

# Treated Grain Can Be Fed By Poultrymen

DAVIS, Yolo Co. — Petroleum base sprays, widely used in California to dry the foliage and seed of milo and other sorghum grains as an aid to harvesting, apparently have no detrimental effect on the grains as poultry feeds.

Research scientists of the poultry husbandry and food technology departments of the University of California at Davis have reached that conclusion after tests on both growth rates and meat flavor of chickens which have been fed herbicide treated feeds.

## Not Enough Remains

F. Howard Kratzer, associate professor of poultry husbandry in the college of agriculture, estimated it would be necessary for 2 per cent of the spray used to remain on the grain before the grain would be detrimental. That figure is based upon airplane spraying of a milo field at 160 pounds of compound per acre with a yield of 1,600 pounds per acre.

"If the treated grain composed 50 per cent of the poultry ration," he added, "there would be 0.1 per cent of the herbicide in the ration. Loss of the herbicide from the grain on storage and during use would lower the level still further."

Below the 0.1 per cent level, Kratzer reported, petroleum base herbicide in the feed had no depressing effect on growth of chicks.

## Flavor Not Affected

Flavor tests on fryers, directed by Elly Hinreiner of the department of food technology at Davis, showed no objectionable flavor in the meat of the birds which had been fed herbicides at up to 0.2 per cent for 22 days. The tests were made by a tasting panel of five persons, selected for ability to detect presence of the compound when it was added to chicken meat in as low amounts as 5 parts per million.

Value of the foliage killing spray, Kratzer explained, is that it permits combining milo fields considerably earlier than otherwise would be possible. Since milo so harvested may retain an odor of the herbicide, the experiments were undertaken to learn the effect, if any, on chickens fed the treated grain.