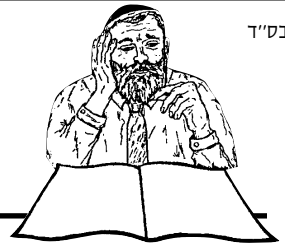


THE Daf HaKASHRUS



A MONTHLY NEWSLETTER FOR THE  RABBINIC FIELD REPRESENTATIVE

EGGS FROM WHITE LEGHORN CHICKENS ARE KOSHER

BY: RABBI ELIMELECH LEBOWITZ

RC-Egg industry

birds are considered to be kosher. [Nonetheless, due to the difficulty in identifying the non-kosher species, Rema Y.D. 82:3 rules that one may only eat those birds that have an established *mesorah* as being from a kosher species]. The Talmud (Chullin 59a and 65a) enumerates a number of specific characteristics to distinguish permitted and forbidden birds – the most crucial of which is that a *dores*, a predatory species of fowl, is not kosher. The Talmud clarifies that one characteristic of a *dores* is that it perches with two fingers on each side of the perch as opposed to kosher birds that place three fingers on one side of the perch and one on the other side. These rulings are codified in *Shulchan Aruch Y.D. 82:1-2*.

A number of years ago, the issue was raised in Israel that the White Leghorn breed of chicken – commonly used for egg laying – appears to perch in the 2-2 formation, which would seem to indicate that it is not kosher. The claim was made that although White Leghorns have been accepted as kosher for decades, breeding and genetic modification have effectively converted White Leghorns into a non-kosher breed. If this was true, the eggs laid by White Leghorns would also be non-kosher (see *Shulchan Aruch Y.D. 86:1*).

There is no substance to the recent rumors that the common White Leghorn chicken eggs are non-kosher. In fact, they are 100% kosher.

At the time, the issue was researched by the *Badatz* of the *Eidah HaChareidus of Yerushalayim*, in consultation with a Rabbinic expert in this issue, Rabbi C.Y. Cohen, and they concluded that there was no concern for the following reason.

As a rule, White Leghorns perch in the 3-1 formation and only resort to the 2-2 formation while in the process of settling onto a new perch or when they are forced to perch on a slippery stick,

A rumor recently circulated that many eggs are no longer kosher. In the opinion of the OU, there is no substance to these concerns. The following is a synopsis of the issues surrounding this matter.

The Torah lists 24 forbidden species of fowl and all other

crooked branch etc. The White Leghorn seemed to be uncomfortable and unsettled in the 2-2 formation which indicates that this position is unnatural and temporary. Similar patterns were observed in pigeons that are kosher birds that haven't been affected by genetic modification. In contrast, the researchers found that non-kosher birds regularly choose to perch in the 2-2 formation and seem quite comfortable and settled in that position. Based on this, the *Badatz* concluded that White Leghorns are considered to be a species that perches in the 3-1 formation and there is therefore no question that White Leghorns – and the eggs that come from them – are kosher.

Rumors about this issue resurfaced during the past few weeks. In response, a number of Israeli Rabbis involved in the original discussion issued letters confirming their decision that White Leghorns are a kosher species. An excerpt from one such letter, written by Rav Meir Brandsdorfer Shlita, a *Dayan* at the *Badatz* of the *Edah HaChareidus*, is reprinted below:

...מה שעומד בעיקר כעת לנגדנו הוא על מה שיצא הערעור שהוא חולק את רגליו שהוא מורה על סימני דריסה אשר לכאורה ריעותא גדולה היא, אמנם האמת יורה דרכו כי כבר לפני כמה שנים שבאו גם אצלינו הביד"צ דפה עיה"ק ירושת"ו לערער על זה כי העופות המטילות ביצים הם חולקים את רגליהם, ונכון הדבר כי בהשקפה הראשונה ששמענו מזה חששנו מאד וזוכרני כי הגאון הגדול הראב"ד מהרי"פ זצלה"ה חרד על זה כי שאלה נראה היא, אמנם למעשה יצאנו אז בכמה וכמה מקומות לברר בנידון זה ועשינו כמה וכמה מבחנים בזה והעמדנו אותם על חוט מתוח או חוט ברזל מעבה ונתברר לנו אם כי נכון הדבר שביני בניני עד שמתיישבים שפיר על החוט ישנם לפעמים שהם חולקים אצבעותיהם אמנם הדבר נראה וניכר שאינם עומדים ומיושבים היטב בבטיחות רק עם כל השלשה אצבעותיהם יחד ובדקנו גם בעופות הטמאים וראינו בזה הבדל גדול בין חלוקת רגליהם של עופות הטמאים שהם מסודרים היטב שנראה וניכר הוא שזהו טבעם אשר נבראו בזה, משא"כ בתרנגולים אלו דאפילו כשהם עומדים בחלוקת אצבעותיהם על חוט המתוח נראה וניכר בהם שאין עמידתם ביציבות ושאין זה עמידתם הטבעית אלא באקראי בעלמא עד שהם מתיישבים שפיר על עמדם כן ראינו בעינינו וכן נתברר לנו לאחר החקירה ודרישה בזה, ועל סמך זה החליטו הביד"צ שאין שום חשש בזה בעזה"ת.

In conclusion, a number of years ago the issue was raised as to whether White Leghorn chickens are kosher. At the time it was unanimously decided that those chickens, and the eggs laid by them, are kosher. As such, the OU Poskim agree that there is no substance to the recent rumors that the common White Leghorn chicken eggs are non-kosher. In fact, they are 100% kosher.

The Daf HaKashrus wishes you a פורים שמח!

SO WHERE ARE ALL THOSE ASTIRAS?

A Mashgiach's Inspiration

BY RABBI YAAKOV LUBAN
Executive Rabbinic Coordinator

wine compared to my father. For my father would scrutinize his property twice daily while I only scrutinize once a day.”

Neither I nor members of my *shiur* own fields. Still I searched for a *moser* that we could derive from this discussion. I suggested to my *shiur*, “Perhaps there is a lesson here about the importance of being cautious”.

I read further: דאמר שמואל: מאן דסייר נבסיה כל יומא. משכח אסתירא. *Shmuel was consistent with his own view, for Shmuel said, “One who scrutinizes his property each day, will find an astira.”* (An *astira* is a coin. *Rashi* explains that by inspecting the property one avoids potential financial loss, which is tantamount to finding money.)



I floated another idea. “I also think this teaches us to be consistent day after day.” In truth, I felt like פרעה listening to the unsatisfying interpretations of his dreams by his advisors. My suggestions didn’t click, and I was just groping in the dark.

I read on and suddenly the words of the *gemora* came to life. רב אסי הוה סייר נבסיה כל יומא. אמר: היכא ניהו כל הני אסתירי דמר Rav Assi would scrutinize his property each day. (Not finding any irregularity, he posed the following question.) He said, “Where are all those astiras that the master Shmuel spoke of?”

My mind raced back some 18 years ago. I was a young Rabbi in Edison, New Jersey, and was partially responsible for the local Kashrus. Each evening I would make my rounds and inspect the stores, after having spent a long day at the OU office in Manhattan. That particular evening I walked into the pizza shop and dutifully checked the ingredients. Everything was the same as it had always been before. The *cholor yisrael* cheese was neatly stacked in the cooler, and the vegetable oil, pickles and pizza sauce all bore the necessary symbols. It was not the first time that the thought crossed my mind. “Do I really have to visit so often and check so carefully. I’ve been here hundreds of times and nothing has ever changed. No doubt the next hundred inspections will be just as unproductive. Would the community not be better served if I spent my time in a more constructive fashion?”

Had I remembered the *gemora* at that time, I would have asked Rav Assi’s question. It captured perfectly the way I felt. היכא ניהו כל הני אסתירי דמר שמואל?

To my surprise, when I entered the stock room I found an irregularity. Nothing significant, but still a matter for concern. A number 10 can had no label. I questioned the owner.

“What’s in this unlabelled can?”

“Oh, just peas,” he responded.

“Okay, please open the can.”

I made a great find while delivering my Shabbos afternoon *shiur* in מסכת חולין דף ק”ה. We came across a piece of *gemora* that did not seem to have any relevant application.

אמר שמואל: אנא, להא מלתא. הלא בר חמרא לגבי אבא, דאילו אבא - הוה סייר נבסיה תרי זמני ביומא. ואנא לא סיירנא אלא חדא זמנא *Shmuel said, “With respect to this matter I am like vinegar which has fermented from*

It was plums. Apparently, he thought I wouldn’t approve the plums, so he had removed the label. Typically, one buys an entire case, and I was surprised that I could not find the other cans. The owner had an office across the street, and I decided to check there. Under the stairwell I noticed bags of garbage and upon investigation I discovered empty boxes of *treife* cheese. How the owner snuck the *treife* cheese into the store is another story, but it was a major scandal. *Boruch Hashem*, through *siyata dishmaya* this terrible situation came to an end.

I learned a powerful lesson. Never take things for granted. The end of the *gemora* captures this thought beautifully. יומא חד חזא צינורא דבדקא בארעיה, שקליה לגלימיה, כרכיה אותביה בגוה, רמא קלא אתו אינשי סכרוה, אשכחתינהו לכולהו איסתרי דמר שמואל. *One day Rav Assi saw a stream of water pouring forth onto his property from a crack in an irrigation canal. He took his cloak, rolled it up and placed it in the crack. He then shouted for help and people came and repaired the crack. Rav Assi then proclaimed, “I have found all the astiras of the master, Shmuel!”*

In essence, the relevant point of this *gemora* is that there are many areas in life where one must be vigilant. Human nature is such that we tend to be lulled into a false sense of security when things remain status quo over an extended period of time. In reality though, one never knows when situations will suddenly change. This is true with respect to property management (the case of the *gemora*), raising and being *mechanech* children, and even maintaining national security against terrorist attacks (the buzz word today is “vigilance”). But when I read the *gemora*, it hit home for me with respect to Kashrus supervision.

It’s easy to lose passion and enthusiasm when dealing with the same account for months and years, and never coming across a real problem.

In every field of human endeavor there are נסיונות. Being an RC or RFR has its own trials and tribulations. The *gemora* in *Chullin* reminds us not to fall into one of the pitfalls of our profession. It’s easy to lose passion and enthusiasm when dealing with the same account for months and years, and never coming across a real problem. It’s tempting, as a *Mashgiach*, to say הני כל הני אסתירי דמר שמואל after having made one hundred inspections and finding everything in order. But on those rare occasions that we discover irregularities and successfully avert a דרבנים, we are reminded how important it is to always be vigilant. We might even repeat the relevant words of Rav Assi: אשכחתינהו לכולהו איסתרי דמר שמואל!

בואכם לשלום...

to Rabbi Joseph Singer who is a musmach of RIETS with a MA from Brandeis University and who has served in pulpits in Malden, MA and Washington Heights, NY. We wish Rabbi Singer much success in filling the role of “Webbe Rebbe”, begun by the late Rabbi Zyshe Heschel Z”l, as he responds by email to Kashruth questions posed to the @ from around the globe.

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THE OU'S NEW "KOSHER STANDARD" VIDEO



The Orthodox Union has recently completed a new video presentation, "The Kosher Standard". This video is an overview of kosher related procedures and requirements as well as an outline of a basic management structure that will enhance the kosher program.

This video is a companion piece to "The Kosher Video", which was sent to © certified companies a few years ago. "The Kosher Video" explains the meaning of Kosher, while "The Kosher Standard" is a presentation of kosher requirements and management techniques.

In the next few weeks, the video will be sent to the corporate contact of all OU companies.

Both videos are perfect for in-house training seminars, and we hope that

the companies will show the videos to as wide an audience as possible.

If you, as an RFR, would like to deliver an in-house kosher seminar for companies that you visit, you may wish to develop your presentation around one or both videos. Please be in touch with your RC to discuss further, and we will be happy to send you copies of the video as needed.

All **RATNER'S SOUPS** produced by King Kold Frozen Foods, Chicago, IL are certified kosher pareve by the OU. "Chicken broth" was inadvertently listed on the ingredient panel instead of "imitation chicken broth". The products are, in fact, pareve.

The following **HANSEN'S NATURAL JUNIOR JUICE** box drinks are certified by the OU. Apple Berry, Apple Grape, Apple Juice, Fruit Punch, Mixed Fruit, Orange Twist and White Grape. The Apple Grape and White Grape products contain OU approved Kosher white grape concentrate. The © at present is not included in the graphics on some of the above individual box drinks. However, the letters OU can be found video jetted as part of the production code on top of the container where it says "Best when used by...". The © can be found on the J. Board of the 12 pack (i.e. display board in the form of the letter "J"). When new packaging is fully developed the © logo will be placed on all of the above individual box drinks. Some new packaging already exists bearing the © logo.

MAZAL TOV TO ...

our devoted RC, **RABBI AVROHOM GORDIMER AND HIS WIFE** on the birth and Bris of their son Yosef Eliyahu.

our dedicated RFR in Santa Barbara, CA **RABBI YOSEF LOSCHAK AND HIS WIFE** on the engagement of their daughter Shterna to Rabbi Zalman Kudan of Albany, NY.

our devoted RFR in Lakewood, NJ **RABBI REUVEN KRUPENIA AND HIS WIFE** on the birth of their daughter Esther.

our devoted secretary **FRAIDA BAILA THURM** on her engagement to Ezra Rahbaran from Baltimore, MD.

our conscientious RC **RABBI DAVID GORELIK, HIS WIFE AND FAMILY** on the Bar Mitzvah of their son Eliezer Tuvia.

our dedicated Rabbinic Coordinator **RABBI HERBERT FRISCH AND HIS WIFE** on the engagement of their daughter Sharon to Prof. Richard (Yerachmiel HaKohen) Buck of Baltimore, MD.

our dedicated RFR in Louisville, KY **RABBI AVROHOM LITVIN AND HIS WIFE** on the birth of their daughter Rivkah Esther.

our devoted RFR in Syracuse, NY **RABBI EVAN SHORE AND HIS WIFE** on the engagement of their son Dov to Becca Goodman of Yerushalayim.

CONDOLENCES TO...

our devoted Rabbinic Coordinator **RABBI SHMUEL SINGER AND FAMILY** on the recent loss of his father Mr. Joseph Singer Z'l of Bronx, NY.

our dedicated Rabbinic Coordinator **RABBI DOVID ROCKOVE AND FAMILY** on the recent loss of his mother Mrs. Evelyn Rockove O'h of Detroit/Jerusalem, Israel.

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