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Cooperative Extension
University of California -
Bldg. 4, 5555 Overland Ave.
San Diego, California 92123

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1977 POULTRY EGG COST STUDY San Diego County, California

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Prepared and compiled by Farm Advisor Robert H. Adolph
Cooperative Extension Service
In cooperation with San Diego County Poultry Egg Industry

This study includes production of 735,577 average laying hens over six months of age on 12 ranches in San Diego County

This study is conducted by the Cooperative Extension Service, University of California, in San Diego County. The results of this study cannot be considered as representative of this area. The results are from a group of specialized egg producing ranches with flock sizes varying from 20,000 layers per ranch to 200,000 layers with an average of 61,298 laying hens over six months of age per ranch.

The 12 cooperators in this study supplied monthly reports of their results for the year of 1977 for the purpose of comparing and evaluating their results. The overall results are published so that former cooperators and others in San Diego County may compare and evaluate their own records with the study results.

COSTS OF PRODUCTION. 1977 net costs per dozen was 40.9¢ for all eggs sold wholesale "nest run" at the ranch. Feed costs for layers was 26.2¢ per dozen, or 64% of total costs. Net cost of replacement laying stock was 7.6¢ per dozen. The balance of costs per dozen included labor 2.1¢, and miscellaneous cash 1.6¢, depreciation 1.2¢, interest 1.2¢, and management 1.0¢. Income from culls of 0.7¢ per dozen was credited to replacement cost. Income from manure averaged 5¢ per hen was credited to miscellaneous costs of supplies and services.

Cooperator with the lowest cost produced eggs for 38.3¢ per dozen. The highest cost cooperator had a cost of 44.7¢ per dozen. This resulted in a 6.4¢ range from the high to the low. The average cost was 40.9¢ per dozen.

Income per dozen eggs averaged 44.9¢ F.O.B. ranch "nest run" dealer sized and graded basis. There were differences in average price received due to differences in egg price during the year and differences in grade-out for size and quality. The average price paid for all eggs averaged about 5¢ per dozen under the large egg wholesale paying price for the year.

The average net profit was 4.0¢ per dozen compared to 1976 of 7.1¢ profit per dozen. 1976 was preceded by two loss year averages of -1.2¢ per dozen in 1975 and -4.3¢ in 1974. 1973 had the highest profit level of 7.2¢ per dozen of the last 10 years. During the last 10 years there have been 5 loss years and 5 profit years with an average profit of +.17¢ per hen or +0.8¢ per dozen eggs produced. Profit, as considered in this study, is egg income above costs for feed, replacement, labor, cash costs, interest, depreciation and management. Culls and manure sales are credited to costs to obtain net profit or loss for eggs produced.

HOUSING AND EQUIPMENT. Mostly open type, truss construction, metal roof, with curtains or lath siding. During winter, most houses have an added plastic cover over lath to retain warmth in poultry housing. It is considered that closing the houses during the winter months helps to save on feed energy requirements. None of the ranches in this year's study had forced air ventilation. Feed is located on front of back-to-back cages and water located in center. Layers were fed with electric carts and mechanical feeders. All ranches had 16- or 18-inch deep cages with varying widths of 12, 16, or 24 inches. Birds were housed usually with four inches feed space frontage per bird. At housing time young pullets are often housed at 10% to 30% over the usual rate.

REPLACEMENTS. For the purpose of record keeping pullets are added to the laying flock at six months of age. Generally they are housed for laying at 20 weeks. All eggs produced were considered as being produced by the laying flock. Egg farms in study had multi-aged hens and replaced pullets up to eight times during the year. The average number of pullets (hens 6-18 months old) was 67% of total hens on hand. Replacements during the year varied from 0 to 99% with the study average of 66% annual rate.

MANAGEMENT AS A COST OF PRODUCTION. One cent per dozen was charged as a management cost of production to cover hours of labor required to maintain the operation other than regular chore labor of care, feeding and gathering eggs. Poultrymen growing their own replacements have a 10¢ per pullet management charge added to their costs of replacement.

TABLE I. AVERAGES RESULTS PER DOZEN EGGS AND PER AVERAGE HEN
Average results for the five individual years of 1973 to 1977 with a five year average are presented. Costs and income are calculated on the basis of per dozen eggs produced and per hen year (365 hen days) for all hens on hand 6 months or older.

TABLE II. FLOCK AVERAGES OF MORTALITY, CULL, ADDED, FEED AND FEED RATIOS
Flock averages of Mortality, Cull, Added, Feed and Feed Ratios for the 1973-1977 individual years with a five year average are included.

TABLE III. SUMMARY COSTS OF PRODUCTION.
Summary Costs of Production comparing feed and replacement costs versus all other costs. Five individual years (1973-1977) and a five year average.

TABLE IV. SUMMARY COSTS AND INCOME 1977 RANCH AVERAGE COMPARISONS
Comparisons of producers in 1977 study of Mortality, Cull, Added, Production and Feed for the Top 3, Top 6, Bottom 6, and Bottom 3.

TABLE V. COMPARISONS OF PRODUCERS IN 1977 STUDY FOR MORTALITY, CULL, ADDED, PRODUCTION & FEED
Summary costs and income 1977 ranch average for the Top 3, Top 6, Bottom 6, Bottom 3 results are compared.

TABLES: A & B - 29 YEAR SUMMARY EGG COST STUDY 1949 - 1977 INCLUSIVE

The 29 year summary presents a review of many changes, which have taken place within the industry not only in San Diego County, but also among commercial egg production ranchers in Southern California.

(Conclusions: page 10)

SAN DIEGO EGG COST STUDY

1973 to 1977 Incl. and 5 Year Average

TABLE 1.

AVERAGE RESULTS PER DOZEN EGGS PRODUCED						
	1973	1974	1975	1976	1977	5 Year Average
Feed Layers Only	26.9¢	29.6¢	29.5¢	28.4¢	26.2¢	28.1¢
Feed Cost Replacements	2.7	3.0	4.4	3.5	4.0	3.5
Replacement Chicks & Started Pullets	6.3	2.7	1.2	3.1	3.8	3.4
Supplies, Taxes, Utilities, Misc., Layers & Replacements	1.5	1.5	1.5	1.7	1.8	1.6
All Labor Costs for Layers and Replacements	2.2	2.2	2.2	2.2	2.3	2.2
Stock Inventory Value + Charge - Credit	-2.2	+2.5	+0.7	0.0	-0.5	+0.1
Cull & Manure Sales Credit	-1.8	-0.5	-0.6	-1.0	-0.7	-0.9
Net Cash Cost	35.6¢	41.0¢	38.9¢	37.9¢	36.9¢	38.0¢
Depreciation 15% Average Value of Buildings & Equipment	1.2	1.4	1.5	1.4	1.3	1.4
Interest 8% on Land, Stock & Average Value of Buildings and Equipment	1.4	1.6	1.5	1.4	1.4	1.5
Management Per Dozen (hens & pullets raised)	1.3	1.3	1.3	1.2	1.3	1.3
Net Cost of Production per Dozen Eggs	39.5¢	45.3¢	43.2¢	41.9¢	40.9¢	42.2¢
Income per Dozen Eggs	46.7	41.0	42.0	49.0	44.9	44.7
Profit per Dozen	+ 7.2¢	- 4.3¢	- 1.2¢	+ 7.1¢	+ 4.0¢	+ 2.5¢
RESULTS PER AVERAGE LAYER (365 hen days)						
Feed Layers Only	\$5.10	\$5.63	\$5.72	\$5.45	\$5.37	\$5.46
Feed for Replacements	.51	.57	.85	.68	.83	.69
Replacement Chicks, Started Pullets	1.20	.51	.23	.59	.62	.63
Supplies, Taxes, Utilities, Misc.	.28	.29	.29	.32	.37	.31
Labor - Hired	.40	.43	.42	.41	.46	.43
Stock Inventory Value + Charge - Credit	- .42	+ .47	+ .14	+ .01	- .10	+ .02
Cull & Manure Sales Credit	- .34	- .09	- .11	- .19	- .15	- .15
NET CASH COST	\$6.73	\$7.81	\$7.54	\$7.27	\$7.57	\$7.39
Depreciation 15% Average Value of Buildings & Equipment	.22	.26	.29	.26	.27	.26
Interest 8% on Land, Stock and Average Value of Buildings and Equipment	.26	.31	.30	.27	.28	.28
Management per Hen (incl. pullets raised)	.25	.25	.24	.23	.26	.25
Total Cost per Hen	\$7.47	\$8.63	\$8.37	\$8.03	\$8.38	\$8.18
Egg Income per Hen	\$8.83	\$7.80	\$8.13	\$9.40	\$9.21	\$8.68
Net Profit + or -per Hen	+\$1.36	-\$.83	-\$.24	+\$1.37	+\$.83	+\$.50

FLOCK AVERAGES OF MORTALITY, CULL, ADDED,

FEED AND FEED RATIOS

FIVE YEAR AVERAGES 1973 - 1977 INCLUSIVE*

TABLE II.

	1973	1974	1975	1976	1977	5 Year Average
% Av. Flock 6 months and older						
Mortality	16	15	13	13	13	14
Cull	66	37	43	38	51	47
Mortality & Cull	82	52	56	51	64	61
Added	78	50	55	52	66	60
% Mortality Loss of Chicks to 6 months of age	9	9	7	8	7	8
Cull Income each	\$.51	\$.26	\$.21	\$.32	\$.30	\$.32
Size Flock	58106	64249	48537	72791	61298	60996
% Flock on Hand						
Pullets	57	68	56	51	67	62
Egg Production						
Per Layer	227	228	232	230	246	233
Dozen per Layer	18.9	19.0	19.4	19.2	20.5	19.4
% Production	62	63	64	63	67	64
% Extra Large						
Large AA or A	68	70	76	74	73	72
Pounds Feed						
All including replacements	99	96	106	96	99	99
Per Layer only	90	87	93	86	87	89
Feed Ratio						
All including replacements	5.2	5.0	5.5	5.0	4.8	5.1
Per Layer only	4.8	4.6	4.8	4.5	4.2	4.6
Cost Feed per 100 lbs.	\$5.68	\$6.49	\$6.19	\$6.37	\$6.24	\$6.19
% Started Pullets of Total Added	67	39	5	42	48	40

* Hens added to laying flock six months of age.

SUMMARY COSTS OF PRODUCTION
COMPARING FEED AND REPLACEMENT COSTS
VERSUS ALL OTHER COSTS

TABLE III.

Cents/Per Dozen Results	1973	1974	1975	1976	1977	5 Year Average
Feed Cost Layers Only	26.9¢	29.6¢	29.5¢	28.4¢	26.2¢	28.1¢
Net Replacement Cost to 6 Months *	5.9	8.6	6.9	6.6	7.6	7.1
Total Feed and Replacement Cost	32.8	38.2	36.4	35.0	33.8	35.2
Labor Cost Layers Only	2.0	2.0	1.9	2.0	2.1	2.0
Miscellaneous Cash Layers Only	1.3	1.3	1.3	1.3	1.6	1.4
Depreciation 15% Layers Only	1.1	1.3	1.3	1.3	1.2	1.3
Interest 8% Layers Only	1.3	1.5	1.3	1.3	1.2	1.3
Management 1¢ per Dozen	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0
Total all other Costs	6.7	7.1	6.8	6.9	7.1	7.0
Total Net ¢ Cost per Dozen	39.5	45.3	43.2	41.9	40.9	42.2
Wholesale only Income per Dozen eggs	46.7	41.0	42.0	49.0	44.9	44.7
Profit + or - (per dozen eggs)	+ 7.2	- 4.3	- 1.2	+ 7.1	+ 4.0	+ 2.5

* Net replacement cost per dozen: Total of chick or started pullet cost, feed, miscellaneous, cash, labor, depreciation, interest, management 10¢ per pullet chick raised, plus or minus difference in stock inventory value, less cull and manure income divided by dozens produced = Net replacement cost per dozen analysis based on replacement cost to 6 months of age.

SUMMARY COSTS AND INCOME
1977 Ranch Average Comparisons ****

TABLE IV.

RESULTS CENTS PER DOZEN

	1977 Study Average	INDIVIDUAL RANCHERS COMPARED****			
		Top 3	Top 6	Bottom 6	Bottom 3
Feed Costs Layers Only	26.2¢	25.2¢	25.5¢	28.7¢	29.4¢
Net Replacement Costs to 6 Months **	7.6	7.0	7.4	7.4	7.6
Total Feed and Replacement Cost	33.8¢	32.2¢	32.9¢	36.1¢	37.0¢
Labor Cost *	2.1	1.6	1.9	1.8	1.7
Miscellaneous Cash *	1.6	1.5	1.9	2.0	1.7
Depreciation 15% * and Interest 8%	1.2	1.2	1.2	1.3	1.3
Management *	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0
Total Net Cost Cents Per Dozen	40.9¢	38.9¢	40.2¢	43.5¢	44.2¢
Wholesale "nest run" Income Per Dozen	44.9	45.1	45.1	45.3	44.1
+ Profit or - Loss	+ 4.0¢	+ 6.2¢	+ 4.9¢	+ 1.8¢	- 0.1¢
Cash Costs Per Dozen ***	37.5¢	35.3¢	36.7¢	39.9¢	40.4¢
Income Over Cash Costs Per Dozen	+ 7.4	+ 9.8	+ 8.4	+ 5.4	+ 3.7

* Layers Only.

** Net replacement cost per dozen: Total of chick or started pullet cost, feed, miscellaneous, cash, labor, depreciation, interest, management 10¢ per pullet chick raised, plus or minus difference in stock inventory value, less cull and manure income divided by dozens produced = Net replacement cost per dozen analysis based on replacement cost to 6 months of age.

*** Cash costs include feed, replacement, labor, and miscellaneous cash costs.

**** Simple average of producers ranked in order of least to highest net cost of egg production.

**COMPARISONS OF PRODUCERS IN 1977 STUDY
FOR MORTALITY, CULL, ADDED, PRODUCTION, AND FEED****

TABLE V

	1977 Study Average	INDIVIDUAL RANCHERS COMPARED **			
		Top 3	Top 6	Bottom 6	Bottom 3
Flock Size Averages	61,298	113,000	95,000	27,000	26,000
Average					
Laying Hen Flock *	13	12	11	15	14
% Mortality	13	12	11	15	14
% Cull	51	51	57	46	61
% Cull & Mortality	64	63	68	61	75
% Added	66	67	70	54	70
Hen Days of Egg Production per 6 Months Old Pullet Added	553	544	521	676	521
% Mortality to 6 Months of Age	7	5	5	11	13
% Flock 6 to 18 Months Old On Average	67	65	66	67	56
Dozen Eggs Produced Per Hen	20.5	20.0	21.2	19.5	18.9
Av. Rate Production	67	68.7	69.3	63.8	61.8
Eggs Produced Per Pullet Added	370	374	361	431	322
Extra Large, Large AA or A Sold	73	74	72	72	68
Pounds Feed Per Average Layer Only	86.5	84.9	85.8	92.3	92.0
Pounds Feed Per Dozen Eggs Layer Only	4.2	4.1	4.1	4.8	4.9
Cost of Feed Per 100 lbs.	\$6.24	\$6.20	\$6.30	\$6.05	\$6.07

* Hens added to laying flock six months of age.

** Simple average of producers ranked in order of least to highest net cost per dozen eggs produced.

TABLE A - POULTRY EGG COST STUDY, SAN DIEGO COUNTY - 29 YEAR SUMMARY 1949 - 1977 INCLUSIVE
 Cooperative Extension, University of California - San Diego County

Year	Eggs per Hen	% Eggs Sold A or AA Large or Xtra lg.	Percent of Average Laying Flock			% Increase	Cull Income each	Feed - Laying Hen Only			Hired Labor Cost Per Doz.	Pullet Chick Cost Each	
			% Died	% Culls	% Added			Pounds per Hen Year	Pounds per Dozen "Ratio"	Cost per 100 Pounds			Cost per Dozen
1977	246	73	13	51	66	+2	\$.30	87	4.2	\$6.24	26.24	2.34	.38
1976	230	74	13	38	52	+1	.32	86	4.5	6.37	28.4	2.2	.38
1975	232	76	13	43	55	-1	.21	93	4.8	6.19	29.5	2.2	.36
1974	228	70	15	37	50	-2	.26	87	4.6	6.49	29.6	2.2	.34
1973	227	68	16	66	78	-4	.51	90	4.8	5.68	26.9	2.1	.31
1972	234	72	17	34	56	+5	.20	86	4.4	3.89	17.1	2.0	.30
1971	245	68	20	59	81	+2	.14	88	4.3	3.60	15.4	1.9	.29
1970	230	69	22	50	70	-2	.25	89	4.6	3.43	15.7	2.0	.29
1969	232	69	23	36	66	+7	.34	89	4.6	3.15	14.4	1.8	.30
1968	246	70	20	58	85	+7	.20	91	4.5	3.07	13.2	1.7	.30
1967	243	69	18	65	86	+3	.20	87	4.3	3.24	13.5	1.9	.31
1966	247	70	15	66	96	+15	.31	90	4.4	3.17	13.4	1.9	.31
1965	246	70	16	68	95	+11	.18	89	4.4	3.12	13.1	1.7	.31
1964	242	72	15	76	98	+7	.21	89	4.4	3.10	13.5	1.8	.32
1963	243	69	14	63	94	+17	.25	88	4.3	3.12	13.1	1.8	.33
1962	245	72	13	68	106	+25	.23	90	4.4	3.08	13.1	2.2	.35
1961	246	71	13	75	105	+17	.29	91	4.4	3.02	12.9	2.2	.36
1960	241	70	13	71	96	+12	.27	89	4.5	2.90	12.5	2.1	.39
1959	243	68	14	82	107	+11	.30	90	4.5	3.23	14.1	2.1	.43
1958	239	68	14	79	105	+12	.46	91	4.6	3.31	14.8	2.6	.40
1957	235	70	14	68	100	+18	.40	91	4.6	3.45	16.0	1.9	.40
1956	236	69	14	74	102	+14	.52	93	4.8	3.63	16.9	2.5	.40
1955	234	66	17	70	103	+16	.56	92	4.8	3.84	18.0	2.2	.40
1954	235	61	14	86	114	+14	.52	94	4.9	3.95	18.9	2.1	N.A.
1953	228	60	15	76	107	+16	.75	95	5.1	4.06	20.2	2.5	N.A.
1952	231	61	14	82	118	+22	.61	96	5.1	4.53	22.2	2.4	N.A.
1951	222	68	13	74	102	+15	.75	100	5.4	4.06	21.5	2.3	N.A.
1950	217	65	15	64	108	+29	.70	98	5.4	3.65	19.2	1.8	N.A.
1949	213	64	15	77	124	+32	.88	100	5.6	4.09	22.3	2.6	N.A.

* Pounds Feed to one dozen eggs.
 N.A. = Not Available.

TABLE B - POULTRY EGG COST STUDY, SAN DIEGO COUNTY 29 YEAR SUMMARY - 1949 - 1977 INCLUSIVE
 Cooperative Extension, University of California - San Diego County

Year	AV. Flock Size (1000)	Egg Income Per Dozen	Per Dozen Net * Cost Eggs	+ Profit - Loss Per Dozen	Egg Income Per Hen	Net Cost Eggs Per Hen *	+ Profit - Loss Per Hen	Costs Labor Per Hen		Interest on Investment	Deprec. Allowance	Misc. Cash Costs	Feed Layer Only Costs
								Hired	Home				
1977	61	44.9¢	40.9¢	+ 4.0¢	\$9.20	\$8.38	+ .82	\$.46	\$.00	\$.28	\$.27	\$.37	\$5.37
1976	73	49.0	41.9	+ 7.1	9.40	8.03	+ 1.37	.41	.01	.27	.26	.32	5.45
1975	48	42.0	43.2	- 1.2	8.13	8.37	- .24	.42	.00	.30	.29	.29	5.72
1974	64	41.0	45.3	- 4.3	7.80	8.63	- .83	.41	.01	.31	.26	.29	5.63
1973	58	46.7	39.5	+ 7.2	8.83	7.47	+ 1.36	.39	.01	.26	.22	.28	5.10
1972	64	24.5	29.1	- 4.6	4.76	5.66	- .90	.39	.01	.24	.22	.23	3.31
1971	47	21.3	28.5	- 7.2	4.35	5.74	- 1.39	.38	.03	.28	.24	.29	3.15
1970	47	29.7	28.4	+ 1.3	5.70	5.42	+ .28	.39	.02	.26	.24	.32	3.01
1969	46	31.7	25.5	+ 6.2	6.13	4.92	+ 1.21	.36	.03	.22	.14	.32	2.78
1968	43	24.7	24.8	- 0.1	5.07	5.09	- .02	.36	.01	.21	.14	.23	2.71
1967	44	24.5	26.2	- 1.7	5.00	5.29	- .30	.39	.02	.19	.16	.31	2.73
1966	42	33.2	25.4	+ 7.8	6.84	5.22	+ 1.62	.40	.02	.20	.15	.30	2.82
1965	29	26.9	25.6	+ 1.3	5.52	5.26	+ .26	.34	.06	.20	.20	.33	2.75
1964	25	27.9	26.2	+ 1.7	5.62	5.26	+ .36	.37	.08	.21	.19	.30	2.79
1963	21	28.4	26.4	+ 2.0	5.73	5.33	+ .40	.36	.07	.23	.23	.34	2.70
1962	16	28.9	27.8	+ 1.1	5.90	5.66	+ .24	.35	.23	.23	.23	.44	2.74
1961	13	31.5	27.5	+ 4.0	6.45	5.65	+ .80	.45	.21	.21	.25	.38	2.69
1960	9	33.3	28.7	+ 4.6	6.61	5.72	+ .89	.42	.31	.27	.30	.43	2.55
1959	7	29.8	30.9	- 1.1	5.97	6.20	- .23	.38	.44	.26	.29	.42	2.91
1958	6	37.0	31.1	+ 5.9	7.32	6.15	+ 1.17	.48	.38	.25	.29	.52	3.01
1957	6	36.3	30.8	+ 5.5	7.00	5.95	+ 1.05	.47	.60	.26	.34	.45	3.14
1956	5	38.4	32.1	+ 6.3	7.45	6.23	+ 1.22	.49	.64	.26	.35	.43	3.38
1955	4	41.3	32.1	+ 9.3	8.00	6.15	+ 1.85	.43	.59	.20	.33	.41	3.53
1954	4	36.8	34.1	+ 2.7	7.12	6.59	+ .53	.40	.54	.20	.34	.40	3.71
1953	4	51.5	36.3	+ 15.2	9.64	6.80	+ 2.84	.46	.85	.21	.37	.41	3.86
1952	3	46.0	40.8	+ 5.2	8.74	7.75	+ .99	.47	1.04	.24	.38	.35	4.35
1951	3	55.2	40.3	+ 14.9	9.90	7.20	+ 2.70	.42	1.34	.25	.38	.41	4.14
1950	2	43.6	35.6	+ 8.0	7.73	6.32	+ 1.41	.33	.94	.23	.31	.34	3.68
1949	2	52.0	42.0	+ 10.0	9.18	7.42	+ 1.76	.48	1.08	.24	.29	.53	4.17

CONCLUSIONS:

1. 1977 Study results showed a lower cost of production and an improvement in rate of lay over the 1976 study. Labor and other cash costs were higher. Feed cost per 100 pounds was 13¢ lower in cost. Replacement cost was higher due to the higher replacement rate. With the higher replacement rate total eggs produced per hen increased to 20.5 dozen eggs per year. The net cost of eggs produced in the 1977 study was 40.9¢ per dozen.
2. The increased replacement rate allowed for more replacement of old hens and fewer hens were kept over for third cycle of lay. Based on a 66% replacement rate the average hen life was 553 days or 18 months and 8 days, plus the 6 months of age hens are added to the flock or a total of 2 years and 1 week of age. During the 553 days the hens averaged 67% rate of lay or 373 eggs. This production is well within the goal of one case of eggs (30 dozen) per hen housed by two years of age.
3. Those who are comparing these results and who are adding pullets at 20 weeks of age should consider that costs per dozen are directly comparable, however, rate of lay would be 62.7% because 42 additional hen days are added to the 553 hen days (595 total). The 1978 study is being conducted on the basis of adding pullets at 20 weeks of age. This will make it possible to directly evaluate egg production rates with other areas using the addition of pullets to the laying flock at 20 weeks of age.
4. Many Southern California poultrymen have raised their own replacement pullets at a savings in cost over that which they would have paid for started pullets. Savings from raising replacement pullets has been used to reduce costs of egg production rather than taken out as a profit. Some flock owners with small groups of replacements have found costs of growing replacements presently higher than the cost of buying started pullets. The quality, uniformity and productivity may also be better than home grown stock. Buying started pullets allows for converting growing facilities over to laying houses thereby increasing the limited capacity of the small farm and potentially a more profitable enterprise.
5. The larger operator may also consider moving the pullet growing operation to an isolated location in order to avoid disease problems confronting multi-age poultry farms. Buying pullets for an all-in all-out operation might also be determined to be the more profitable long time alternative.
6. Regardless of size of operation the poultryman must be alert to changes needed that will provide for efficient use of feed, labor, laying stock, housing and capital. He needs to study and evaluate force molting programs, lighting methods, proper monitoring of pullet replacement stock, all-in and all-out replacements versus multi-age poultry farms, vaccination programs, feeding programs, housing density and other ideas to determine those practices which will improve his efficiency. Poultry Extension and Research workers provide valuable answers to many of these questions. The job of the owner-manager is to evaluate and determine those changes he must make to maintain a profitable poultry egg producing ranch operation.

Robert H. Adolph

Robert H. Adolph
Farm Advisor
San Diego County

RHA/wl