

June 21, 1968

Professor M. C. Nesheim
Department of Poultry Science
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Ithaca, New York 14850

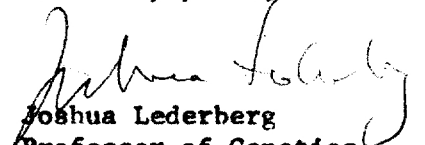
Dear Professor Nesheim:

I am writing to you to ask for more information about the selection of chicks capable of more or less efficient utilization of arginine. I have seen your paper in the Canadian Journal of Genetics for June 1966, and your abstract in Federation Proceedings in 1967. I would be grateful to you for reprints of your work on this subject, and particularly for references to any more recent findings, either from your own laboratory or elsewhere. I have been keeping my eyes open during the last twenty years for more explicit evidence of genetic variation in nutritional competence in higher organisms, and with the exception of your work with the chicks, have found almost nothing on it.

I have a more explicit, if highly speculative, question to ask you about your chick strains. Have you thought of looking at them for some indigenous viruses, say like the fowl pox that plays an interesting role in enhancing parthenogenesis in turkeys? (Olsen & Buss, Genetics 8/67).

There are some related questions that I could ask you, but they will be obvious if I indicate that I have in mind the sort of question that Stanfield Rogers raised in his article in Nature for December 10, 1966. If indigenous viruses are not in question, I could still ask you about the impact of vaccination, for example for fowlpox, on the nutritional behavior of your selected lines.

Sincerely yours,


Joshua Lederberg
Professor of Genetics

NEHEIM