



**Growing Smart Chickens**



Clint Anderson spoke at the Treynor Optimist Club on January 23 about growing Smart Chickens. He has two chicken houses that have been in operation for one year.

Clint married Melissa Helbling 13 years ago. They have two children, ages 6 and 12. He works at Central Life Sciences, making

horse food.

Clint says he is the only Smart Chicken grower in the county, although several other people have expressed interest. His chicken barns are 43' by 510'. Each building holds 26,000 chickens and they arrive in a single semi with 52,000 chicks. They include pullets and roosters.

The buildings have 12 heaters hung from the ceiling and heat probes that hang about a foot off the floor. There is one division curtain in each building and it is used to restrict the chicks the first six days. The buildings are heated with natural gas. They are cooled with large swamp coolers.

They receive the chicks when they are 8 hours old and raise them for 50 days. Then he takes two weeks to clean and prepare the building for the next batch. Clint is paid by the pound for raising the chickens. The dead chickens are put in the manure pile. Clint sells the manure. He has a special attachment on the tractor to separate manure from good wood shavings when cleaning the building. He has a 10 year loan on the building and a 12 year contract with Smart Chicken.

Smart Chicken prefers the chickens at 6.02 pounds. Clint has averaged 7.5 pounds. The last batch he had to put the chickens on a diet after 48 days. The baby chicks are given a high protein meal to get them started. Then they switch to pellets.

The company supplies the food for the chickens. The send out a crew to load the 16 trucks when the chickens are ready for market. To catch them, Clint simply turns off the lights to the building and the workers can pick them up, using a red light on their helmet to see.

Clint has a 2%-3% mortality rate. He checks the barns for dead chickens three times daily. That also gets the chickens up (they are generally lazy), so they eat more and grow faster. It also releases the heat trapped by the chickens, keeping them from overheating.

A field guy from Smart Chicken visits about once a week. They use 3-4 inches of wood shavings for bedding. The company likes to have the chickens gain one pound for every two pounds of feed, but Clint has averaged 1.7-1.8 pounds of feed per pound of chicken.

One day something scared some of the full grown chickens and they fell over. They were too fat to get back up, so he and his wife spent several hours tipping them back up.

**Meeting Minutes**

John Klein opened the meeting on January 23 and led the pledge of allegiance. Ken Graham gave the opening prayer. Keith Denton, Ken Graham, and Dale Willenborg provided humor.

Bill Vorthmann brought biscuits and gravy again this week. The gravy was from scratch with sausage added. The club voted on whether last weeks or this weeks were better. Last weeks from a can won, partially because it is easier to make.

For bragging rights, Gary Gutttau and Bill Vorthmann because Iowa State beat a #1 team in basketball, the first time since January 14, 1957. Bill Vorthmann bought a cup in the auction for \$2.

The Zone meeting for January 16 was cancelled and will be combined with the regional meeting at Salem Methodist Church in Council Bluffs February 6, 9:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.

The JOOI Club is sponsoring "Coaches against Cancer" on Feb 5. They are also having a food drive Feb 7, Souper Bowl Sunday.

Caseys supplied 500 bags for the Can Kennel and will be recognized with a sign on the Can kennel.

Kirk Vorthmann won the 50/50 and Linda Danker won the attendance award, but did not collect. There were 16 members and one guest at the meeting..

**Calendar**

- Jan 27 Can Kennel Sorting for Jr/Sr. Prom-time 5:00 p.m.
- Feb 6 – Regional Optimist meeting at Salem Methodist Church
- Apr 3 – club breakfast fundraiser

**Birthdays**

- Jan 19 – Dennis White
- Feb 12 – Richard Vorthmann
- Feb 13 – Gary Funkhouser

**Anniversaries**

- Feb 6 – Jon & Debra Jacobsen
- Feb 23 – Richard & Luetta Vorthmann

**Speakers**

- Jan 30: "Poverty in Treynor? Say it Ain't So!" City Manager Kelly Groskurth will speak about poverty in Treynor.
- Feb 6: No speaker because of the Zone Meeting at Salem Methodist Church, 9:00-3:30
- Feb 13: Greg Forristall, Iowa State Representative from the 22nd District
- Feb 20: Bryce Poland, Treynor mayor
- Feb 27: Open

Mar 5: Mike Gronstal, Iowa State Senator representing the 8th District

Mar 26: Jeff Jorgensen, Pott. County Republican Committee Chairman

**Programs**

- Feb – Gary Funkhouser
- Mar – John Klein
- April – Chad Gutttau
- May – Gary Gutttau
- June – Dale Willenborg
- July – Jeff Jorgensen will take the first two. Last two open.
- Aug – Mick Gutttau
- Sept – Ken Graham
- Oct – Bill Vorthmann
- Nov – Judy Gutttau
- Dec - Chuck Nielsen

**Can Kennel Applications Pending**

- Iowa Ambassadors of Music-Heather Beam, 402-250-0366, Europe Trip 2016
- Music Boosters-Shoening-12/23/2015 – Request Aug or Sept