

1967 SAN DIEGO COUNTY EGG COST STUDY
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The 1967 San Diego County Egg Cost Study was conducted by the Agricultural Extension Service, University of California, in cooperation with county poultrymen. Cooperators sent in results from their own operations with the specific purpose of comparing their results with others in the study to develop management programs to improve their own ranch operation.

This year's results are from 25 specialized commercial egg-producing ranches. These ranches averaged a total of 1,106,512 laying hens during the year in flock sizes varying from 5000 to over 100,000 layers with an average of 44,261 laying hens per ranch.

There was a 3% average increase in the laying flock during the year. Replacements were 85% of the average flock with a lower than normal culling rate of 65%. Mortality was heavy at 18% for layers. Growing replacement mortality was 10%. Over 1/2 of the losses were due to Marek's disease.

Egg production rate was 243 eggs per 365 hen days. Birds are added to lay flock at 6 months of age. The 3 to 5 eggs laid per bird prior to 6 months of age are included so that actual production was probably 239 eggs or 65.5% rate of lay.

The general practice is to brood replacements on a year-round basis.

No. times pullets added	2	3	4	5	6
No. of producers	3	9	7	5	1

Compared to 1966, feed consumption was down per layer to 87 pounds; cost of feed was up 7¢ to \$3.24 per 100 pounds; and hired labor cost was 41¢ per layer. Eggs were picked up from the ranch and dealer-cleaned, sized, and packaged off the ranch without a labor cost to the poultry ranch operation.

Housing was mostly in open-type, truss

housing of metal roof, with lath or plastic type curtain siding. The 30-foot-wide house holds four rows of back-to-back cages with a usual housing rate of 4 inches feed hopper frontage per bird in 16- or 18-inch-deep cages. The 12-inch-wide cage with 3 birds seems to be the most popular with 8", 16", and 24" cages also being used.

Feeding was mostly with electric cart at least once a day with an additional feeding or leveling being accomplished each day. Fourteen of the ranches used floor brooding operations during first 6 to 8 weeks and then moved to wire cages for growing. Five used wire-floor brooding. Six bought started pullets with various types of programs. Most of the brooding programs used mechanical feeders.

The labor cost reported was \$18,087 per average ranch of 44,261 laying hens. This figures out at 2¢ per dozen or 41¢ per average layer. This cost includes Workmens Compensation, Social Security and contract labor for manure cleanout, vaccination and debeaking.

The results of this study cannot be considered as representative of this county. They may be considered as only representative of what 25 specialized commercial egg-producing ranches achieved within a limited area. These data exceed what might be considered as average results and could be used by poultrymen as a goal to evaluate their own efficiency of operation. A management charge of 10% of costs is added to take care of costs associated with management, such as cost accounting, correspondence, legal matters, promotion of the business, costs of attending conferences, meetings, and a return to the manager for proper decisions on plans of work, and evaluation of capital, labor, and operational costs. An efficient manager may very well make up for this charge of 2.4¢ per dozen. Total all costs varied within a range of almost 8¢ per dozen. The average for the study was 26.4¢ net cost per dozen. Average income was 2.4¢ resulting a net loss over costs of 1.8¢ per dozen.

COMPARE YOUR RESULTS WITH SAN DIEGO EGG COST STUDY COOPERATORS, 1963 to 1967

<u>1 RESULTS PER DOZEN EGGS PRODUCED</u>	1963 64 & 65 Av. Cents	1966 Av. Cents	1967 Av. Cents	Compare your Results
Feed Layers only	13.2	13.4	13.5	_____
Feed Cost for replacements	4.1	4.2	4.2	_____
Replacement chicks & started pullets	2.4	2.3	2.2	_____
Supplies, taxes, utilities, misc.	1.6	1.4	1.6	_____
Hired labor costs	1.7	1.9	1.9	_____
Home chore labor	<u>.3</u>	<u>.1</u>	<u>.1</u>	_____
Total cash & labor	23.3	23.3	23.5	_____
Stock inventory and Cull sales - credit	-1.5	-1.6	-1.0	_____
<u>Net cash cost incl. home chore labor</u>	21.8	21.7	22.5	_____
Depreciation 10% average value of buildings and equipment	1.0	.7	.8	_____
Interest 6% on land stock and average value of buildings and equipment	1.1	1.0	.9	_____
Management 10% of cost	2.4	2.3	2.4	_____
<u>Net cost of production per doz. eggs</u>	26.3	25.7	26.6	_____

<u>11 RESULTS PER AVERAGE LAYER (365 hen days)</u>				
Feed layers only	\$2.75	\$2.82	\$2.73	_____
Feed for replacements	.77	.80	.84	_____
Replacement chicks, started pullets	.47	.46	.44	_____
Supplies, taxes, utilities, misc.	.33	.30	.31	_____
Hired labor	.35	.40	.39	_____
Home chore labor	<u>.07</u>	<u>.02</u>	<u>.02</u>	_____
Net cash and labor cost	4.74	4.80	4.73	_____
Stock inventory and Cull sales - credit	- .31	- .34	- .19	_____
Net cash cost incl. home chore labor	4.43	4.46	4.54	_____
Depreciation 10% average value of buildings and equipment	.18	.15	.16	_____
Interest 6% on land, stock and average value of buildings and equipment	.24	.20	.19	_____
Management 10% of cost	<u>.49</u>	<u>.48</u>	<u>.49</u>	_____
<u>Total cost per hen</u>	\$5.34	\$5.29	\$5.38	_____

COMPARE YOUR RESULTS WITH SAN DIEGO EGG COST STUDY COOPERATORS, 1963 to 1967

<u>111 LAYING FLOCK, FEED AND OTHER DATA</u>	<u>1963, 64 & 65</u>	<u>1966 Av.</u>	<u>1967 Av</u>	<u>Compare your results</u>
Died	15	15	18	_____
Culled	69	66	65	_____
<u>Total to replace</u>	<u>84</u>	<u>81</u>	<u>83</u>	_____
Added	96	96	86	_____
Increases	12	15	3	_____
<u>% of av. flock est. as pullets 6-18 mos. of age</u>	<u>82</u>	<u>81</u>	<u>76</u>	_____
<u>Loss of chicks to 6 months of age</u>	<u>7</u>	<u>9</u>	<u>10</u>	_____
Cull income each	21	31	20	_____
<u>Average number birds per flock</u>	<u>25,016</u>	<u>41,548</u>	<u>44,261</u>	_____
Dozen eggs produced per hen	20.3	20.6	20.2	_____
All eggs produced per 365 hen days	244	247	243	_____
Less: estimate of eggs produced before being added to flock	<u>4</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>4</u>	_____
Estimated production all eggs per 365 hen days after 6 months of age	240	243	239	_____
Average rate of production (including eggs laid by hens under 6 mos. of age)	67	68	67	_____
<u>Eggs sold wholesale; A,AA,Lrg. & XLrg.</u>	<u>70</u>	<u>70</u>	<u>69</u>	_____
Pounds of feed for layers only	89	90	87	_____
Feed ratio for layers only	4.4	4.4	4.3	_____
Feed cost per dozen, layers only	13.4	13.7	13.6	_____
All feed used, replacements and layers	114	114	110	_____
Feed ratio, replacements and layers	5.6	5.5	5.5	_____
Cost of feed per 100 pounds	\$3.13	\$3.17	\$3.24	_____
<u>Feed cost for layers only</u>	<u>2.75</u>	<u>2.82</u>	<u>2.73</u>	_____
Replacements as started pullets	16	15	6	_____
Average cost of day-old pullets	.31	.31	.31	_____
Average price received per dozen	27.7¢	33.2¢	24.8¢	_____

TABLE A. POULTRY EGG COST STUDY, SAN DIEGO COUNTY - 10-YEAR SUMMARY 1958 - 67
 Agricultural Extension Service, University of California
 San Diego County

Year	Eggs per Hen	% Lrg.	% Died	% Culls	% Added	% Increase	Cull Income each	Feed per Layer Lbs.	Feed Ratio Layers only*	Feed Cost			Hired Labor Cost perDoz.	Chick Cost each
										per cwt.	per Doz. **	Layers only per Doz.		
1967	243	69	18	65	86	3	20¢	87	4.3	\$3.24	17.7¢	13.5¢	1.9¢	31¢
1966	247	70	15	66	96	15	31	90	4.4	3.17	17.6	13.4	1.9	31
1965	246	70	16	68	95	11	18	89	4.4	3.12	17.1	13.1	1.7	31
1964	242	72	15	76	98	7	21	89	4.4	3.10	17.6	13.5	1.8	32
1963	243	69	14	63	94	17	25	88	4.3	3.12	17.2	13.1	1.8	33
1962	245	72	13	68	106	15	23	90	4.4	3.08	17.4	13.1	2.2	35
1961	246	71	13	75	105	17	29	91	4.4	3.02	16.9	12.9	2.2	36
1960	241	70	13	71	96	12	27	89	4.5	2.90	16.6	12.5	2.1	39
1959	243	68	14	82	107	11	30	90	4.5	3.23	18.5	14.1	2.1	43
1958	239	68	14	79	105	12	46	91	4.6	3.31	19.3	14.8	2.6	40

* Pounds feed to one dozen eggs

** Includes feed used for replacement and layers.

TABLE B. POULTRY EGG COST STUDY, SAN DIEGO COUNTY - 10-YEAR SUMMARY 1958 - 67
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Year	Av. Flock Size (1000)	Egg Income per Doz.	Net Cost Eggs per Doz. *	+Profit or -Loss per Dozen	Net Cash Cost and Home Labor per Dozen*	Egg Income per Hen	Total Net Cost Eggs per Hen	Profit per Hen	Labor per Hen Hired	Labor per Hen Home	Int. 6% per Hen	Depr. 10% per Hen	Total Net Cash and Labor per Hen*
1967	44	24.8¢	26.6¢	-1.8¢	22.5	\$5.00	\$5.38	-\$.38	39¢	2¢	19¢	16¢	\$4.54
1966	42	33.2	25.7¢	+7.5	21.7	6.84	5.29	+ 1.55	40	2	20	15	4.46
1965	29	26.9	26.0	+ .9	21.6	5.52	5.34	+ .18	34	6	20	20	4.45
1964	25	27.9	26.6	+1.3	22.2	5.62	5.35	+ .27	37	8	21	19	4.46
1963	21	28.4	26.4	+2.0	21.7	5.73	5.33	+ .40	36	7	23	23	4.38
1962	16	28.9	27.8	+1.1	22.6	5.90	5.66	+ .24	35	23	23	23	4.69
1961	13	31.5	27.5	+4.0	22.3	6.45	5.65	+ .80	45	21	21	25	4.58
1960	9	33.3	28.7	+4.6	22.5	6.61	5.72	+ .89	42	31	27	30	4.42
1959	7	29.8	30.9	-1.1	25.9	5.97	6.20	- .23	38	44	26	29	5.09
1958	6	37.0	31.1	+5.9	25.6	7.32	6.15	+ 1.17	48	38	25	29	5.05

* Total net cost of eggs per dozen and per hen includes all costs: feed, replacement stock, all labor, miscellaneous cash cost of supplies, taxes, and utilities, interest at 6%, depreciation at 10%, and management at 10% of costs. Net cash costs and home labor per dozen and per hen include all of the above except interest, depreciation and management.