

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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December 22, 1948

To S. F. Dorrance, Animal Industry

Re: Pheasants - Damage Claim

Mr. Milton Kimball was in my office today in regard to my ruling which your office had showed him, dated December 10th, relating to damage to poultry by wild animals.

Mr. Kimball assured me that he raised these pheasants for table use and that they were properly enclosed; that he has been in the custom for years of raising pheasants for table use and that all his birds are shipped for table use and not released as game birds.

That being the case, it is a matter of administration in your office whether or not you are going to recognize pheasants as poultry. Not being familiar with the raising of pheasants and not having had any experience, I feel that the raising of same for table use would place pheasants in the same category as ducks and pigeons, which would come within the definition of poultry, under the Fish and Game Act, which I cited in my previous memo. Partridge, grouse and pheasants are game birds; but if pheasants are used for the table only, it is a matter for your department to consider whether or not they are poultry, as you know more about the raising of pheasants than I do in this department.

I did not know the background of the raising of pheasants in the State of Maine until Mr. Kimball came to my office today.

Ralph W. Farris  
Attorney General

RWF:c