

# KENTUCKY ELECTRIC CO-OP NEWS

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Successful usage has given stamp of approval . . .

**THIS ISSUE: *Brooding With Heat Lamps***



# **BROODING**

with

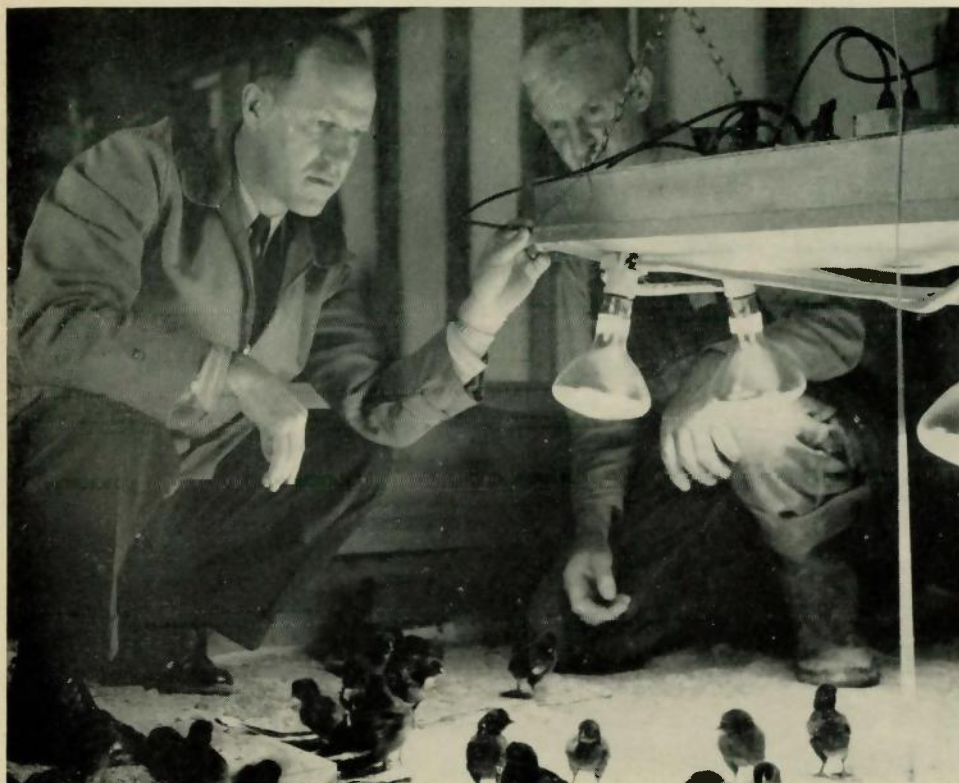
**Economical,**

**Practical**

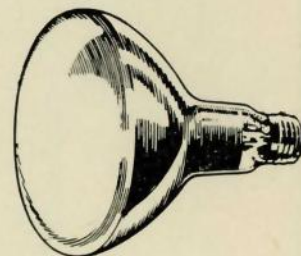
**Infrared**

**Heat**

**Lamps**



## ***The Latest Contribution by Science to Modern-Day Farming Should Interest —And Benefit—Kentucky's Farmers***



**T**HE latest innovation in a long series of better farming methods brought about by the advent of rural electricity concerns itself with brooding—be it chicks, lambs or pigs—and should prove a boon to the great majority of Kentucky farmers who rely heavily on the outcome of that all-important, winter-spring operation.

With electricity employed at almost every farm task from milking cows to cooking the family meal, it seemed that only time separated science from an answer to better brooding methods through the use of electric current.

Such was the case, and now a tested, proved, practical and profitable method has been developed. It employs infrared heat lamps and is well within the reach of every interested Kentucky farmer.

Infrared brooding is a technique whereby the chicks, lambs or pigs are raised and kept comfortable in the radiant energy supplied by infrared lamps, or, as they are more commonly called, heat lamps. These lamps supply a large amount and spread of heat and allow the broodlings to adapt themselves to their individual temperature requirements just as if they were out in the sunlight.

Actually, heat lamps and the usual incandescent light-

ing lamps are quite similar. The important differences are:

1. The more common heat lamps are larger than most of the usual lighting lamps. The usual size is 250 watts although they are available in 125-watt and 375-watt sizes. The cost ranges from \$1.25 to \$3.00.

2. Heat lamps give off less visible light than lighting lamps in proportion to the amount of electricity they use. For this reason it is not economical to use them for light. Some have red glass which still further reduces the amount of visible light they give off.

3. Heat lamps last much longer. Ordinary incandescent bulbs have an expected burning life of about 750 hours. Heat lamps have an expected burning life of 5,000 hours or longer. This is important in brooding because it decreases the chance of their burning out and leaving the chicks without heat.

4. Many heat lamps have reflectors built into them which aim the radiant energy in one direction. Ordinary lighting lamps and some heat lamps lack these reflectors and spread the radiant energy out in all directions.

5. Some heat lamps have a special glass which is less

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# Low Initial Cost Plus Economy Of Operation Puts Infrared Brooding Within Reach Of Every Farmer

(Continued from page 3)

likely to break if water is splashed on the glass while it is hot. Other heat lamps and the usual incandescent lighting lamps do not have this special glass and will break if water gets on them while they are hot.

AS is the case with any new method, the farmer must learn how to use it. Thousands of farmers have already tried brooding with heat lamps and found it entirely satisfactory. To be sure, there are many kinks to be ironed out and much new equipment to be developed; but, even at this early stage in its development the advantages offered by infrared brooding are so great as to make the method beneficial to most farmers.

While the types of brooding installations will vary with almost every user, there are certain distinct advantages that are common to the infrared technique no matter in what method it is employed. These are:

1. A low initial cost. For chicks, two or three of the 250 watt lamps will serve the average flock in even the most extreme weather, while one heat lamp will take care of every two lambs and should handle a single farrowing sow and her young. The wiring and installation costs are relatively inexpensive and represent a profitable economy measure.

2. Brooders that employ heat lamps are economical to operate. With adequate thermostatic or heat control, this method of brooding has proved no more costly than other brooding methods. Average cost in the case of chicks runs slightly over 1/6 cent per chick per day.

3. There is a definite decrease in the danger of brooding losses, especially in the case of chicks. The broodlings are always free to seek their own best comfort area and therefore there is little chance of overheating, crowding or smothering. And when heat lamps are used, the broodlings are in full view for checking at all times.

4. The labor and maintenance costs are decreased

when infrared brooding methods are employed. The litter is always dry and the brooder or pen can be cleaned easily by simply raising the lamps. It is a simple method to replace a broken or burned out bulb.

5. Automatic heat control. There are available, at a very nominal cost, automatic voltage regulators and thermostatic controls that will keep the heat even at all times and reduce operating costs to a minimum.

Automatic control is not a necessity, however, as heat can be controlled by raising or lowering the lamps and or by switching individual lamps off or on. Through experience, the farmer will be able to control heat by this method in even better fashion than he can on his present fuel-burning brooders.

6. With the use of infrared lamps, a brooder is completely flexible. There is easy installation for either large or small operations and with the wide variety of lamp sizes brooders can be adapted to virtually all weather and temperature requirements.

There are, of course, disadvantages to be found in this modern method of brooding. The newness of the system and the re-education of the farmer seem to be principal drawbacks. However, the greatest disadvantage will be found in the possibility that at one time or another, the electric current might fail. This can be remedied somewhat by having an off-current alarm in the wiring system and keeping a stand-by unit—such as a salamander or similar fuel burning heater—in readiness.

The greatest danger from a current outage would be in the case of chicks. Pigs and lambs can turn to their mothers whereas a chick will have no place to seek warmth. Since the lamps do give off a certain amount of light it means the chicks are in the light continuously and do not know darkness. In the case of an outage at night, there may be excessive fright with its subsequent damage, even though the chicks are not chilled.

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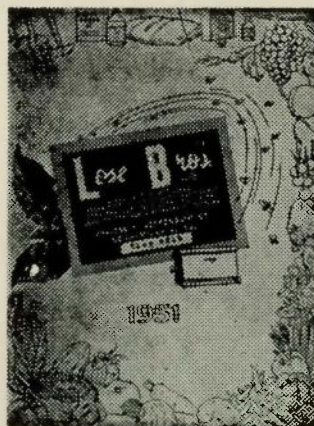
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## "Understanding Their Language" Important In Raising Sheep

(Continued from page 12)

at present prices, that means that a man raising lambs for sale should have a net profit in the amount of about \$30.00 per year for each breeding ewe.

Many ailments can befall sheep and one of the most common is worms . . . many kinds of worms. Besuden drenches his ewes twice each year (more often if necessary) and his lambs, if not sold by June, about once each month. In this respect, he points out that still another good reason for raising spring lambs and selling them before summer time is this matter of worms, which becomes far more prevalent during the mid-summer months. He has found that phenothiazine used singly or with arsenate of lead, or a mixture of bluestone and nicotine sulfate, are the best drenching mixtures for his purposes.

A mixture of phenothiazine and salt, already prepared in a ratio of 1-to-9 and consumed by mouth has proved effective in fighting worms.

Besuden relies on the "rubber-band" method of de-tailing and castration, bands which can be purchased commercially. He explained that castration isn't an absolute necessity for lambs sold for market but feels that such a practice makes for a better product.

**A**LTHOUGH Besuden's Vinewood Farm also accommodates 50-to-60-head of beef cattle and approximately 18-acres of tobacco as other major sources of income, it isn't hard to detect the genuine love and respect that Henry Besuden holds for his 450-head of sheep. And that feeling has either been inherited by or passed along to Mr. and Mrs. Besuden's oldest of two sons, Carlisle, who also is a champion showman (he recently won the Junior championship in singles at the "International" for the second time) and a 17-year-old version of a "good shepherd." The younger son is seven.

The senior Besuden, an athletically-built man of some 47-years, isn't much at telling the other fellow what to do from a dictatorial standpoint. He is happy, however, to pass along his own experiences when asked in hopes that others may profit thereby.

He recommends that any farmer thinking about going into the sheep business might do well to go in gradually. As a starter, Besuden thinks, a farmer might purchase a one-buck (25-ewe) flock and feel his way from there. Besuden does believe in the purebred-ram and cross-bred-ewe procedure for lambs raised for market and as the most reliable source of income. Southdowns, needless to say, are his favorites insofar as purebreds are concerned.

Besuden also feels that a farmer should really like sheep in order to be most successful at raising sheep.

"You might even say," he said as he stood in the middle of his large sheep barn explaining the various items mentioned above, "that a good shepherd should be able to 'speak their language.'"

It was at this point that a newly-born lamb came up to Besuden's side, nibbled at the cuff of his pants and walked over toward one of the smaller pens.

"That little fellow's mother didn't have any milk when he was born and I had to put him in the pen with the milk goat that we keep for such purposes," he explained. "Now he's telling me that he's hungry and wants back in with the goat."

"Yep," he concluded, "I really believe that a good shepherd must not only love 'em but must also understand their language."

We think that Henry Besuden does both.

## Heat Lamps Have Other Uses Besides Brooding

(Continued from page 13)

Other disadvantages found in ventilation problems and excessive moisture condensation are fast being remedied and will soon cause little worry to the farmer.

**I**N as far as the brooder itself is concerned, the units can be built by the farmer or purchased complete, whichever is the handiest. Ready-made brooders sell for anywhere from seven to 25 dollars depending on the number of lamps and type of heat control employed. A three lamp brooder, suitable for 250 chicks with no heat control outside of raising and lowering the unit retails at seven dollars. A six lamp unit with a 500 chick capacity and a thermostatic control sells at \$25.00. Heat can be controlled on some manufactured brooders by individual lamp switches. A unit such as this, with four lamps and suitable for 350 chicks, will cost about \$12.00.

Brooders using infrared lamps are easily built at home. It should be remembered to equip each lamp with an individual switch as this is the easiest method of heat control when thermostats are not used. The unit should also be equipped to hang by a pulley chain so that when



broodlings grow the lamps can be easily raised. This provides another method of heat control and also allows the brooder to be cleaned with the least effort.

Since 84 per cent of Kentucky's farmers raise chickens and chicks offer the biggest brooder problem, special efforts have been made to develop infrared brooding methods along these lines. Though not all the problems are solved, many of them are and thousands of farmers across the country have found chick brooding by the infrared method highly successful.

The brooding of lambs and pigs by this method is certainly as successful and slightly less hazardous.

Since both lambs and pigs represent a profit to the farmer only if he can bring them safely to the marketing age, good brooding methods are as essential to the livestock farmer as they are to the chicken farmer. Infrared brooding seems to provide the answer in all cases.

Infrared lamps in a properly constructed pig brooder will provide the necessary warmth for the little pigs and keep them safely out of danger of being rolled on and smothered by the sow. By placing a lamp over the sow and also one over the litter the danger of the sow eating one of the litter is also decreased.

**A**LTHOUGH a farmer may purchase infrared lamps to be used for brooding purposes, he will find that he has on hand a multi-use, convenient farm aid that can be put to any number of tasks.

After the brooding season, heat lamps may be used for drying new-born livestock, therapeutic heat in the case of livestock disease, or in supplementing heat in live-

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## ... Heat Lamps

(Continued from page 14)

stock pens and stalls.

The lamps may also be employed in poultry farming as they will provide both heat and light in the laying house, keep the litter dry and stop water and wet mash from freezing.

The lamps are also good at warming hotbeds and cold frames, germinating seeds and protecting choice plants from untimely frosts.

All of which further proves the economy of investment when brooding methods are modernized by the use of infrared heat lamps. A farmer not only invests in what is rapidly proving to be the most practical source of brooder heat but also in a convenience that can save much time and effort throughout the farm.

Considering all, it doesn't take too much to see that the infrared method of brooding is definitely a coming thing and well worth a try on any Kentucky farm.



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