

FOURTH
~~THIRD~~ BUTTE COUNTY
POULTRY
MANAGEMENT
STUDY
1951

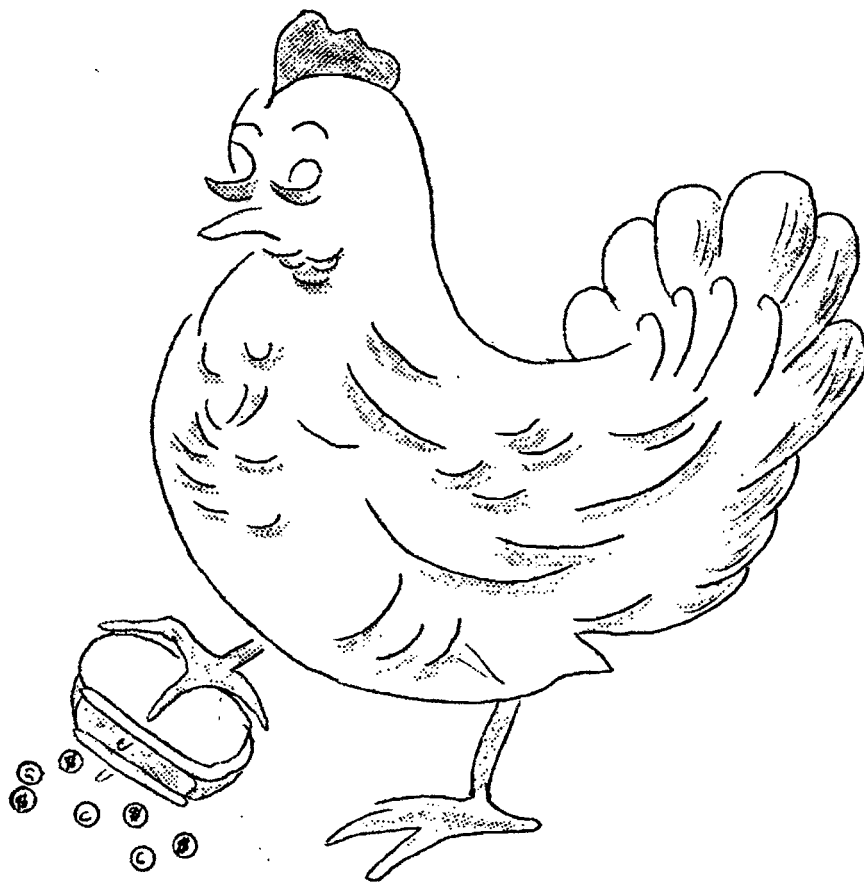
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A Summary of 10 Poultry Flocks

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TABLE I

INCOME AND EXPENSE PER HEN

Serial No.	Income					Cash and Depreciation Costs						Farm Income	Non-cash Costs		Management Income
	Egg Sales	Poultry Sales	Manure and Sacks	Change Stock Inventory	Total Income	Feed	Hired Labor	Chix	Misc.	Depreciation	Total		Family Labor	Interest	
9	10.14	.74	.30	1.82	13.00	6.90	-	.93	.39	.38	8.60	4.40	1.20	.23	2.97
7	10.91	.62	.17	1.54	13.24	6.62		.88	.69	.19	8.38	4.86	2.18	.17	2.51
12	9.48	.48	.19	.47	10.62	4.55	1.31	.54	.45	.49	7.34	3.28	.56	.39	2.33
8	10.56	.85	.44	.77	12.62	5.72	.36	.87	.34	.37	7.66	4.96	2.59	.24	2.13
16	8.72	.36	.21	.02	9.31	5.33	.51	.32	.17	.09	6.42	2.89	.79	.16	1.94
26	8.33	.13	.24	.37	9.07	5.04	-	.54	.21	.46	6.25	2.82	1.33	.23	1.26
6	8.02	.58	.42	1.19	10.21	6.03	.02	.70	.93	.14	7.82	2.39	1.89	.21	.29
2	8.05	1.23	.10	.01	9.39	6.07	.01	.95	.68	.22	7.93	1.46	2.30	.19	-1.03
23	10.02	.73	.32	-1.69	9.38	4.75	-	-	.50	.61	5.86	3.52	6.03	.26	-2.77
27	9.81	.84	.42	.72	11.79	7.85	-	.65	.87	.33	9.70	2.09	4.82	.32	-3.05
Av.	9.41	.64	.25	.60	10.90	5.82	.34	.67	.48	.31	7.62	3.28	1.83	.24	1.21
1950	6.80	.72	.18	.09	7.79	4.95	.24	.55	.35	.29	6.38	1.41	1.75	.23	-.57
1949	8.01	.85	.16	.63	9.65	5.43	.25	.65	.32	.27	6.92	2.73	1.68	.24	.81

The year 1951 which ended on January 31, 1952 for these records, was the most profitable for poultrymen since this study was started. We still find wide variations between flocks however, in the actual amount of profit made. A combination of factors results in the differences which exist.

In general, we can say this about the flocks in this study.

- All are too small for a single source of income. Many are operated in conjunction with other enterprises however, and make efficient use of the labor and equipment involved. Some are too small for efficient use of labor, however.

- Egg production is good but the size of egg needs to be increased.

- Rate of production during the fall could be increased.

- Labor used is high, largely as a result of the small flock sizes.

- Feed consumption is somewhat high, indicating possible wastage.

- Feed costs could be lowered by feeding more mash in the ration.

TABLE II

FLOCK STATISTICS AND PRODUCTION FACTORS

Serial No.	Flock Size	Laying Flock			Price per Cull Hen	Hours Labor Per Hen	Pounds Feed per Hen			% Mash	Cost per Cwt.			% Mortality Chicks	Type of House
		% Died	% Culled	% Added			Total	Est. for Pullets	Est. for Hens only		Mash	Grain	Av.		
9	S	14	81	167	.92	1.2	136	42	94	100	5.05	-	5.05	8	C & L
7	S	20	58	181	1.00	2.2	155	45	110	65	4.72	3.32	4.23	5	Litter
12	M	13	54	119	.86	2.1	115	30	85	64	4.63	2.76	3.91	8	Litter
8	S	19	77	145	1.11	2.9	138	36	102	72	4.42	3.30	4.11	8	Litter
16	M	13	47	62	.77	1.3	133	16	117	71	4.12	3.64	3.98	13	Litter
26	S	22	25	87	.48	1.3	118	22	96	61	4.60	3.63	4.22	15	L w P
6	S	20	52	154	1.17	1.9	133	38	95	62	4.70	3.77	4.35	12	Litter
2	S	22	154	163	1.08	2.3	162	41	121	56	4.27	3.02	3.73	19	Litter
23	S	14	84	-	.89	6.0	112	-	112	70	4.45	3.53	4.17	-	W & L
27	S	21	86	158	.89	4.8	138	40	98	100	5.68	-	5.68	6	Cage
Av.	775	17	70	129	.95	2.2	135	32	103	71	4.66	3.28	4.26	10	-
1950	700	21	83	108	.84	2.0	133	27	106	62	4.18	2.87	3.67	22	-
1949	650	17	82	130	.98	2.0	131	32	99	64	4.56	2.85	3.94	14	-

The flocks in this study are all relatively small. Large - over 2,000, Medium - 1,000 - 2,000, Small - under 1,000. Most of the flocks increased in size during the year. This is a good indication of profitable management.

All of the flocks were White Leghorns. No broilers were raised on any of the ranches.

The column on type of house substantiates our previous experiences that the management practices used are more important in determining profit than the type of housing used. C - Cage, L - Litter, P - Porch, W - Wire floor.

Pounds of feed were figured as follows: Total pounds of feed consumed during the year divided by the average number of hens gives Total Pounds Feed per Hen.

The percent added times 25 gives the Estimated amount for pullets.

The Total Pounds of Feed per Hen minus the Estimated amount for pullets gives the Estimated for Hens Only.

TABLE III

EGG PRODUCTION AND SALES

Serial No	No. Eggs per Hen	% Market Eggs Sold			% Fall Eggs	Rate of Production During Fall	% Fall Hens of Av.	% Added July - Oct.	% Pullets	Per Dozen Eggs			Return per Hr. Family Labor	% Return on Investment
		Large	Medium	Small						Av. Price	Net Cost	Mat. Income		
9	237	47	37	16	48	70%	132	65	100	54.0	38.2	15.8	3.47	69.0
7	242	48	33	19	62	70	178	100	100	51.0	39.3	11.7	2.16	76.4
12	216	55	28	17	49	59	146	100	71	50.8	38.3	12.5	5.14	35.4
8	234	51	30	19	58	72	154	100	86	51.3	41.0	10.3	1.82	48.4
16	203	79	13	8	19	37	85	0	54	51.9	40.3	11.6	3.47	67.0
26	185	74	14	12	38	44	132	100	70	53.6	48.8	4.8	1.56	22.8
6	191	60	27	13	49	50	153	100	88	52.9	51.0	1.9	1.15	12.0
2	196	56	24	20	39	52	121	100	94	50.0	56.4	-6.4	.55	-
23	215	79	14	7	24	52	79	0	73	56.8	72.5	-15.7	.54	-
27	200	59	28	13	30	40	123	31	97	55.7	73.0	-17.3	.37	-
Av.	214	59	26	15	43	58	132	82	81	52.1	45.4	6.7	1.66	30.3
1950	210	62	22	16	39	54	123	88	82	39.0	42.2	-3.2	.68	-
1949	214	64	24	12	43	52	141	97	86	46.6	41.9	4.7	1.48	21.8

Egg income - The most important source of income for a poultry flock, results from two things: (1) the number of eggs sold, and (2) the price per dozen.

The number of eggs is affected by several factors:

- the quality of stock. Buy only the best

- the culling program. Cull all hens who are not laying or laying at a low rate.

Do not work for a high egg price at the expense of higher costs. Get a good price but keep costs down.

A good price for eggs is necessary for a satisfactory profit and can be affected by:

- the percent large eggs. Get stock that produces large eggs and keep the eggs clean so that they will not be graded down.

- have a high percent of fall eggs by putting in as many spring hatched pullets as possible.

SUMMARY OF INDIVIDUAL FLOCKS

No. 9. A small flock operated in conjunction with other enterprises. This flock illustrates how a poultry enterprise can be a profitable sideline to other enterprises where the investment in facilities and amount of labor used is not large. Egg production was good but the size of eggs could be improved, either through different stock or heavier spring replacement. However, being partly a cage operation puts more advantage to continuous brooding than is usually obtained with litter houses. Mortality and culling were good, efficient use was made of the labor and feed consumption was good. A 100 percent mash ration makes the cost of feed high but the saving in labor of not having to make an additional feeding may offset the additional cost.

No. 7. A small flock making a good profit. Egg production was outstanding but egg size could be improved. Fall egg production was very good in total fall production, rate of lay during fall and the number of fall hens. This plant has capacity for more birds than were on hand at any time during the year and total net income could be increased by enlarging the size of the flock. With a litter type house the number of birds during the fall could be increased even further. Mortality was a little high and the culling lower than can be recommended for a continuous operation. Labor was high and feed consumption higher than necessary. Check for wastage around feed troughs. Mortality of chicks good. Miscellaneous expense might be reduced some.

No. 12. One of the larger flocks in the study but not large enough for a single enterprise. However, this flock is being operated in conjunction with other enterprises and in a very efficient manner. Egg production was good but not outstanding. Egg size was good but might be improved. Fall production was low even though only spring hatched birds were used. Mortality was good but culling was low for a continuous operation. Labor was high but feed consumption was very good.

No. 8. A small flock being operated in conjunction with other enterprises. This is a profitable operation in spite of being a little small for most efficient use of labor and equipment. The investment per hen is very reasonable although the houses were not filled to capacity for most of the year. Egg production was good although size could be improved. Fall egg production good. Mortality of hens was a little high but culling good. Labor was too high. Feed consumption might be decreased some by watching for wastage and the feed costs might be reduced by feeding a higher proportion of grain.

No. 16. A fair sized flock but too small for a single enterprise. Egg production could be improved but size was outstanding. Could increase the fall egg production materially. Pullets should be hatched earlier and a heavier culling program undertaken. Labor used was good but feed consumption high. Check for wastage. A higher proportion of grain could be fed and feed costs reduced. Chick mortality could be decreased. Egg size probably due to a high proportion of old hens in the flock.

No. 26. A small flock operated in conjunction with other enterprises. Egg production was low but size was good. Fall egg production could be improved largely by getting better production. A higher percent of pullets in the flock would also help. Mortality of the laying flock was high and culling low. Although the flock size increased during the year, it was the result of low culling and not high replacement. Labor and feed consumption good. Mortality of chicks high.

No. 6. A small flock that did not have the available space filled to capacity at any time during the year although the size of the flock increased during the year. Egg production might be increased some although the size was good. Production during the fall could be improved some, perhaps by hatching the pullets a little earlier. The mortality was high and the culling low, resulting in a flock composed partly of older hens. Labor and feed consumption were high. Plan for increased size, check equipment and arrangement for efficiency, and check for feed wastage. Check for ways to reduce miscellaneous expenses.

No. 2. A small flock operated in conjunction with other enterprises. Egg production could be increased and egg size is a little small. Fall egg production could be improved. Mortality is high and culling is higher than is probably profitable under the price relationships which existed. Labor and feed consumption too high. Check arrangement of equipment and buildings for efficiency and feed hoppers for wastage. Reduce chick mortality.

No. 23. A small flock that decreased in size during the year because no replacement pullets were raised. Egg production was good and egg size excellent. Fall production was low, largely because no pullets were added. Mortality and culling were good. Labor used was extremely high, largely the result of the small size. Feed consumption was high. Feed costs could be decreased by feeding more grain.

No. 27. A small flock with fair egg production but size needs improvement. Fall egg production could be increased largely by adding spring hatched pullets that will give a good rate of lay during the fall months. Mortality is high but culling good. Hours of labor used high but feed consumption good.