

P.H.-EGG PROD.-  
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SHOULD POULTRY EGG PRODUCERS CHANGE PRODUCTION  
 CYCLES TO IMPROVE AVERAGE EGG INCOME?

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Historically, brooding dates have been used as guides to improve prices received for eggs during the higher egg price seasons of the year. Now another tool, that of force molting, may be used to defer egg production from a low egg price period to an expected higher egg price period.

Prices received by producers in the San Diego County Egg Cost Study have been averaged to show seasonal egg price differentials and to see whether adjustment in seasonal egg production may be justified in planning future production programs.

A view of the data in Table A indicates that January, February, March, September, October, November and December prices have been the highest egg price months over the years. To evaluate the average difference, four five-year periods are compared as follows:

AVERAGE PRICE RECEIVED ALL EGGS WHOLESALE AT RANCH

<u>5-Year Period</u>	<u>Average for all 12 months</u>	<u>*Av. High 7 months</u>	<u>**Av. Low 5 months</u>	<u>Difference per dozen</u>
	<u>Cents per dozen</u>	<u>Cents per dozen</u>	<u>Cents per dozen</u>	<u>Cents</u>
1953-57	40.9¢	42.5¢	37.7¢	4.8¢
1958-62	32.1	34.6	28.6	6.0
1963-67	28.2	30.3	25.5	4.8
1968-72	26.3	28.9	22.0	6.9

\*Average higher priced months, September, October, November, December, January, February and March.

\*\*Average lower priced months, April, May, June, July, August.

Part of the difference in these average prices may be attributed to the difference in egg size during the different season of the year. By taking the data from Table B, an estimate of the effect of egg size may be indicated. This data is summarized as follows:

PERCENT OF ALL EGGS SOLD WHOLESALE  
LARGE AA OR A GRADE

5-Year Period	All 12 months	*High 7 months	**Low 5 months	Difference Hi less Lo
1953-57	65.8%	67.0%	64.0%	3.0%
1958-62	70.3	71.9	68.1	3.8
1963-68	70.8	71.6	69.6	2.0
1968-72	68.9	69.9	67.4	2.5
20-Year Av.	69.0	70.1	67.3	2.8

\*Average higher priced months, September, October, November, December, January, February and March.

\*\*Average lower priced months, April, May, June, July, August.

The results of this compilation indicate that on the average less than one cent per dozen of the difference in egg income was due to fewer percent large eggs over the 20-year period. The individual months involved have greater differences but on the average, the major difference was due primarily to actual lower paying prices for eggs of all sizes.

Hens maintained during the first years of this 20-year study were generally smaller than those maintained in the other 15 years. The slight decrease in percent large during the last 5 years has not been due to fewer large eggs but due to fewer eggs meeting AA or A quality grade requirements.

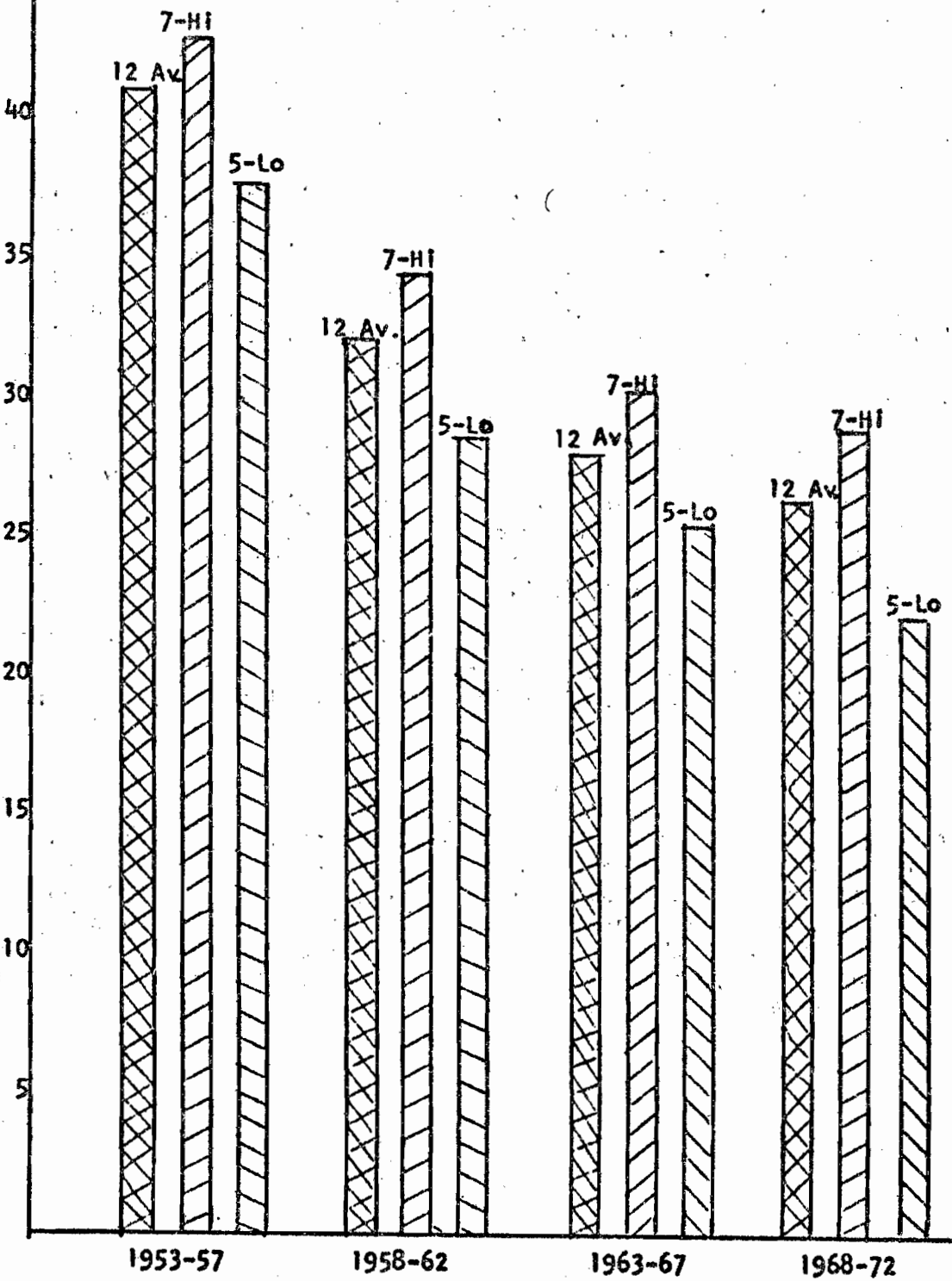
The use of more mechanical processing and egg handling equipment may have contributed to some of this loss. More emphasis on proper handling of eggs in processing and on the ranch may help to improve this situation.

More older hens now being maintained are resulting in more extra large and jumbo size eggs. Many of these eggs fail to meet AA and A grade shell standards. They have tended to become a best buy for consumers and egg breaking operations. There appears to be a great demand for these larger eggs, but generally the producer selling directly to dealers receives no premium and takes a discount on eggs not meeting AA or A quality standards.

### FIVE YEAR AVERAGE PRICE COMPARISONS

12-month average price compared to higher price months of Jan., Feb., Mar., Sept., Oct., Nov., Dec. versus lower prices of April, May, June, July, Aug. months.

Cents  
per  
dozen  
45



### HOW PRODUCERS MAY IMPROVE AVERAGE EGG PRICES

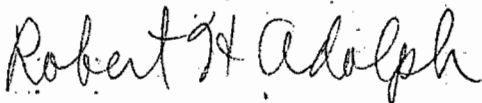
1. Use the months of April through August for stocking laying houses with replacement pullets.
2. Avoid replacing pullets hatched during September and October by delaying hatch dates until November, December or January. Delaying these hatches will avoid maximum production from young pullets during the low egg cycle.
3. Use the low egg price months to force molt pullets which have been in production 8 to 12 months of lay. This will defer production to a later more profitable egg income season.
4. September and October hatched pullets do not easily fit into a force molt program since they end their first laying year during higher price season and return to production during the latter months of higher egg prices. Summer hatched pullets with an early molt during the late summer and fall can be brought into a full production level the following winter. The spring hatch chicks, of course, fit this cycle with full production during higher egg price months for the first year of production and also for the second year.

Obviously, if all producers carried out this program, spring and summer egg prices should be improved. Present higher prices for eggs is the result of fewer pullets being placed during the last part of 1972. This was not planned but due to the economic disaster of two consecutive years of low egg prices. Producers simply did not have the financial ability to put in their normal requirement of pullet replacement during the latter part of 1972.

As a result, eggs are expected to be in short supply most of this summer and fall. If poultrymen resort to normal or heavy fall hatches in 1973, the normal lower prices may be expected to again prevail during April, May, June and August of 1974.

### CONCLUSION

It appears that a planned replacement program which avoids the use of fall hatched chicks could help to improve the overall average price received for eggs as long as trends in egg prices continue to vary during the year. Avoiding fall hatches does not imply that such replacement could be skipped but rather deferred. Deferring the fall brood does mean that other broods or sizes of broods would need to be increased proportionately so that the same number of replacement pullets would be available for replacement of the total laying flock.



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Table A

## SAN DIEGO COUNTY EGG COST STUDY

CENTS PER DOZEN EGGS PRICE RECEIVED AT FARM  
ALL EGGS SOLD - WHOLESALE

	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Year Av.
	¢	¢	¢	¢	¢	¢	¢	¢	¢	¢	¢	¢	¢
1953	50.7	42.8	48.7	50.1	49.0	52.9	49.8	53.1	55.3	55.4	51.0	50.7	51.5
1954	49.3	46.6	38.1	35.7	32.5	33.0	37.0	34.6	33.0	32.7	32.9	32.5	36.8
1955	34.9	43.0	43.3	36.8	36.1	35.4	36.2	38.9	45.7	48.2	44.6	49.0	41.3
1956	49.2	42.2	42.2	38.3	35.2	32.5	33.3	34.7	35.8	38.6	39.7	38.0	38.4
1957	34.5	33.1	31.5	30.6	29.6	28.5	31.3	36.6	39.3	43.2	45.0	45.6	36.3
5 Yr. 1953-57	43.7	41.5	40.8	38.3	36.5	36.5	37.5	39.6	41.8	43.6	42.6	43.2	40.9
1958	41.3	38.0	37.3	37.9	34.9	31.8	32.3	35.8	38.3	37.9	38.0	37.3	37.0
1959	35.1	36.4	33.6	27.2	24.6	24.5	27.3	30.1	31.2	32.7	27.9	28.8	29.8
1960	31.3	30.3	29.9	31.1	28.4	27.5	27.8	30.7	36.0	40.1	42.1	44.1	33.3
1961	38.7	35.0	31.9	28.5	26.9	26.0	29.0	30.6	31.9	34.1	32.3	33.0	31.5
1962	34.6	35.8	32.2	27.2	22.4	22.4	23.1	26.6	31.8	31.0	29.5	31.3	28.9
5 Yr. 1958-62	36.2	35.1	32.9	30.4	27.4	26.4	27.9	30.8	33.8	35.2	34.0	34.9	32.1
1963	31.4	31.9	29.6	28.4	23.4	23.1	25.1	25.6	29.2	30.0	30.0	30.5	28.4
1964	32.2	33.4	30.7	27.3	24.2	24.0	23.8	26.3	29.2	28.4	27.2	26.8	27.9
1965	27.9	24.6	22.8	24.0	22.6	22.6	23.9	26.4	30.0	32.0	31.4	34.2	26.9
1966	34.9	36.9	36.7	35.2	28.2	27.0	27.2	33.0	36.2	37.1	34.8	36.6	33.2
1967	33.2	28.9	29.5	24.2	23.6	22.1	22.8	23.8	24.3	22.9	21.2	24.3	24.7
5 Yr. 1963-67	31.9	31.1	30.0	27.8	24.4	23.8	24.6	27.0	29.8	30.1	28.9	30.4	28.2
1968	24.5	24.0	20.6	18.8	17.8	21.0	22.5	24.6	30.5	31.2	28.6	32.8	24.7
1969	35.0	32.6	32.8	28.1	21.1	22.5	27.4	28.7	31.6	32.1	39.8	45.0	31.7
1970	45.3	41.7	33.1	26.3	22.2	22.3	26.6	24.1	29.5	24.4	26.5	29.3	29.7
1971	28.1	25.4	24.3	23.0	19.9	19.9	17.6	19.2	16.5	17.7	17.9	24.7	21.3
1972	23.3	21.2	24.6	21.3	22.6	21.2	24.0	20.9	27.6	25.1	27.0	37.2	24.5
5 Yr. 1968-72	31.2	29.0	27.1	23.5	20.7	21.4	23.6	23.5	27.1	26.1	28.0	33.8	26.3
20 Yr.	35.8	34.2	32.7	30.0	27.3	27.0	28.4	30.2	33.1	33.8	33.4	35.6	31.9

Table B

## SAN DIEGO COUNTY EGG COST STUDY

## PERCENT LARGE AND EXTRA LARGE A OR AA

	Jan. %	Feb. %	Mar. %	Apr. %	May %	June %	July %	Aug. %	Sept. %	Oct. %	Nov. %	Dec. %	Year Av. %
1953	66	63	63	64	62	61	55	55	55	57	64	65	60
1954	68	64	63	63	60	59	56	57	58	61	63	67	61
1955	68	67	66	64	66	65	64	64	59	68	67	71	66
1956	71	70	70	69	66	66	67	67	66	69	72	75	69
1957	74	72	72	73	72	70	66	70	69	73	75	75	70
5 Yr. Average	69	67	67	67	65	64	62	63	61	66	68	71	66
1958	75	74	73	71	68	68	66	63	61	61	69	73	68
1959	73	74	70	70	68	68	63	62	62	66	68	70	68
1960	72	72	73	71	73	70	66	63	65	70	73	76	70
1961	76	76	75	73	73	68	64	66	67	71	77	79	71
1962	78	76	77	74	72	72	66	65	69	69	75	80	72
5 Yr. Average	75	74	74	72	71	69	65	64	65	67	72	76	70
1963	79	76	75	76	75	73	69	65	67	69	75	77	69
1964	76	75	73	70	69	69	64	66	66	68	72	71	72
1965	74	72	72	72	72	72	69	65	68	68	73	74	70
1966	76	76	72	75	73	71	66	66	66	69	67	73	70
1967	72	72	72	72	70	72	65	63	59	66	71	74	69
5 Yr. Average	75	74	73	73	72	71	67	65	62	68	72	74	71
1968	73	75	71	69	68	68	66	66	64	71	72	72	70
1969	72	75	75	70	69	69	67	64	62	67	70	73	69
1970	75	71	73	72	71	69	62	62	64	65	68	69	69
1971	65	68	74	73	73	70	64	58	55	58	71	74	68
1972	79	68	73	75	73	67	62	57	62	69	74	80	72
5 Yr. Average	73	71	73	72	71	69	64	61	61	66	71	74	69
20 Yr. Average	73	72	72	71	70	68	65	63	62	67	71	74	69