



LIBRARY
- SEP 21 1951
UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA

FRESNO COUNTY
CHICKEN MEAT
STUDY
1951

Compiled by
THE AGRICULTURAL EXTENSION SERVICE
University of California
United States Department of Agriculture

Agriculture, College of

misc. pub.

UC Cooperative Extension Co.

CHICKEN MEAT PRODUCTION

is a comparatively new industry in Fresno County. It has been estimated that approximately 4,000,000 fryers were produced in the county during 1950. The number is expected to increase in 1951.

The records in this study cover the raising of chickens to be sold for fryers. The records start with the purchase of day-old chicks and continues until the birds are sold.

THIS ANALYSIS APPLIES ONLY TO PRODUCERS COOPERATING. It is not given to represent averages for the industry.

INFORMATION GIVEN IN THIS REPORT:

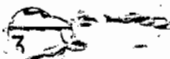
	Averages	
	1950	1951
Total income per bird	99¢	90¢
Total expenses per bird	89¢	85¢
Management income per bird	10¢	5¢
Pounds of feed required to produce a pound of meat	3.09	3.05
Total pounds of feed per bird	10.01	9.79
Percent of feed fed as mash	99.8%	100%
Total income per pound	30.6¢	28.1¢
Total costs per pound	27.4¢	26.6¢
Management income per pound	3.2¢	1.5¢
Weight of birds marketed	3.24	3.21
Price received per pound	30.6¢	28.1¢
Mortality	3.94%	4.34%
Average price per chick started	17.6¢	17.4¢
Hours of labor per bird	.07	.05

A more detailed summary of the results will be found on pages 3 and 4.

PREPARED BY:

Ray Houck, Farm Advisor
Agricultural Extension Service
Fresno County, California

INTRODUCTION



This is the second annual report on the Fresno County Chicken Meat Cost Management Study. Detailed records were kept on ten poultry ranches during the time required for each cooperator to brood two groups of fryers.

The study is conducted by the Agricultural Extension Service, in cooperation with local fryer producers. It covered the production and marketing of 243,837 meat birds. The gross income from these birds amounted to \$220,477.

The price paid for fryers is subject to rapid changes, while production costs are rather stable. The net income per bird is normally low. To stay in business over a long period of time, it will be necessary to have a large operation and obtain maximum efficiency in the use of feed, labor, and housing.

The purposes of the study were:

1. To assist the grower in analyzing his fryer management.
 - a. By checking on the efficiency of his management.
 - b. By pointing out unprofitable practices.
 - c. By comparing his operation with that of other growers.
 - d. By determining where his money goes and why.
2. To obtain local information on the most profitable methods and practices now being used in fryer production.

TABLE FACTS

The records on the following table are arranged from left to right in order of decreasing management income per pound produced.

The averages shown in the table are based upon two broods with the exception of Cooperator No. 5, who raised one brood.

SUMMARY OF COSTS, INCOME, EARNINGS, AND RELATED FACTORS--1950-51

Paul

Cooperators' Serial Number	10	7	9	6	5	1	8	4	2	3	Average
Birds raised per brood (Group)*	B	A	B	C	A	C	A	B	C	C	12,408
Cost per chick started	.1748	.1733	.1700	.1740	.1700	.1817	.1734	.1792	.1733	.1719	.1742
Percent mortality	2.44	3.48	4.80	2.44	3.30	2.69	1.87	5.90	5.80	10.66	4.34
Mash cost per cwt.	5.64	5.74	4.94	5.23	5.67	5.50	5.62	5.47	5.47	5.52	5.48
Percent of feed fed as mash	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100
Pounds of feed required to produce a pound of meat	2.98	2.81	3.22	2.93	2.79	2.91	3.00	3.40	3.17	3.27	3.05
Average weight	3.16	3.27	3.61	3.23	3.39	3.07	2.92	3.23	3.17	3.08	3.21
Average age (days)	72	68	75	74	73	75	70	80	78	75	74
Hours labor per bird	.0360	.0536	.0653	.0509	.0568	.0647	.0835	.0362	.0652	.0569	.0569
Total costs of production per bird sold	.7948	.8055	.9019	.8063	.8100	.8314	.8466	.9140	.8969	.9216	.8529
Average price received per bird sold	.9587	.9691	1.043	.8624	.8519	.8634	.8439	.9080	.8715	.8705	.9042
Management income per bird sold	.1639	.1636	.1409	.0561	.0418	.0320	-.0027	-.0057	-.0254	-.0511	.0513
COSTS & INCOME PER POUND OF CHICKEN SOLD											
Direct Costs											
Chicks	.0566	.0548	.0495	.0577	.0519	.0607	.0593	.0589	.0581	.0624	.0570
Feed	.1682	.1623	.1598	.1531	.1580	.1614	.1691	.1862	.1733	.1805	.1672
Litter	.0009	---	.0019	.0011	.0012	.0009	.0027	.0003	.0016	.0035	.0014
Hired labor	.0003	.0015	.0008	.0035	.0005	.0070	---	---	.0126	---	.0026
Operator's labor	.0094	.0125	.0146	.0105	.0138	.0108	.0024	.0086	.0049	.0157	.0103
Brooder heat	.0018	.0030	.0010	.0023	.0008	.0041	.0013	.0084	.0040	.0023	.0029
Light & power	---	.0011	.0003	.0003	.0003	.0014	.0001	.0011	.0010	.0017	.0007
Motor vehicles	.0003	.0011	.0004	.0013	.0004	.0021	---	.0002	.0009	.0022	.0009
Clean-up materials	.0001	---	.0001	.0002	.0004	---	---	.0001	.0003	.0004	.0002
Medicine	.0040	.0043	.0062	.0052	.0032	.0064	.0005	.0073	.0039	.0053	.0046
Miscellaneous	.0005	.0009	.0037	.0007	---	.0009	---	.0001	.0011	.0044	.0012
TOTAL	.2422	.2415	.2383	.2360	.2304	.2559	.2354	.2713	.2617	.2785	.2491
Indirect Costs											
Taxes	.0004	---	.0003	.0008	.0025	.0004	---	.0013	.0024	.0004	.0009
Insurance	.0003	.0007	.0004	.0017	.0006	.0017	.0009	.0018	.0030	.0019	.0013
Depreciation	.0049	.0020	.0086	.0117	.0031	.0098	.0073	.0061	.0110	.0161	.0081
Interest	.0036	.0018	.0026	.0106	.0024	.0025	.0026	.0023	.0050	.0021	.0036
TOTAL	.0092	.0045	.0119	.0249	.0086	.0144	.0108	.0115	.0215	.0206	.0138
TOTAL, all costs	.2514	.2460	.2501	.2609	.2391	.2703	.2871	.2828	.2832	.2990	.2670
Less manure income	.0004	.0006	---	.0016	---	.0012	.0032	---	.0023	---	.0009
Net costs of production	.2510	.2454	.2501	.2593	.2391	.2691	.2839	.2828	.2809	.2990	.2661
Average price received per pound	.3028	.2954	.2892	.2775	.2514	.2795	.2831	.2810	.2729	.2824	.2815
Management income per pound	.0518	.0500	.0391	.0182	.0123	.0104	-.0009	-.0018	-.0080	-.0166	.0155

* Group A = 4,000 - 6,000; Group B = 6,000 - 13,000; Group C = 13,000 - 50,000



TYPE OF BUSINESS

Fryer production in this area involves starting day-old chicks and raising them for 10 to 12 weeks, or until they weigh from 3 to $3\frac{1}{2}$ pounds each.

All houses are filled to capacity with day-old chicks at one time. When the birds reach market weight they are all sold. The houses are cleaned and the process repeated. Most operators raise and market four broods per year.

Past experience indicates that continuous brooding and marketing usually results in greater losses from disease than when birds are brooded and marketed as previously described.

The most popular chicks for fryer production are either Barred Plymouth Rock--New Hampshire crosses, or New Hampshires.

HOW INFORMATION IS OBTAINED

Poultrymen who wish to cooperate in this study keep records on their operation. When the birds from each brood are marketed, a report form is completed and sent to the Farm Advisors' Office. The record is tabulated, analyzed, typed, and a completed copy returned to the grower. Forms and envelopes for mailing are provided by the Farm Advisors' Office.

WHO MAY COOPERATE?

Any commercial fryer producer in Fresno County. All cooperators are assigned a number. Their identity is confidential.

HOW DOES THE COOPERATOR BENEFIT?

He receives free, a complete analysis of his fryer business. He has an opportunity to compare his operating efficiency with that of other growers of a similar size.

FEED COSTS

amounted to 63% of the total cost of production in 1951. It is in this phase of fryer production that the operator has his greatest opportunity to improve profits.

The feed costs, per pound of meat produced, averaged 16.03¢ for the high 5 records as compared to 17.41¢ for the low 5 records.

OTHER FACTORS affecting the total feed costs per bird--average price per hundred pounds for mash--and--percent mortality.

The five more profitable flocks averaged paying \$5.44 per hundredweight for feed as compared to \$5.52 for the less profitable group.

CUT FEED COSTS AND IMPROVE PROFIT by:

Buying all feed in bulk. The net cost of bulk mash averages about \$2.37 per ton less than sack mash. Feeding with bulk feed requires less labor.

Filling feed hoppers more carefully. Avoid spillage and filling feeders too full.

Handling sacked feed more cautiously, thus avoiding torn sacks.

SUCCESS IN THE FRYER BUSINESS DEPENDS ON --

At least two uncontrollable factors:

General price level of feed;

Price offered for the marketable bird.

A number of controllable factors:

Pounds of feed required to produce a pound of meat;

Labor costs per bird;

Weight and age of birds at marketing;

Mortality;

Time and method of marketing;

Quality of bird.

Report Issued at
Office of the Farm Advisor
Post Office Building, Fresno, California
June, 1951

UC Cooperative Extension