

1966 SAN DIEGO COUNTY EGG COST STUDY
by Robert H. Adolph, Farm Advisor

The 1966 San Diego County Egg Cost Study was conducted by the Agricultural Extension Service, University of California, in cooperation with county poultrymen. Cooperators sent in results from their own operations with the specific purpose of comparing their results with others in the study to develop management programs to improve their own ranch operation.

This year's results are from 23 specialized commercial egg-producing ranches. These 23 ranches had a total of 955,594 laying hens during the year in flock sizes varying from 5000 to over 100,000 layers with an average of 41,548 laying hens per ranch.

There was a 15% average increase in the laying flock during the year. Replacements were 96% of the average flock with a lower than normal culling rate of 66%. Mortality was normal at 15% for layers. Growing replacement mortality was up 2% over last year's average to 9% due to increased losses from leukosis disease.

Egg production rate was 247 eggs per 365 hen days. Birds are added to lay flock at 6 months of age. The 3 to 5 eggs laid per bird prior to 6 months of age are included so that actual production was probably 243 eggs or 66.6% rate of lay.

The general practice is to brood replacements on a year-round basis.

No. times pullets added	2	3	4	5	6	7
No. of producers	2	5	5	8	2	1

Compared to 1965, feed consumption was up one pound per layer to 92 pounds; cost of feed was up 5¢ to \$3.17 per 100 pounds; and hired labor cost was up 6¢ to 40¢ per layer. Except for two of the smaller ranches in the study, eggs were picked up from the ranch and dealer-cleaned, sized, and packaged off the ranch without a labor cost to the poultry ranch operation.

Housing was mostly in open-type, truss housing of metal roof, with lath or plastic type curtain siding. The 30-foot-wide

house holds four rows of back-to-back cages with a usual housing rate of 4 inches feed hopper frontage per bird in 16- or 18-inch-deep cages. The 12-inch-wide cage with 3 birds seems to be the most popular with 8", 16", and 24" cages also being used.

Feeding was mostly with electric cart at least once a day with an additional feeding or leveling being accomplished each day. Two of the smaller ranches had mechanical feeders although several are planning to install them. Thirteen of the ranches used floor brooding operations during first 6 to 8 weeks and then moved to wire cages for growing. Five used wire-floor brooding. Five bought started pullets with various types of programs. Most of the brooding programs used mechanical feeders.

The greater cost for labor was due to a higher cost of labor. The labor cost reported was \$17,337 per average ranch of 41,548 laying hens. This figures out at 2 cents per dozen or 42¢ per average layer. It is becoming more difficult to expect the 2¢ cost per dozen attained in this study to hold.

The results of this study cannot be considered as representative of this county. They may be considered as only representative of what 23 specialized commercial egg-producing ranches achieved within a limited area. These data exceed what might be considered as average results and could be used by poultrymen as a goal to evaluate their own efficiency of operation. A management charge of 10% of costs is added to take care of costs associated with management, such as cost accounting, correspondence, legal matters, promotion of the business, costs of attending conferences, meetings, and a return to the manager for proper decisions on plans of work, and evaluation of capital, labor, and operational costs. An efficient manager may very well make up for this charge of 2.5 cents per dozen. Total all costs varied within a range of almost 8 cents per dozen. The average for the study was 25.7 cents net cost per dozen.

COMPARE YOUR RESULTS WITH SAN DIEGO EGG COST STUDY COOPERATORS, 1964 to 1966

I RESULTS PER DOZEN EGGS PRODUCED

	Cents 1964	Cents 1965	Cents 1966	Compare Your Results
Total, all feed	17.6¢	17.1¢	17.6¢	_____
Replacement chicks, started pullets	2.6	2.5	2.3	_____
Supplies, taxes, utilities, misc.	1.5	1.6	1.4	_____
Hired labor	1.8	1.7	1.9	_____
Home chore labor	.4	.2	.1	_____
Stock inventory, - credit, + cost	-.9	-.9	-.6	_____
Cull sales, - credit	-.8	-.6	-1.0	_____
Net cash cost incl. home chore labor	22.2¢	21.6¢	21.7¢	_____
Depreciation 10% average value of buildings and equipment	1.0	1.0	.7	_____
Interest 6% on land stock and average value of buildings and eqpt.	1.0	1.0	1.0	_____
Management 10% of cost	2.4	2.4	2.3	_____
Net cost of production per doz. eggs	26.6¢	26.0¢	25.7¢	_____

II RESULTS PER AVERAGE LAYER (365 hen days)

	Dollars 1964	Dollars 1965	Dollars 1966	Compare Your Results
Total, all feed	\$3.55	\$3.52	\$3.62	_____
Replacement chicks, started pullets	.51	.51	.46	_____
Supplies, taxes, utilities, misc.	.30	.33	.30	_____
Hired labor	.37	.34	.40	_____
Home chore labor	.08	.06	.02	_____
Stock inventory, - credit, + cost	-.19	-.19	-.14	_____
Cull sales, - credit	-.16	-.12	-.20	_____
Net cash cost incl. home chore labor	\$4.46	\$4.45	\$4.46	_____
Depreciation 10% average value of buildings and equipment	.19	.20	.15	_____
Interest 6% on land, stock and average value of buildings and eqpt.	.21	.20	.20	_____
Management 10% of cost	.49	.49	.48	_____
Total cost per hen	\$5.35	\$5.34	\$5.29	_____

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III LAYING FLOCK, FEED AND OTHER DATA

	<u>% 1964</u>	<u>% 1965</u>	<u>% 1966</u>	<u>Compare Your Results</u>
Died	15%	16%	15%	_____
Culled	<u>76</u>	<u>68</u>	<u>66</u>	_____
Total to replace	91	84	81	_____
Added	<u>98</u>	<u>95</u>	<u>96</u>	_____
Increase	7	11	15	_____
Hens over 18 months of age	14	16	15	_____
Loss of chicks to 6 months of age	7	7	9	_____
Cull income each	\$.21	\$.18	\$.31	_____
Average number birds per flock	25,111	28,595	41,548	_____
Dozen eggs produced per hen	20.1	20.5	20.6	_____
All eggs produced per 365 hen days	242	246	247	_____
Less estimate of eggs produced before being added to flock	<u>- 4</u>	<u>- 4</u>	<u>- 4</u>	_____
Estimated production all eggs per 365 hen days after 6 months of age	238	242	243	_____
Average rate of production	65.0%	66.3%	66.6%	_____
Eggs sold wholesale; A, AA, Lrg, X Lrg.	72%	70%	70%	_____
Pounds of feed for layers only	91	91	92	_____
Feed ratio for layers only	4.5	4.4	4.5	_____
Feed cost per dozen, layers only	13.8	13.4	14.1	_____
All feed used, replacements and layers	115	113	114	_____
Feed ratio, replacements and layers	5.7	5.5	5.5	_____
Cost of feed per 100 pounds	\$3.10	\$3.12	\$3.17	_____
Feed cost for layers only	\$2.79	\$2.75	\$2.90	_____
Replacements as started pullets	17%	16%	15%	_____
Average cost of day-old pullets	\$.32	\$.31	\$.31	_____
Average price received per dozen	27.9¢	26.9¢	33.2¢	_____

TABLE A. POULTRY EGG COST STUDY, SAN DIEGO COUNTY - 10-YEAR SUMMARY 1957-66
 Agricultural Extension Service, University of California
 San Diego County

Year	Eggs per Hen	% Lrg.	% Died	% Culls	% Added	% Increase	Cull Income each	Feed per Layer	Feed Ratio Layers only*	Feed Cost			Hired Labor Cost perDoz.	Chick Cost each
										per cwt.	per Doz. **	Layers only perDoz.		
1966	247	70	15	66	96	15	31¢	92#	4.5	\$3.17	17.6¢	14.1¢	1.9¢	31¢
1965	246	70	16	68	95	11	18	91	4.4	3.12	17.1	13.4	1.7	31
1964	242	72	15	76	98	7	21	91	4.5	3.10	17.6	13.8	1.8	32
1963	243	69	14	63	94	17	25	88	4.3	3.12	17.2	13.1	1.8	33
1962	245	72	13	68	106	15	23	90	4.4	3.08	17.4	13.1	2.2	35
1961	246	71	13	75	105	17	29	91	4.4	3.02	16.9	12.9	2.2	36
1960	241	70	13	71	96	12	27	89	4.5	2.90	16.6	12.5	2.1	39
1959	243	68	14	82	107	11	30	90	4.5	3.23	18.5	14.1	2.1	43
1958	239	68	14	79	105	12	46	91	4.6	3.31	19.3	14.8	2.6	40
1957	235	70	14	68	100	18	40	91	4.7	3.45	20.2	15.7	2.3	40

* Pounds feed to one dozen eggs

** Includes feed used for replacement and layers.

TABLE B. POULTRY EGG COST STUDY, SAN DIEGO COUNTY - 10-YEAR SUMMARY 1957-66
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Year	Av. Flock Size (1000)	Egg Income per Doz.	Net Cost Eggs per Doz. *	Profit per Dozen	Net Cash Cost and Home Labor per Dozen*	Total Income per Hen	Total Net Cost Eggs per Hen *	Profit per Hen	Labor per Hen		Int. 6% per Hen	Depr. 10% per Hen	Total Net Cash and Labor per hen*
									Hired	Home			
1966	42	33.2¢	25.7¢	+7.5¢	21.7¢	\$6.84	\$5.29	+\$1.55	40¢	2¢	20¢	15¢	\$4.46
1965	29	26.9	26.0	+ .9	21.6	5.52	5.34	+ .18	34	6	20	20	4.45
1964	25	27.9	26.6	+1.3	22.2	5.62	5.35	+ .27	37	8	21	19	4.46
1963	21	28.4	26.4	+2.0	21.7	5.73	5.33	+ .40	36	7	23	23	4.38
1962	16	28.9	27.8	+1.1	22.6	5.90	5.66	+ .24	35	23	23	23	4.69
1961	13	31.5	27.5	+4.0	22.3	6.45	5.65	+ .80	45	21	21	25	4.58
1960	9	33.3	28.7	+4.6	22.5	6.61	5.72	+ .89	42	31	27	30	4.42
1959	7	29.8	30.9	-1.1	25.9	5.97	6.20	- .23	38	44	26	29	5.09
1958	6	37.0	31.1	+5.9	25.6	7.32	6.15	+ 1.17	48	38	25	29	5.05
1957	5	36.3	31.9	+5.4	27.7	7.00	6.55	+ .45	47	60	26	34	5.35

* Total net cost of eggs per dozen and per hen includes all costs: feed, replacement stock, all labor, miscellaneous cash cost of supplies, taxes, and utilities, interest at 6%, depreciation at 10%, and management at 10% of costs. Net cash costs and home labor per dozen and per hen include all of the above except interest depreciation and management.