



*Read 14/2/83
Replied 15/2/83*

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In reply quote our Ref. No. 82/1980

14 JAN 1983

Mr. K. Fitzgibbon,
Secretary,
Commercial Egg Producers' Association
of Victoria;
STRATHFIELDSAYE. 3551

Dear Mr. Fitzgibbon,

Poultry Officer -
Bendigo District Centre

Thank you for your letter of December 20, 1982, requesting that the Department maintain a poultry officer at Bendigo.

I am pleased to note that the Association has been happy with the work of Mr. Evans. The Department has also recognised the work of Mr. Evans and has promoted him to a new position of Assistant Principal Officer, Poultry Industry Services. In his new role Mr. Evans will continue to be an important contributor to Departmental services to the poultry industry. In the longer term he will be located at Melbourne.

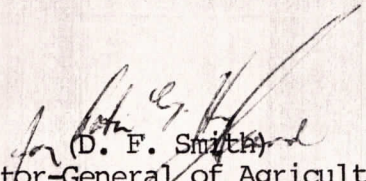
As your Association is aware, the Poultry Advisory Committee to the Minister of Agriculture, in co-operation with officers of the Department, is actively reviewing the needs of the poultry industry as a basis for the continued development of Departmental services. Constraints on total Departmental resources mean that our services to the poultry industry will be lessened unless the industry itself is able to make an increased contribution. I am pleased that the industry recognises this and is responding in a positive way.

I would welcome any comment from your Association about the particular needs of the poultry industry in north-central Victoria, to assist us in our review of services. It is important that any officer appointed to the Bendigo district is fully and effectively employed in projects to improve the efficiency of the poultry industry.

In 1982, the Department introduced a program to recruit graduates for training to fill positions of priority. The success of the first year encouraged us to continue the program and our 1983 program, which we are presently considering, includes a position for a District

Extension Officer (Poultry). If an appointment is able to be made, I look forward to the active co-operation of your Association and its members in developing an effective program of activities.

Yours faithfully,


(D. F. Smith)
Director-General of Agriculture