

SEVENTH ANNUAL  
SOLANO POULTRY  
MANAGEMENT STUDY  
1952

by

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## 1952 SOLANO POULTRY MANAGEMENT STUDY

This study for the 1952 calendar year includes four poultry ranches in Solano County. The tables on the following pages give the details of the operations of these ranches. The following paragraphs briefly summarize the situation for each record.

### Ranch No. 30.

A well managed flock that needs to build the size above the annual average of 1,670 hens in order to provide a satisfactory living for the operator. Egg production was excellent at 232 eggs per hen, but the size needs to be increased above 59% large. Heavier spring brooding should help this situation. Mortality was good, but culling should be increased for satisfactory long time production. The amount of labor per hen should be reduced from the 2.2 hours used. About 25 pounds more feed was used than should be necessary. Actual feed consumption per hen should not run over 100 pounds, not counting that used for growing replacement pullets.

### Ranch No. 29.

A small flock of only 940 hens which is too small for a profitable commercial operation. Egg production was good of 204 eggs per hen, but the size needs improvement with only 59% large. The mortality of 22% needs to be reduced by at least half. The culling of 26% needs to be tripled. Part of the low profits experienced in 1952 will also be felt by this producer in 1953 because he is going into the coming year with over 40% old hens in the flock. Heavy culling and replacement will be necessary in 1953 for this flock to keep on an even keel. Labor use was high at 2.6 hours per hen. This is characteristic of small flocks however. Feed consumption appears lower than it should be, but no error could be found in the record.

### Ranch No. 26.

A commercial size flock with 2,790 hens. Egg production was excellent of 230 eggs per hen, but the size was poor with only 49% large. Lighter fall brooding should help this situation. Mortality and culling at 15 and 100% were on the high side, but not out of line. Labor use at 1.6 hours per hen was good. Feed consumption is only slightly higher than should be necessary. Costs could probably be reduced by not feeding an all mash ration.

### Ranch No. 7.

A smaller flock that needs a general overhauling of the management practices. Egg production at 140 eggs per hen is too low for profitable production even in favorable years. Mortality should be reduced by at least half, and the culling could be increased some. Labor use is high, but feed consumption is about right.

TABLE 1. Income and Expense Per Hen with Comparisons since 1946.

Ranch No.	Income					Cash and Depreciation Costs						Non-Cash Costs			Management Income
	Egg Sales	Poultry Sales	Manure Sold	Change Stock Inv.	Total	Feed	Hired Labor	Chix	Misc.	Depreciation	Total	Farm Income	Family Labor	Interest	
30	9.97	.30	-	.67	10.94	6.44	1.16	.66	.67	.44	9.37	1.57	.64	.41	.52
29	9.80	.39	.02	.93	11.14	5.62	.02	.97	1.29	.29	8.19	2.95	2.61	.26	.08
26	10.37	.74	-	-.55	10.56	7.67	.40	.42	.89	.20	9.58	.98	.93	.24	-.19
7	5.52	.38	-	.62	6.52	5.40	-	.46	.67	.18	6.71	-.19	2.25	.20	-2.64
Ave.	9.26	.51	.01	.19	9.97	6.64	.46	.57	.85	.27	8.79	1.18	1.34	.28	-.44
1951	8.26	.53	.28	-.10	8.97	4.90	.70	.31	.54	.18	6.63	2.34	.80	.24	1.30
1950	6.31	.42	.18	.07	6.98	4.35	.57	.38	.40	.18	5.88	1.10	1.25	.23	-.38
1949	6.58	.52	.16	.49	7.75	4.15	.68	.60	.39	.14	5.96	1.79	.71	.19	.89
1948	7.88	.62	.07	-.41	8.16	4.39	.62	.26	.32	.12	5.71	2.45	.81	.20	1.44
1947	8.44	.45	.11	-.55	8.45	4.05	.60	.14	.30	.11	5.20	3.25	.76	.22	2.27
1946	5.15	.89	.09	.23	6.36	4.30	.29	.48	.29	.18	5.54	.82	1.85	.22	-1.25

These income and cost figures are the total values of those items divided by the average number of hens for the year. The following two tables explain some of the variations in these items.

Farm Income is the net after cash and depreciation costs have been paid. It is the amount the farmer has to live on.

Management Income is the net after all costs have been paid, and is useful in comparing the efficiency of one ranch as compared to another.

TABLE 2. Management Practices and Production Factors

Ranch No.	Size of Flock	Laying Flock			Price per Cull Hen	Hours Labor Per Hen	Returns per hen Family Labor	Pounds Feed per Hen			% Mash	Cost per Cwt.			% Mortality Chicks
		% Died	% Culled	% Added				Total	Est. for Pullets	Est. for Hens		Mash	Grain	Ave.	
30	1,671	10	61	110	.49	2.2	1.81	151	28	123	62	4.79	3.28	4.21	14
29	940	22	26	85	1.04	2.6	1.03	99	21	78	62	5.95	4.58	5.44	13
26	2,792	15	100	112	.76	1.6	.79	131	28	103	100	5.87	-	5.87	6
7	1,282	24	63	82	.49	2.3	-	121	20	101	55	4.87	3.92	4.44	5
Ave.	1,671	16	73	102	.67	2.0	.67	130	26	104	77	5.50	3.72	5.09	9
1951	2,128	23	56	74	.91	1.6	-	110	-	-	73	4.82	3.29	4.40	12
1950	1,667	22	43	75	.82	1.8	-	113	-	-	65	4.26	2.99	3.81	17
1949	1,692	29	58	94	.83	1.4	-	111	-	-	59	4.17	2.98	3.68	17
1948	1,930	23	63	54	.97	1.6	-	104	-	-	55	4.60	3.59	4.14	13
1947	1,624	18	35	32	.95	1.5	-	101	-	-	57	4.31	3.55	3.98	23
1946	508	20	60	81	.92	2.7	-	113	-	-	56	4.08	3.24	3.71	21

Pounds of feed per hen.

Total is the amount fed, divided by the average number of hens.

Estimated for pullets was figured at 25 pounds per pullet added to the laying flock.

Estimated for hens is the total, minus estimated for pullets.

TABLE 3. Egg Production and Sales

Ranch No.	Eggs per Hen	Percent of Eggs Sold			% Fall Eggs	% Fall Hens of Av.	% Production During Fall	% Added July to October	% Pullets	Value Per Dozen		
		Large	Medium	Small						Ave. Price	Net Cost	Management Income
30	232	59	27	14	38	118	61	26	86	48.1	45.6	2.5
29	204	59	26	15	42	135	52	100	75	57.4	56.9	.5
26	230	49	32	19	29	97	57	45	73	50.5	51.4	-.9
7	140	61	27	12	36	115	35	34	66	47.0	69.4	-22.4
Ave.	157	55	29	16	33	111	38	44	74	50.3	52.7	-2.4
1951	183	56	25	19	35	108	48	48	65	54.0	45.5	8.5
1950	187	50	28	22	32	106	47	39	63	40.2	42.6	-2.4
1949	172	61	23	16	39	121	45	88	66	45.5	39.3	6.2
1948	168	66	21	13	29	103	39	93	40	55.4	45.2	10.2
1947	196	61	25	14	27	102	43	81	60	52.0	38.0	14.0
1946	147	60	27	12	23	108	25	74	56	43.4	53.9	-10.5