

POULTRY MANAGEMENT
COST STUDY
1955

UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA
AGRICULTURAL EXTENSION SERVICE
RIVERSIDE COUNTY

INTRODUCTION

A summary of the Seventeenth Annual Poultry Management Study conducted in Riverside County by the University of California Agricultural Extension Service is presented in this report. The Study is based upon commercial flock records kept by twenty-eight poultrymen from March 1, 1955 to February 29, 1956. The averages shown in this report are not necessarily representative of the industry in the county, but they do bring out some valuable information relative to egg production costs, including factors which contribute to the wide variation of net income of different operators.

The purpose of the Management Study is to develop local information pertaining to the most profitable management practices in poultry egg production in Riverside County. The Study should not only encourage poultrymen to keep more accurate cost records, but, help them in analyzing their poultry business by comparing their costs and practices with other poultrymen. This often leads to changes in poultry management practices which result in greater returns to the producer. With high operating costs and stiff competition in a rapidly changing industry, only the efficient operators can make money in the poultry business today.

The results of the year's study show that poultrymen made a higher average profit in 1955 than in 1954. While the egg-feed ratio was unfavorable during the first part of 1955, the latter half of the year proved to be quite favorable to the egg producer. The flocks entered in this Study averaged 234 eggs per bird, which is excellent considering the extreme hot weather encountered during September. Average mortality of mature birds was slightly higher than that of 1954, which can be credited largely to the heat wave in September.

An analysis of the tables which follow give an indication of why some flocks were more profitable than others, besides, emphasizing the importance of using certain management practices which are essential to profitable egg production.

We wish to express our appreciation to the poultrymen who cooperated to make this study possible. Appreciation is also extended to (Mrs.) Lydia Bower for her help in preparing the statistical phase of the report.

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TABLE I -- INCOME AND EXPENSE PER HEN

Serial No.	Egg Sales	Pltry Sales	Misc. Income	Stock Inv. Change	Total Income	Cash and Depreciation Cost						Farm Income	Non-Cash Cost		Total Cost	Management Income
						Feed	Chix	Misc.	Depre- cia- tion	Hired Labor	Total		Family Labor Int.			
													Labor	Int.		
74	8.93	.42	.15	1.49	10.99	4.88	.41	.30	.21	.19	5.99	5.00	.83	.39	7.21	3.78
67	8.20	.28	.08	1.94	10.50	3.85	.64	.43	.53	.04	5.49	5.01	1.37	.35	7.21	3.29
76	8.92	.71	—	.70	10.33	4.86	.61	.09	.32	—	5.88	4.45	1.84	.35	8.07	2.26
85	8.19	.39	.08	.02	8.68	3.92	.28	.41	.36	.29	5.26	3.42	.97	.28	6.51	2.17
54	8.24	.66	.02	.56	9.48	4.60	.46	.35	.44	.23	6.08	3.40	1.11	.27	7.46	2.02
80	9.35	1.00	.23	-.26	10.32	5.41	.57	.49	.30	.92	7.69	2.63	.33	.47	8.49	1.83
86	7.97	.36	—	1.14	9.47	5.07	.45	.60	.15	.04	6.31	3.16	1.21	.25	7.77	1.70
59	8.87	.57	.02	.91	10.37	5.28	.44	.40	.57	—	6.69	3.68	1.56	.50	8.75	1.62
57	8.58	.57	.05	.46	9.66	5.15	.54	.42	.39	—	6.50	3.16	1.28	.30	8.08	1.58
72	7.53	.56	.01	1.33	9.43	5.11	.37	.36	.46	.06	6.36	3.07	1.09	.48	7.92	1.50
82	8.16	.71	.10	.99	9.96	4.98	.81	.47	.59	.65	7.50	2.46	.37	.64	8.51	1.45
81	7.71	.60	.03	.63	8.37	4.36	.46	.29	.16	—	5.28	3.09	1.58	.19	7.05	1.32
50	7.27	.43	.03	.33	8.06	4.45	.59	.29	.08	—	5.41	2.65	1.23	.19	6.83	1.23
79	6.65	.36	.05	.14	7.20	3.88	.47	.66	.22	.62	5.85	1.35	—	.30	6.15	1.05
60	7.48	.67	.05	-.05	8.15	4.69	.42	.23	.34	—	5.68	2.47	1.30	.28	7.26	.89
61	7.83	.59	.02	.06	8.50	5.54	.54	.27	.43	.27	7.05	1.45	—	.60	7.65	.85
58	7.08	.89	.02	.24	8.23	4.54	.67	.54	.09	.13	5.97	2.26	1.29	.14	7.40	.83
63	6.67	.64	.08	.54	7.93	4.67	.52	.33	.22	—	5.74	2.19	1.22	.26	7.22	.71
84	8.54	.56	.08	.52	9.70	5.66	.57	.68	.48	.84	8.23	1.47	.55	.25	9.03	.67
69	7.48	.39	.11	.24	8.22	3.95	.80	.39	.12	—	5.26	2.96	2.20	.32	7.78	.44
55	7.38	.46	.01	.76	8.61	4.60	.47	.28	.21	—	5.56	3.05	2.40	.21	8.17	.44
64	8.20	.64	.03	.74	9.61	5.10	.61	.56	.73	.20	7.20	2.41	1.47	.52	9.19	.42
53	7.73	.46	.03	.16	8.38	4.24	.37	.95	.44	.33	6.33	2.05	1.21	.67	8.21	.17
71	7.62	.44	.06	-.62	7.50	4.89	.35	.60	.53	.65	7.02	.48	.28	.32	7.62	-.12
87	7.99	.21	.10	1.23	9.53	5.18	.31	1.14	.67	—	7.30	2.23	2.43	.58	10.31	-.78
77	7.44	.45	.01	.30	8.20	6.05	.42	.66	.33	.96	8.42	-.22	.28	.37	9.07	-.87
73	7.34	.40	.09	.25	8.08	4.71	.43	1.00	.45	.02	6.61	1.47	2.23	.37	9.21	-1.13
52	8.20	.33	.06	.99	9.58	5.45	1.01	.86	1.07	.05	8.44	1.14	2.64	.44	11.52	-1.94
51*	6.76	.01	.10	3.38	10.25	4.88	.98	.19	.24	—	6.29	3.96	1.48	.48	8.25	2.00
H-14	8.38	.60	.09	.49	9.56	4.78	.49	.42	.32	.34	6.35	3.21	.92	.36	7.63	1.93
L-14	7.71	.54	.04	.20	8.49	5.10	.50	.54	.45	.36	6.95	1.54	.89	.40	8.24	.25
Avg.	8.08	.57	.07	.36	9.08	4.93	.50	.47	.37	.35	6.62	2.46	.90	.38	7.90	1.18

Farm Income is Total Income minus Cash and Depreciation Costs.

H - High

Management Income is Farm Income minus Family Labor & Interest.

L - Low

*11 month study. Not included in averages.

TABLE II - FLOCK STATISTICS AND PRODUCTION FACTORS

Serial No.	Ranch Size	Wire or Litter	Breed	Laying Flock			Price Per Cull Hen	Hours Labor Per Hen	Pounds Feed Per Hen			Feed Cost Per CWT	% Chick Mortality
				% Died	% Culled	% Added			Est. Total	Est. for Pullets	Est. for Hens		
74	B	W&L	Leghorn	4	79	121	.53	1.0	135	30	105	3.62	14
67	B	W	W. Leghorn	13	53	203	.54	1.1	117	42	75	3.36	2
76	B	W	Austra W.	5	90	108	.79	1.5	130	27	103	3.73	-
85	D	W&L	W. Leghorn	5	65	89	.59	1.0	116	32	84	3.84	3
54	B	W	Leghorn	8	112	116	.59	1.2	123	29	94	3.69	4
80	E	W	Austra W.	7	103	117	.97	1.2	139	29	110	3.81	13
86	C	W&L	W. Leghorn	23	81	159	.44	1.0	139	40	99	3.66	2
59	A	W	Leghorn	6	71	99	.77	1.2	136	25	111	3.87	7
57	B	W	Leghorn	7	84	142	.68	.5	136	36	100	3.76	1
72	B	W	Leghorn	14	97	90	.58	.9	124	23	101	4.10	9
82	B	W	Leghorn	9	103	104	.69	1.0	129	26	103	3.87	1
81	B	L	W. Leghorn	6	107	110	.56	1.3	133	28	105	3.25	2
50	B	L	W. Leghorn	5	80	106	.53	1.0	119	27	92	3.71	3
79	B	W&L	W. Leghorn	21	71	55	.50	.7	109	14	95	3.56	3
60	B	W	Austra W.	6	80	83	.84	1.0	122	21	101	3.85	9
61	E	W&L	Leghorn & Hamp.	20	93	124	.64	.3	147	31	116	3.75	13
58	A	L	Austra W.	12	115	132	.51	1.2	124	33	91	3.60	6
63	B	W	W. Leghorn	5	84	80	.76	1.0	118	20	98	3.95	5
84	C	W	Leghorn	4	105	140	.54	1.3	145	35	110	3.91	7
69	A	L	W. Leghorn	14	75	95	.52	1.8	126	24	102	3.11	3
55	A	L	A.W. & W. Leghorn	11	73	95	.63	1.9	119	24	95	3.86	7
64	C	W	W. Leghorn	8	84	130	.77	1.4	137	33	104	3.72	11
53	B	L	W. Leghorn	14	74	94	.63	1.3	118	24	94	3.59	4
71	D	W	A. W. & W. Leghorn	13	87	108	.51	1.0	121	27	94	4.01	6
87	A	W	W. Leghorn	34	36	76	.81	1.9	129	19	110	3.99	3
77	B	L	G. Leghorn	23	82	107	.55	1.2	129	27	102	4.65	4
73	A	W	W. Leghorn	27	76	92	.53	1.8	122	23	99	3.86	5
52	A	W	W. Leghorn	6	51	133	.62	2.2	147	33	114	3.76	7
51*	A	W	G. Leghorn	11	3	158	.72	1.2	132	40	92	3.69	-
High	14			9	88	116	.69	1.1	129	29	100	3.67	6
Low	14			13	85	111	.62	1.1	131	28	103	3.88	8
Avg.				11	87	114	.66	1.1	130	29	101	3.77	7

* 11 month study. Not included in averages.

A - below 1500

C - 3001-4500

E - 6001-up.

Lbs. Feed per Hen: Feed used for layers and replacement pullets.

Est. for Pullets: 25 lbs. per pullet raised + by avg. no. of hens.

B - 1501-3000

D - 4501-6000

Est. for Hens: Total pounds less estimated for pullets.

TABLE III - EGG PRODUCTION AND SALES

Serial No.	Eggs Per Hen	Per Cent Market Eggs Sold			Value Per Dozen		
		Large	Medium	Small	Avg. Price	Net Cost	Mgt. Income
74 W,L	252	68	26	6	43.2	25.0	18.2
67 W	236	68	27	5	43.3	25.8	17.5
76 W	246	74	19	7	42.4	31.6	10.8
85 W,L	236	66	31	3	41.6	30.5	11.1
54 W	241	54	31	15	41.9	31.5	10.4
80 W	255	62	29	9	45.7	36.9	8.8
86 W,L	252	64	26	10	40.7	32.1	8.6
59 W	252	81	16	3	44.2	36.1	8.1
57 W	239	77	18	5	43.7	35.7	8.0
72 W	222	72	20	8	42.4	33.8	8.6
82 W	243	62	32	6	41.6	34.2	7.4
81 L	230	59	32	9	41.4	34.3	7.1
50 L	223	60	30	10	40.3	33.4	6.9
79 W,L	205	55	33	12	38.8	32.8	6.0
60 W	214	68	25	7	42.7	37.7	5.0
61 W,L	225	56	31	12	42.1	37.6	4.5
58 L	212	62	30	8	41.1	36.2	4.9
63 W	199	67	26	7	43.1	38.5	4.6
84 W	246	64	25	11	42.6	39.3	3.3
69 L	207	63	28	9	43.6	41.1	2.5
55 L	237	49	35	16	38.4	36.0	2.4
64 W	240	66	24	10	43.4	41.1	2.3
53 L	236	57	28	15	39.7	38.9	.8
71 W	226	65	25	10	42.5	43.1	-.6
87 W	200	63	29	8	47.3	51.9	-4.6
77 L	207	71	24	5	43.7	48.8	-5.1
73 W	221	58	30	12	40.7	47.0	-6.3
52 W	249	58	28	14	41.7	52.0	-10.3
51 W*	214	57	30	13	40.7	28.7	12.0
Hi. 14	241	64	27	9	42.8	32.9	9.9
Lo. 14	225	62	27	11	42.3	40.9	1.4
Avg.	234	64	27	9	42.6	36.4	6.2

*11 month study. Not included in averages.

W - Wire floor (cage or community wire floor house).

L - Litter floor house.

TABLE IV - SUMMARY OF RIVERSIDE POULTRY STUDY SINCE 1948

	1948	1949	1950	1951	1952	1953	1954	1955
Number of Records	11	11	25	19	22	20	23	28
Average Number of Hens	1580	1374	1237	1624	2158	2181	2805	2765
Eggs per Hen	193	209	217	218	227	230	234	234
Per Cent Mortality	15	15	15	12	12	10	10	11
Per Cent Culled	83	77	97	87	94	92	96	87
Hours Labor per Hen	1.9	1.7	1.7	1.6	1.3	1.4	1.1	1.1
Pounds Feed per Hen	141	135	142	147	142	144	133	130
Per Cent Mash	71	74	82	82	87	87	—	—
Cost Feed per Cwt.	4.76	4.22	4.04	4.29	4.53	4.10	3.92	3.77
Average Price of Eggs	56.7	47.0	44.4	53.4	47.9	52.7	36.4	42.6
Net Cost per Dozen	48.6	42.1	41.5	44.0	43.9	41.2	36.4	36.4
Mgt. Income per Dozen	8.1	4.9	2.9	9.4	4.0	11.5	—	6.2
Income per Hen								
Egg Sales	9.10	8.16	8.01	9.82	9.05	10.08	7.05	8.08
Poultry Sales	1.71	.90	1.05	.95	.84	.82	.72	.57
Misc. Income	.27	.20	.23	.21	.12	.13	—	.07
Change in Stock Inv.	.64	.49	.39	.81	.28	.45	—	.36
Total	11.72	9.75	9.68	11.79	10.29	11.48	7.77	9.08
Cash & Depr. Cost per Hen								
Feed	6.76	5.81	5.78	6.40	6.53	5.98	5.26	4.93
Hired Labor	.17	.13	.10	.19	.23	.37	.32	.35
Chick	.73	.65	.63	.79	.54	.61	.50	.50
Misc.	.44	.46	.47	.52	.44	.59	.47	.47
Depreciation	.26	.25	.28	.21	.25	.25	.21	.37
Total	8.36	7.40	7.26	8.11	7.99	7.80	6.76	6.62
Farm Income per Hen	3.36	2.45	2.42	3.68	2.30	3.68	1.01	2.46
Family Labor	1.73	1.36	1.60	1.67	1.32	1.25	.80	.90
Interest	.33	.25	.29	.27	.22	.23	.22	.38
Management Income	1.30	.84	.53	1.74	.76	2.20	-.01	1.18

MANAGEMENT PRACTICES FOLLOWED BY COOPERATORS

Serial No.	Breed	Time of Brooding (Month in Year)	VACCINATION PROGRAM (Methods used - Age at Vaccination)				
			Newcastle - "Pneumo"		Tracheitis	Bronchitis	Fowl Pox
			Bl Strain	Roakin			
74 WL	Leg	Ja, Apr, Jn, Sept, Dec.	Sp. 5-6wk; 4-5mo.				W 12-14wk.
67 W	W.Leg	Mar, May, Sept, Dec.		W 8 wk.			W 18 wk.
76 W	Aus.W	Every 8 wks.	Intra Oc. 1wk.	W 14wk.	B 8wk.		
85 WL	W.Leg	Feb, Mar, Apr, Jn, Nov, Dec.	Intra Oc. 1da.	W 15wk.	B 10wk.		W 12 wk.
54 W	Leg	Apr, Jn, Aug, Oct, Dec, Feb.	Wtr. 4da, 6wk.	W 14-16wk			W 8 wk.
80 W	Aus.W	Every 3 weeks.	Wtr. 4da, 3wk, 5wk; Intra N 15wk		B 2wk.	(Wtr. 2wk, 1wk;) (Intra N. 15wk)	W 15 wk.
86 WL	W.Leg	Every 6 weeks.				Intra Oc. 4da, 15wk.	W 13 wk.
59 W	Leg	Every 2 months.	Intra Oc. 2, 6, 16wk.		B 7wk.	Intra Oc. 4da, 15wk.	
57 W	Leg	Every 2 months.	Intra Oc. 2, 6, 16wk.		B 7wk.		
72 W	Leg	Every month in year.	Wtr. 8, 16 wk.		B 3wk.	Wtr. 8, 16wk.	W 3 wk.
82 W	Leg	Every 10 weeks					W 14 wk.
81 L	W.Leg	Every 8-10 wks.	Intra Oc. 1da; Wtr. 16wk.	W 16wk.		Wtr. 3wk.	W 18 wk.
50 L	W.Leg	Every mo. except Jn, Aug, Nov	Intra N. 1 da.	W 16wk.	B 10wk.		W 10 wk.
79 WL	W.Leg	Oct., Jan.	Wtr. 1 da.	W 14wk.		Wtr. 5da, 6wk.	W 13 wk.
60 W	Aus.W	Every 2 months.	Wtr. 18da; Sp. 18wk.		B 12wk.	Wtr. 4da, 8, 16wk.	W 12 wk.
61 W	Leg&H.	Every 7 weeks	Sp. 3-4 wk.		B 10-12wk.		W 10-12wk.
58 L	Aus.W	Mar, Ma, Jn, Aug, Nov, Feb.	Wtr. 10 da.		B 12 wk.		W 6 wk.
63 W	W.Leg	Every 8 weeks	Intra Oc. 1-7 da.	W 8wk.	B 4mo.		W 12 wk.
84 W	Leg	Every month	Wtr. 2-3 wk.	W 10wk.	B 10-12wk.	Wtr. 5-6da, 10-12wk	W 6-7 wk.
69 L	W.Leg	November	Wtr. 3 da.	W 8wk.		Wtr. 3, 16 wk.	W 12 wk.
55 L	AW&WL	Feb. & Dec.	Sp. 4 wk.		B 6wk.	EyeDp. 3mo.	W 6 wk.
64 W	W.Leg	Mar, Ma, Jn, Oct, Dec, Feb.	Intra Oc. 3, 12 wks.		B 6-7 wk.	Intra Oc. 4da, 4mo.	W 8 wk.
53 L	W.Leg	Feb, Mar, Nov.	Intra Oc. 16wk; Wtr. 10da, 5wk.				
71 W	AW&WL	Feb, Ma, Sept, Dec.	Wtr. 26 da.	W 8wk.	B 10wk.	Wtr. 4da, 4wk, 4mo.	W 14 wk.
87 W	W.Leg	October	Intra N. 1da.	W 10wk.	N 6wk.		W 6 wk.
77 L	G.Leg	Feb, Apr, Aug, Nov.	Wtr. 4da, 4wk, 4mo.				W 8 wk.
73 W	W.Leg	Mar, Ma, Jn, Sept, Nov.	Intra N. 1da.		B 3mo.		W 3 mo.
52 W	W.Leg	Every 7 wks.		W 7-11wk.			W 7-11wk.
51 W*	G.Leg	Feb, Aug, Oct, Dec.	Intra Oc. 2wk.	W 10wk.	B 12wk.		W 8 wk.

*11 month study.

W - Wire floor
L - Litter floor

Sp. - Spray
Wtr. - Water

W - Wing Web B - Brush N - Needle