

288 (POULTRY) BLACKOUT 16/12

LOCUST HATCHERY and Poultry Farms

PHONE 11F13

ROUTE 1 BOX 277

SCAPPOOSE, OREGON

December 10, 1941

Jerrold Owen
State Civilian Defense Co-ordinator
Salem, Oregon.

Honorable Sir:

Much has been said about black-out particularly in communities and larger centers of population along the entire coast line. That brings the question to mind, to what extent shall we in the rural parts of the country do to co-operate with others to facilitate in making a complete black-out?

It must be born in mind that all of the poultry farms and dairy farms are participating to a large extent in the defense program by producing more eggs and milk as requested. It also must be considered that the poultry, in order to produce to capacity at this time of year, must have about fourteen hours for a work day. That means that lights should be used in the poultry house preferably in the early morning hours commencing around four o'clock A.M.

The dairyman usually milks at four or five in the morning and at four or five in the evening, necessitating the use of lights.


Poultry and dairy cattle are largely creatures of habit and by upsetting their routine will cause their production to fall off materially. Being more familiar with poultry, I know from experience that hens will drop in their egg production from peak production to a bare minimum by cutting out lights and disturbing their routine and it takes a period of from three to six weeks after disturbance to bring them back to normalcy.

If necessary, in order to co-operate, it may be possible to use some sort of colored light to achieve the same purpose as the ordinary light now used; but, not being familiar with the theory of lighting am not able to say. It may be possible that those at the Oregon State College would be able to suggest some solution to this problem of lighting during a blackout.

Please advise whether we should continue as now with the use of our lights or whether we should try to use some colored lights to achieve the same purpose or whether lights should be eliminated. Keep in mind that we all wish to co-operate with the defense program by increasing our production and still we want to co-operate for the safety of all.

Your early response will be appreciated.

Yours very truly,


John A. Stimpson

[New Hampshire]
[BABY CHICKS]

MEMBER OREGON POULTRY IMPROVEMENT ASSOCIATION

December 11, 1941

Mr. John A. Stimpson
Locust Hatchery and Poultry Farms
Scappoose, Oregon

Dear Mr. Stimpson:

The problems of the poultry farmer and the dairy farmer are recognized by the State Defense Council and if it were possible to make an exception in the blackout program we would be only too happy to do so. Unfortunately, the Army orders are for a complete blackout and any lights, whether urban or in the rural districts, must not show during the period of precautionary blackout, else the entire purpose of the program would be defeated.

I realize that it is difficult to understand why an isolated dairy farm or poultry ranch would endanger the defense of metropolitan areas by leaving lights on during the period of a blackout. However, you will note by the papers this morning that a series of fires lit on the Olympic peninsula pointed direct to the city of Seattle. It is a favorite practice of fifth columnists, we are advised by the War Department, and has actually operated that way in Manila, to leave lights on in isolated farm dwelling in a pattern which might point to a military objective, a guide to planes flying overhead. I know this seems far fetched and impossible but there is no danger of such a thing happening if the orders for a complete blackout are observed throughout the rural districts

We are under military orders now and our own wishes cannot control. Accordingly, I am compelled to inform you that for the time being it will be necessary for no lights to show in poultry houses or dairy barns during the period of 1:30 a.m. to 7 a.m. so long as those hours are selected for the blackout by order of the Second Interceptor Command. The use of colored lights would not be satisfactory as they can be seen at a long distance. You may recall that Christmas tree lights, on outside fir trees, can be seen for miles and though blue is not as visible as some other color it still can be seen for quite a distance. Automobile headlights that are being masked today are permitted to have only a slit 3 inches wide and $\frac{1}{2}$ inch deep showing of blue cellophane or blue lacquer. This gives virtually no illumination but will prevent collisions.

It would appear that for the period of emergency it will be necessary for the poultry and dairy cattle to revise their habits, even though this should result in a reduction of egg production and the milk supply. We can only hope that increased production outside of the target areas of the Pacific Northwest may make up for the shortage that this program will entail.

As I mentioned, we regret the situation but are powerless to change the Army orders.

Very sincerely yours,

Jerrold Owen, State Defense Coordinator