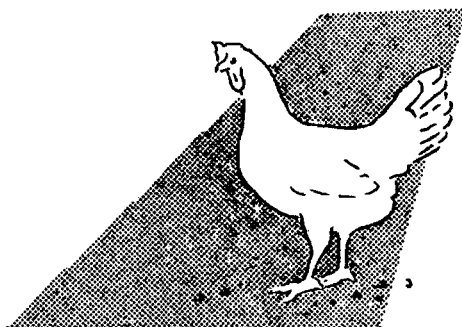


1954
POULTRY MANAGEMENT STUDY

Twenty-three Poultry Ranches
in Riverside County
Averaged These Records

Eggs Laid Per Hen - - - -	234
Cost Per Dozen Eggs - - -	36.4¢
Feed Cost Per Hen - - - -	\$5.26
Labor Cost Per Hen- - - -	\$.32
Other Cash Costs- - - - -	\$1.18
Total Cash Costs Per Hen	\$6.76

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DID YOU GAIN OR LOSE IN 1954?

By

Lloyd P. Sharp, Farm Advisor

During the past two years, poultrymen experienced one extra good year and one very poor year profit-wise. You can't always measure your gains, though, in dollars and cents. If 1954 helped you to better appreciate the importance of doing a more efficient job in order to stay in business, then you gained something very worthwhile. It may help you succeed in other years when the economic picture is not too bright.

The Poultry Management Study for 1954 showed an average management income of \$-.01 per bird, however, the eleven high ranches in the study profit-wise averaged \$.79 management income per bird which indicates efficient management does pay off. A management study of this kind can help poultrymen to keep more accurate cost records and affords them the opportunity of comparing management practices and returns with other cooperators.

Several important observations can be made from this study:

- (1) It is necessary to have a minimum size operation of 3000 layers for the average family.
- (2) Factors essential to success
 - a) high rate of lay
 - b) low production costs.

This can be attained only with good stock, careful attention to brooding and rearing of replacement stock, following good feeding and management

practices in handling the laying flock and keeping accurate cost records.

- (3) Cage operated flocks showed a higher feed consumption as well as higher feed cost per hen than floor flocks - probably due to feed wastage.
- (4) Average egg production increased from 230 to 234 eggs per bird.
- (5) Average flock mortality ten percent.
- (6) Average floor operated flock showed a management income of \$.83 per bird against \$-.49 for the cage flock.
- (7) Hired labor cost was reduced from the previous year. Size of flocks reduced to family operation size.
- (8) The brush method of vaccinating for tracheitis gained favor among cooperators last year, which is a good trend.

More thought needs to be given to the problem of reducing the number of "off grade eggs" being produced and marketed. The reduction of off grades, such as soiled eggs, poor shell texture, misshapen eggs, and bloods can greatly increase the net income to the average producer. More effort should be given to the production of "Nest Clean Eggs."

The comprehensive report "Poultry Management Cost Study" for 1954-55 from which this material was taken may be obtained from the Agricultural Extension Service, Room 7, Post Office Building, Riverside, Calif.

PRODUCTION AND INCOME FACTORS
HIGH VS LOW INCOME GROUP AND CAGE VS FLOOR

	11 High	12 Low	Av. 23 Flocks	Cage VS Floor	
Average Number Hens	3192	2451	2805	2912	2481
Eggs Per Hen	238	230	234	231	221
Percent Mortality	8.0	12.0	10.0	10.7	10.0
Percent Culled	95.0	97.0	96.0	93.0	96.0
Percent Added	116.0	111.0	113.0	123.0	107.0
Hours Labor Per Hen	1.1	1.2	1.1	1.2	1.0
Pounds Feed Per Hen	134	133	133	134	124
Feed Cost Per Hen	\$ 5.11	\$ 5.43	\$ 5.26	\$ 5.55	\$ 4.66
Average Price Eggs	37.5	35.0	36.4	36.1	35.4
Net Cost Per Dozen	33.5	40.1	36.4	38.9	33.1
Income Per Hen	\$ 8.32	\$ 7.12	\$ 7.77	\$ 7.80	\$ 7.11
Expense Per Hen	6.61	6.94	6.76	7.05	5.61
Farm Income	1.71	.79	-.96	.70	1.50
Management Income	.79	-.96	-.01	-.49	.83

Farm Income is total income minus cash and depreciation costs.

Management Income is farm income minus family labor and interest.