at the Voice Library at Michigan State University.

The annual meeting of the Society is held in conjunction with the International Poultry Exposition in Atlanta, in January. A summer meeting is usually held in conjunction with the Poultry Science Association meeting. A newsletter keeps members abreast of activities through the year.