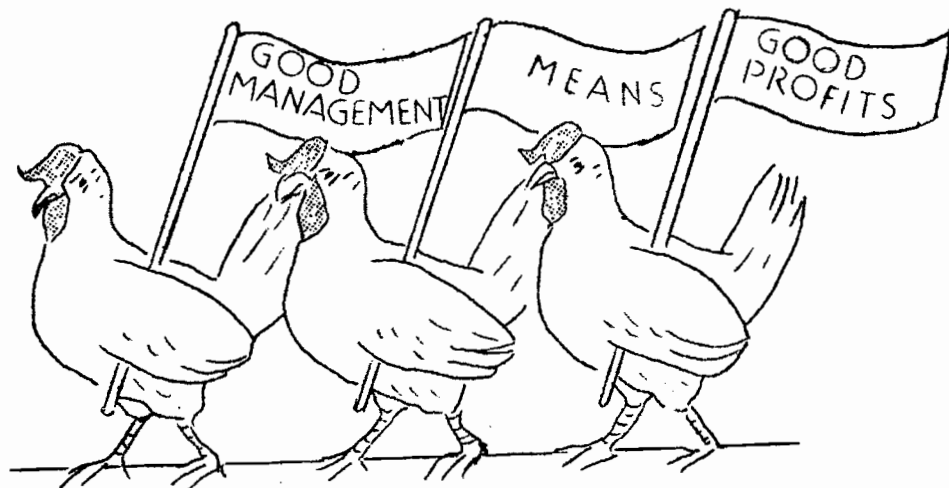


1954

PY-SV-54-1

BUTTE COUNTY
POULTRY
MANAGEMENT STUDY



A Summary of Twelve Poultry Flocks

by

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I N T R O D U C T I O N

This is the Sixth Annual Summary of the Butte County Poultry Management Study. This summary contains the records from twelve Butte County poultry ranches for the period of February 1, 1954 to January 31, 1955. This study is conducted by the Agricultural Extension Service in cooperation with an interested group of local poultrymen for the purpose of disclosing important management, cost, income and profit information to aid the entire local poultry industry in obtaining maximum earnings. The number of records is small and averages in this report are not considered as averages for the county but apply only to the twelve flocks covered. They may or may not be typical of the county.

This study is being continued under conditions which change from year to year. Cooperators are receiving a monthly summary and comparison of flock performance and mortality. This report presents the information available for public use.

O U T L O O K

The year 1954 was a relatively unprofitable one for egg producers. The good profits in 1953 had stimulated expansion, and by midsummer we had too many layers and a surplus of eggs and resulting low prices. For the first time on record, egg prices were lower in the fall than in the spring. These low egg prices have discouraged some producers and resulted in some failures. Hatching of light breed chicks for laying flock replacements is below the previous year in the period December '54 through February '55 in California and in the United States. Laying flocks were culled more heavily than usual this past fall, and fewer late hatched pullets were added. Some time this summer or fall the number of layers in flocks will be below a year ago, total egg production will be lower, and egg prices should be better.

The maintenance of high fryer production, despite low poultry prices and the large supply of hens culled from laying flocks, resulted in rather low prices of cull hens, particularly of the light breeds. This situation may continue through much of 1955, and somewhat reduce potential profit. It will tend also to make it a little less profitable to maintain such a high percentage of annual replacements.

Feed prices should be lower in 1955, with a large national supply of feed grains and a reduction in government support prices of barley and milo from 85% to 70% of parity. It looks now as though 1955 will be a little more profitable than 1954 for egg producers.

TABLE I. Income and Expense Per Hen

1.

Butte County 1954

Type of housing	Ranch No.	Income per hen					Cash and Depreciation Cost per Hen						Farm income (4)	Non-cash costs		(6) Management Income
		Egg Sales	Poultry sales (1)	Man-ure	Change stock inv. (2)	Total	Feed	Chick (3)	Misc.	Deprec.	Hired labor	Total		Family labor	Int. (5)	
Floor	20	8.52	.61	--	.07	9.20	4.65	.50	.46	.14	.14	5.89	3.31	.56	.13	2.62
Floor	5	9.92	.85	.03	1.01	11.81	7.65	.84	.68	.23	--	9.40	2.41	1.65	.17	.59
Floor	15	7.53	.94	.04	.08	8.59	4.93	.63	.47	.24	--	6.27	2.32	1.50	.24	.58
Cage	11	8.25	.57	--	-.04	8.78	5.45	.44	.74	.27	.05	6.95	1.83	1.45	.22	.16
Floor	12	7.04	.59	--	.04	7.67	4.30	.57	.45	.43	1.33	7.08	.59	.22	.32	.05
Floor	6	7.31	.26	--	.61	8.18	5.65	.50	.62	.16	--	6.93	1.25	1.42	.19	-.36
Floor	8	7.27	.59	--	.03	7.83	4.06	.53	.52	.27	.30	5.68	2.15	2.38	.18	-.41
Cage	13	6.24	.94	.21	.76	8.15	5.79	.60	.21	.23	--	6.83	1.32	1.57	.19	-.44
Floor	23	6.92	.33	--	-.32	6.93	5.09	.38	.49	.28	.27	6.51	.42	1.45	.16	-1.19
Cage	3	7.57	.60	.09	-.42	7.84	6.00	.61	.41	.38	--	7.40	.44	1.64	.29	-1.49
Wire	4	7.40	.54	.05	-.15	7.84	5.96	.54	.57	.25	--	7.32	.52	2.06	.22	-1.76
Cage	27	9.19	.75	.09	-.11	9.92	7.77	.74	.88	.37	--	9.76	.16	2.62	.33	-2.79
Average		7.57	.63	.04	.09	8.33	5.39	.55	.55	.31	.24	7.04	1.29	1.49	.23	-.43
	1953	10.67	.75	.01	.21	11.64	5.91	.63	.78	.29	.36	7.97	3.67	1.74	.23	1.70
	1952	8.36	.32	.17	.47	9.32	5.25	.60	.45	.20	.23	6.73	2.59	1.54	.18	.87
	1951	9.41	.64	.25	.60	10.90	5.82	.67	.48	.31	.34	7.62	3.28	1.83	.24	1.21
	1950	6.80	.72	.18	.09	7.79	4.95	.55	.35	.29	.24	6.38	1.41	1.75	.23	-.57
	1949	8.01	.85	.16	.63	9.65	5.43	.65	.32	.27	.25	6.92	2.73	1.68	.24	.81

1. "Poultry Sales" shows the total value of the culls sold, divided by the average number of hens kept daily over the 12 month period.
2. "Change of Stock Inventory" shows a gain when the flock size is increased and a loss when the number of birds is decreased.

(Continued on page 2)

3. The variation in chick cost is much larger than the difference in the price paid for the birds. This figure is increased when mortality is high as it increases the expense of each bird that matures. When the flock is being increased this cost is also higher because each hen must bear the cost of more than one replacement.
4. "Farm Income" is the total income minus cash and depreciation costs.
5. "Interest" is based on 5% of the capital investment and does not include interest on the money used for operating the ranch.
6. "Management Income" is the return per hen above all costs including a charge for family labor.

TABLE II. Flock Statistics and Management Practices

Ranch No.	Av. No. Hens	Laying Flock			Price per cull hen	Lbs. feed per hen (7)				Cost per Cwt. (8)			Hours labor per hen	% Chix Died
		% Died	% Culled	% Added		Total	Est. for Pullets	Est. for Hens	% Mash	Mash	Grain	Average		
20	716	5	122	129	.52	122	32	90	66	4.15	3.02	3.77	.7	8
5	670	13	86	114	.98	144	29	115	80	5.38	4.87	5.28	1.6	12
15	1184	18	135	124	.71	125	31	94	62	4.23	3.30	3.88	1.5	12
11	1223	13	110	106	.48	131	26	105	100	4.15	--	4.15	1.5	7
12	1540	15	113	71	.52	116	18	98	55	4.44	2.71	3.66	1.6	11
6	628	11	56	115	.47	130	29	101	100	4.24	--	4.24	1.4	10
8	1236	13	88	95	.67	102	24	78	90	4.08	2.60	3.93	2.7	3
13	1198	21	141	126	.60	147	32	115	83	4.16	2.72	3.92	1.6	18
23	1487	22	63	108	.51	121	26	95	93	4.30	2.90	4.20	1.7	5
3	609	21	141	130	.88	148	32	116	100	4.06	--	4.06	1.6	7
4	1063	24	115	143	.50	152	36	116	84	4.13	2.63	3.89	2.1	12
27	649	18	103	108	.65	138	26	112	98	5.63	5.50	5.63	2.6	7
Average	1017	17	106	111	.60	129	28	101	83	4.36	3.03	4.13	1.7	10
1953	1002	13	109	119	.72	131	30	101	78	4.88	3.20	4.50	2.1	7
1952	1087	16	48	88	.68	113	22	91	68	5.03	3.74	4.61	1.8	6
1951	775	17	70	129	.95	135	32	103	71	4.66	3.28	4.26	2.2	10
1950	700	21	83	108	.84	133	27	106	62	4.13	2.87	3.67	2.0	22
1949	650	17	82	130	.98	131	32	99	64	4.56	2.85	3.94	2.0	14

7. The total pounds of feed per hen is the total weight of all the feed used, divided by the average number of hens. The estimate for pullets was based on 25 lbs. per pullet raised, divided by the average number of hens. The estimate for hens is the total feed minus the amount estimated for pullets. If your feed estimate for hens is over 100 lbs., check the wastage.

8. The average price per hundred pounds of feed is determined by the price paid for the grain and mash and the proportion of each that is fed.

TABLE III. Analysis of Egg Production and Sales

Ranch No.	Eggs per hen	Market Eggs Sold			% Fall eggs	Rate of production in fall	Value per dozen			
		% Large	% Medium	% Small			Average price	Cost	Management income	Farm income
20	236*	66	27	7	21	72	<u>Cents</u> 37.2	<u>Cents</u> 25.8	<u>Cents</u> 11.4	14.5
5	240	64	25	11	44	70	48.4	45.6	2.8	11.7
15	220	48 L	37	15	33	57	38.4	35.5	2.9	11.8
11	255✓	68	22	10	32	70	37.3	36.6	.7	8.3
12	227	66	21	13	42	61	36.7	36.4	.3	3.1
6	247	60	27	13	42	62	35.5	37.2	-1.7	6.1
8	231	62	25	13	46	66	35.6	37.6	-2.0	10.5
13	206✓	55	24	21	37	52	34.2	36.6	-2.4	7.2
23	224	55	28	17	40	61	36.7	43.0	-6.3	2.2
3	240✓	51	33	16	35	61	37.1	44.4	-7.3	2.2
4	248	60	26	14	31	62	35.9	44.4	-8.5	2.5
27	247✓	71 H	19	10	31	63	44.2	57.6	-13.4	1.2
Average	235	60	26	14	37	62	37.6	39.7	-2.1	6.4
1953	235	59	29	12	37	66	51.3	43.1	8.2	17.6
1952	213	63	24	13	37	55	46.6	41.7	4.9	14.5
1951	214	59	26	15	43	58	52.1	45.4	6.7	18.2
1950	210	62	22	16	39	54	39.0	42.2	-3.2	8.1
1949	214	64	24	12	43	52	46.6	41.9	4.7	15.9

*Based on a laying period of 318 days at 74% production.