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Agricultural Extension Service  
University of California  
Bldg. 4, 5555 Overland Avenue  
San Diego, California 92123

1965 SAN DIEGO COUNTY EGG COST STUDY

By Robert H. Adolph, Farm Advisor, San Diego County

The 1965 San Diego County Egg Cost Study was conducted by the Agricultural Extension Service, University of California, in cooperation with local poultrymen. Individual cooperators sent in results from their own operations with the specific purpose of comparing their results with the study results to develop management programs to improve their own ranch operation.

This year's study comprises the results from 27 specialized commercial egg-producing ranches. These 27 ranches had an average of 772,084 laying hens during the year in flock sizes of 4000 to over 100,000 with an average of 28,595 layers.

There was an 11% increase in the laying flock during the year. Most of this increase was because of holdover of hens due to year-end favorable egg prices. The total of cull and mortality rates was 91% in 1964, compared to 84% in 1965.

All eggs produced are considered as being produced by the laying flock. Birds are not added to the lay flock until six months of age so that actual egg production per 365 hen days was 3 to 5 eggs less than the 246 record, or about 66.3% rate of lay. The average of number of birds kept on the ranches over 18 months of age, based on three inventory reports, was 16% or about 1/6 of the flock. If the rate of production of the old hens was 12% less than the actual rate of the pullets, then the average rate of production for the pullets (6-18 months of age) would be 2% higher than the average of 66.3%.

General Information and Management

Housing was mostly 30-foot-wide truss housing with lath or plastic curtain siding. Four double rows of cages are installed in these houses with a general housing rate of 4 inches of frontage per hen housed in 12-, 16-, and 24-inch-wide cages.

Most flocks use electric carts for feeding. There are some mechanical feeders used mostly for brooding.

Labor requirements have been reduced considerably over the last few years, most of this being due to transferring the job of cleaning and sizing of eggs to dealer plants where expensive egg-cleaning and sizing equipment can be more economically worked throughout the day. Most ranches are getting three to seven times a week pick-up of eggs.

Foultrymen reported total feed used during the year. To estimate amounts used for layers only, a standard of 25 pounds was used for feed per pullet replacement added to flock. Differences in inventory of feed in replacements according to age of bird was also considered. The feed figure used for started pullets varied according to age of bird when received.

The average hen was computed at 365 hen days. Replacements were added to the laying flock at 6 months of age. The average number of times birds were replaced were:

Number of times during year pullets added to flock:	2	3	4	5	6
Number of producers:	2	6	6	8	5

*Robert H. Adolph*

Robert H. Adolph,  
Farm Advisor, San Diego County

The following tables comprise the average results of the study for 1965 with comparisons of 1963 and 1964.

- I Results Per Dozen Eggs Produced
- II Results Per Average Layer
- III Laying Flock Data
- IV Egg Production Results
- V Feed and Pullets
- VI Labor

COMPARE YOUR RESULTS WITH SAN DIEGO EGG COST STUDY COOPERATORS, 1963 to 1965

I RESULTS PER DOZEN EGGS PRODUCED

	Cents <u>1963</u>	Cents <u>1964</u>	Cents <u>1965</u>	Compare Your Results
Feed layers only	13.1¢	13.8¢	13.4¢	_____
Hired labor	1.8	1.8	1.7	_____
Misc. cash cost	1.7	1.5	1.6	_____
Replacement feed	4.1	3.8	3.7	_____
Replacement Chicks and Started Pullets	<u>2.0</u>	<u>2.6</u>	<u>2.5</u>	_____
<u>CASH OPERATING COST</u>	<u>22.7¢</u>	<u>23.5¢</u>	<u>22.9¢</u>	
Stock inventory credit	- .6	- .9	- .9	_____
Cull sales credit	<u>- .7</u>	<u>- .8</u>	<u>- .6</u>	_____
<u>NET CASH COST</u>	<u>21.4¢</u>	<u>21.8¢</u>	<u>21.4¢</u>	
Depreciation	1.1	1.0	1.0	_____
Interest 6% Investment	1.1	1.0	1.0	_____
Home labor	.3	.4	.2	_____
Management (10% of cost)	<u>2.5</u>	<u>2.4</u>	<u>2.4</u>	_____
<u>NET COST OF EGGS PER DOZEN</u>	<u>26.4¢</u>	<u>26.6¢</u>	<u>26.0¢</u>	
Ave. price recd. eggs whlsle.	<u>28.4</u>	<u>27.9</u>	<u>26.9</u>	_____
Profit over all costs per dozen eggs	<u>2.0¢</u>	<u>1.3¢</u>	<u>.9¢</u>	_____
<u>Dozen eggs produced per hen</u>	<u>20.2</u>	<u>20.1</u>	<u>20.5</u>	_____

COMPARE YOUR RESULTS WITH SAN DIEGO EGG COST STUDY COOPERATORS, 1963 to 1965

**II RESULTS PER AVERAGE LAYER**

	Dollars 1963	Dollars 1964	Dollars 1965	Compare Your Results
Feed for layers	\$ 2.70	\$ 2.79	\$ 2.75	_____
Feed for replacements	.77	.76	.77	_____
Stock cost Chicks and Started Pullets	.41	.51	.51	_____
Hired labor	.36	.37	.34	_____
Misc. cash costs	<u>.34</u>	<u>.30</u>	<u>.33</u>	_____
<b>CASH OPERATING COST</b>	<b>\$ 4.58</b>	<b>\$ 4.73</b>	<b>\$ 4.70</b>	_____
Stock inventory credit	- .12	- .19	- .19	_____
Poultry sales credit	<u>- .15</u>	<u>- .16</u>	<u>- .12</u>	_____
<b>NET CASH COST</b>	<b>\$ 4.31</b>	<b>\$ 4.38</b>	<b>\$ 4.39</b>	_____
Depreciation and Interest	.46	.40	.40	_____
Home labor	.07	.08	.06	_____
Management (10% of cost)	<u>.49</u>	<u>.49</u>	<u>.49</u>	_____
<b>TOTAL COST PER HEN</b>	<b>\$ 5.33</b>	<b>\$ 5.35</b>	<b>\$ 5.34</b>	_____
Egg income based on Wholesale egg price	<u>5.73</u>	<u>5.62</u>	<u>5.52</u>	_____
<b>Profit over all cost per hen</b>	<b>\$ .40</b>	<b>\$ .27</b>	<b>\$ .18</b>	_____

**III LAYING FLOCK DATA**

	% 1963	% 1964	% 1965	Compare Your Results
Died	14	15	16	_____
Culled	63	76	68	_____
Laying flock replaced	77	91	84	_____
Added	94	98	95	_____
<b>Increase</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>11</b>	_____
Hens over 18 months of age	15	14	16	_____
Loss of Chicks to 6 months of age	8	7	7	_____
Cull income each	\$ .25	\$ .21	\$ .18	_____
<b>Average no. birds per flock</b>	<b>21,342</b>	<b>25,111</b>	<b>28,595</b>	_____

COMPARE YOUR RESULTS WITH SAN DIEGO EGG COST STUDY COOPERATORS, 1963 to 1965

IV EGG PRODUCTION

	<u>1963</u>	<u>1964</u>	<u>1965</u>	<u>Compare Your Results</u>
All eggs produced per 365 hen days	243	242	246	_____
Less estimate of eggs produced per hen before 6 months of age	<u>4</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>4</u>	_____
Estimated egg production after 6 months of age per 365 hen days	239	238	242	_____
Average rate of lay including all birds over 6 months old	65.5	65.0	66.3	_____
% of eggs sold Wholesale A or AA grade, large or extra large	69.0	72.0	70.0	_____

V FEED & PULLETS

Pounds of feed layers only	88	91	91	_____
Feed ratio layers only	4.3	4.5	4.4	_____
All feed used	111	115	113	_____
Feed ratio all feed	5.5	5.7	5.5	_____
Cost of feed per 100 lbs.	\$3.12	\$3.10	\$3.12	_____
Cost of feed per layer	\$3.47	\$3.55	\$3.52	_____
All feed cost per dozen	\$ .172	\$ .176	\$ .171	_____
% Replacements as Started Pullets	7%	17%	16%	_____
Ave. cost baby Pullets	\$ .33	\$ .32	\$ .31	_____

VI LABOR\*

Hours labor per hen	.35	.28	.30	_____
Cost of labor per hen	\$ .43	\$ .45	\$ .40	_____

\* 90% of eggs cleaned and sized by dealer in 1964 and 1965 study years.