

(POULTRY)
SAN DIEGO COUNTY

PY-SC-51-1

6.5161
4/26/51
300 c.

Agricultural Extension Service
University of California
U. S. Department of Agriculture
Bldg. 1, 4005 Rosecrans Street
San Diego 10, California

POULTRY MEAT PRODUCTION STUDY
SAN DIEGO COUNTY
WIRE VERSUS LITTER MANAGEMENT

Robert H. Adolph, Farm Advisor
In Cooperation With
Poultry Producers of San Diego County

This report covers the production of fryers during 1950 on eight commercial fryer producing ranches in San Diego county. The study, conducted by the Agricultural Extension Service, was developed to obtain information concerning costs of production for two types of housing and equipment -- wire floor pens with continuous replacement versus litter floor pens with complete cycle replacement. A composite average of both types is considered.

Data presented represents a true picture of what a group of efficient fryer producers were able to do in 1950 and cannot be considered as representative of the fryer meat industry in San Diego county.

There was no real, significant difference in the total costs of production. Due to differences in management practices in the two types of equipment used, there were some differences which tended to balance out in the over all costs of production. Labor costs were less where the birds were mass produced as in the litter floor equipment. Fuel costs were less where heat used for brooding was confined to small brooder boxes, such as in the wire pen equipment. There was no significant difference in liveability and health of birds in comparing the two methods of production. One wire floor pen cooperator had a very high mortality loss which made the mortality loss for wire floor group appear higher than the litter floor group. High liveability and good health are essential to efficient production in either management practice. The pounds of feed per pound of gain was about the same for the different feeds used. All cooperators used rations manufactured specifically for broiler-fryer meat production.

GENERAL SUMMARY

Big Seven Standard of Inputs

	Per Bird Sold		
	Average	Range *	
	All	High	Low
1. <u>FEED</u> Market weight per bird times pounds of feed per pound of meat times cost of feed per pound	52.7¢	65.1¢	48.7¢
2. <u>CHICKS</u> Chick cost divided by number produced	19.1	21.1	17.9
3. <u>LABOR</u> Cost per hour times number of hours per bird	7.9	25.4	4.0
4. <u>FUEL</u> Total cost divided by birds sold (should be in range of 1 to 4¢ per bird)	2.7	4.3	1.2
5. <u>OTHER CASH COSTS</u> Includes vaccines, drugs, hormone pellets, taxes, insurance, litter, grit, repairs, etc. divided by total birds sold (should be in range of 1 to 4¢ per bird)	2.5	4.4	1.9
6. <u>DEPRECIATION</u> 20,000 fryers produced at 2¢ per bird will depreciate \$400. Five cents a bird will depreciate \$1000 (should be in range of 2 to 5¢ per bird)	2.4	4.7	1.9
7. <u>INTEREST</u> A 50¢ investment per fryer produced at 6% interest will cost 3¢ per bird (should be in range of 1 to 4¢ per bird)	2.2	3.8	1.8
AVERAGE TOTAL COST PER BIRD	89.5¢	128.8¢	77.4¢

FACTORS OF PRODUCTION

	Average	Range *	
	All	High	Low
Feed, per hundredweight	\$5.25	\$5.87	\$4.60
Pounds of feed to pound of meat sold	3.2	3.9	2.7
Pounds of feed per bird sold	10.0	13.7	9.3
Per cent mortality	6.2	17.8	2.9
Hours labor per bird	.09	.25	.06
Average weight per bird	3.17	3.50	2.97
Average cost of feed per pound sold	16.6¢	20.4¢	13.9¢
Total cost of production per bird	89.5¢	128.8¢	81.6¢
Total cost of production per pound sold	28.2¢	35.7¢	23.9¢

* Range is only representative of the high and low for each item considered.

WIRE VERSUS LITTER
Comparison of Production Factors in the Two Groups

	<u>All</u>	<u>Wire</u>	<u>Litter</u>
Number of records	8	4	4
Total birds started	189,227	70,838	118,389
Per cent mortality	6.2	8.3	5.3
Cost per chick started, cents	17.9	18.3	17.6
Chick cost per fryer sold, cents	19.1	19.8	18.6
Chick cost per pound sold, cents	6.0	5.7	6.2
Average weight per bird sold, pounds	3.17	3.47	2.99
Average days to market	76	81	73
Pounds of feed per bird sold	10.0	11.13	9.39
Pounds of feed per pound fryer sold	3.16	3.21	3.14
Hours labor per bird sold	.09	.125	.065
Hours labor per pound fryer sold	.028	.036	.022
Labor costs per fryer sold	7.9	12.5	5.2
Total costs of production per fryer sold, cents	89.5	94.1	86.7
Total costs of production per pound sold, cents	28.2	27.1	29.0

PER CENT DISTRIBUTION OF COSTS

<u>Costs</u>	<u>Average</u>	<u>Wire</u>	<u>Litter</u>
Feed	58.9	56.0	60.7
Chicks	21.3	21.1	21.5
Labor	8.8	13.3	6.0
Fuel	3.0	1.5	4.0
Other Cash	2.8	2.8	2.8
Depreciation	2.7	2.9	2.5
Interest	2.5	2.4	2.5
Total	<u>100.0</u>	<u>100.0</u>	<u>100.0</u>