

# Robert Carroll Ogle

*March 28, 1889 — September 9, 1967*

Robert Carroll Ogle, Professor of Poultry Husbandry, Emeritus, served Cornell University and the poultry industry well for thirty-five years.

Professor Ogle was typical of many early extension specialists in that he had no formal training in his specialty. His early training and experience were in the fields of law and business administration and he was employed for several years in the offices of the Western Maryland Railroad in Baltimore, the city of his birth. He was forced to give up this employment because of an attack of tuberculosis. A year at the Trudeau Sanatorium at Saranac Lake, New York, resulted in the recovery of his health, but he was advised not to return to indoor work, and shortly thereafter he developed a commercial poultry farm in Rockland County. Professor Ogle was an innovator and soon developed a number of special fields in connection with his new enterprise, particularly in marketing. His successful management drew the attention of others, and he became a consultant to a number of large commercial poultry operations in nearby areas. Professor Ogle was a promoter and soon became active in the organization of several special and general farm organizations.

His activities and success in these efforts brought him to the attention of Professor J. E. Rice, then Head of the Poultry Department of Cornell, who hired him to supervise cost account projects and to do some extension teaching in the lower Hudson Valley and on Long Island. In 1924 he was appointed instructor and was transferred to Ithaca. In 1940 he became an Assistant Professor of Poultry Extension, Associate Professor in 1946, and Professor Emeritus in 1953.

Few in poultry extension work were more widely known than Bob Ogle. He was equally at home with the fanciers who devoted their time to the breeding and exhibition of standard bred poultry and with the poultryman whose primary interest was in economic returns. His services to the former were recognized in 1947 at the Boston Poultry Show when he received an award for outstanding contributions to the poultry industry. This was a rare recognition since the exhibition poultryman had little in common with the staff of the agricultural colleges where the emphasis was on economic aspects of the industry.

Professor Ogle served as a poultry specialist until 1931 when he was given the responsibility of developing and supervising two New York State Poultry Testing Stations, one at Horseheads and one at Stafford. With his

customary enthusiasm and attention to detail, he set out to make them two of the outstanding test stations in the country and in this he succeeded. He also served as poultry editor for several general agricultural journals.

In 1954, Professor Ogle felt the need of a new challenge and assumed the responsibility of revitalizing the extension program for young people, the 4-H educational endeavor. With his customary energy and enthusiasm, he devoted all his talents of organization and ingenuity to making it an outstanding success. It was a remarkable feat for a man who had spent all his career with adults to be able to make the transition that he did to working with youth. Professor Ogle developed a variety of teaching materials for the use of 4-H agents and volunteer leaders. The annual award trip to New York City, which he started, continues as an important part of the 4-H program with its emphasis on acquainting youth with employment opportunities in the poultry industry. Under his leadership 4-H poultry enrollment increased nearly 50 percent. In 1952, the Cornell Chapter of Epsilon Sigma Phi presented Professor Ogle with an Award of Merit for outstanding leadership in developing the extension youth program in poultry.

The extension leaders with whom he worked always spoke highly of his efforts and the results. He was active in regional programs, and the Northeastern Poultry Producers Council gave him special recognition for his extensive teaching work with adults and youth.

Professor Ogle is survived by six daughters, twenty-five grandchildren, one great grandchild, and a sister. Mrs. Ogle died in 1965.

*Robert C. Baker, Wilbur F. Pease, J. H. Bruckner*