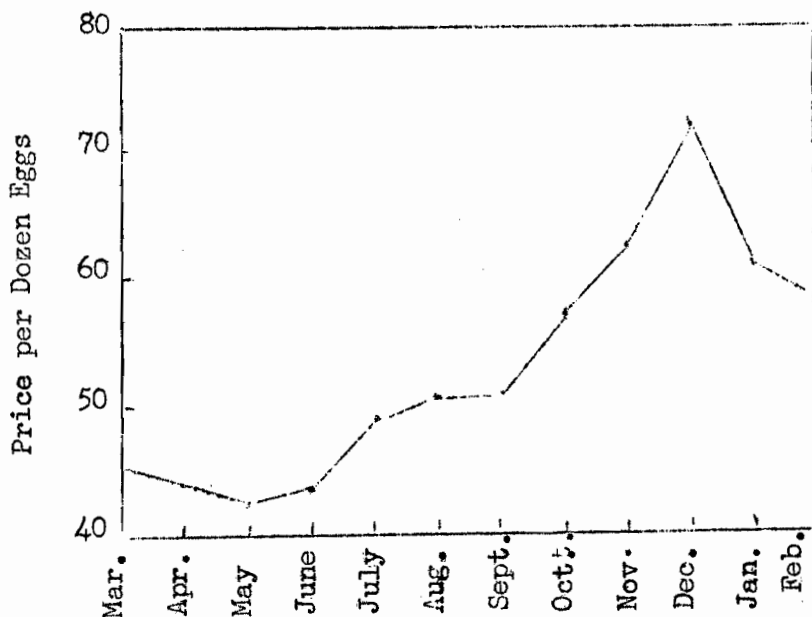


PY-IR-50

# LASSEN COUNTY POULTRY MANAGEMENT STUDY 1950



HAVE EGGS TO SELL WHEN THE PRICE IS HIGH

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Agricultural Extension Service  
University of California  
United States Department of Agriculture  
and  
Lassen County

\*\*\*\*\*

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UC COOPERATIVE EXTENSION

## WHAT DOES THIS STUDY SHOW?

Poultry production is profitable in Lassen County.

The average of the four records in this study was ~~\$1.23~~<sup>.94</sup> management income per hen.

Small flocks must watch their operations closely to prevent inefficiencies.

Practices to increase fall egg production are profitable.

Special care is required in this area to keep mortality low.

A 50-50 mash-grain ration can be fed satisfactorily at a lower cost than a high mash ration.

## WHAT YOU SHOULD KNOW TO STUDY THIS REPORT

Poultry production in this area is all for local consumption.

Most producers spend considerable time selling retail eggs and dressed poultry. Eggs are usually size graded and candled on the farm.

Considerable farm-produced grain is fed.

Most flocks are part-time operations or one of several enterprises on the farm.

Enclosed housing is necessary because of the low winter temperature.

Egg prices are as high or higher than in other parts of the state.

Any large increase in egg production would put the area on a surplus basis at least part of the year. This would eliminate any price advantage.

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Table 1. Income and Expense per Hen

	7	9	13	5	Ave.
<b>Income per Hen</b>					
Egg sales	9.01	8.12	10.43	6.47	8.78
Poultry sales	2.93	.51	1.31	4.59	1.86
Manure and sacks	.05	----	.11	----	.05
Change stock inventory	.91	.24	2.03	.64	.84
Total income	12.90	8.87	13.88	11.70	11.53
<b>Cash and depreciation costs</b>					
Feed	5.18	4.78	7.01	8.20	5.54
Hired labor	.08	1.35	----	----	.53
Chicks	.95	.37	1.20	1.52	.82
Miscellaneous	.41	.31	1.30	.25	.52
Depreciation	.38	.27	.66	.17	.38
Total cost	7.00	7.08	10.17	10.14	7.79
Farm Income per Hen	5.90	1.79	3.71	1.56	3.74
<b>Non cash costs per hen</b>					
Family labor	3.64	.16	3.55	3.04	2.31
Interest	.60	.30	.72	.24	.49
Total	4.24	.46	4.27	3.28	2.80
Management Income per Hen	1.66	1.33	-.56	-1.72	.94

**High Income Necessary for Profit**

Egg sales - keep high - see Table 3 for analysis

Poultry sales

Cull hens - important through the effect of culling on egg production

Fryers - Study your costs of production to determine if profitable

Manure and sacks - not a large item but 5¢ on 499 hens is \$24.95

Change stock inventory - not a profit factor because increases should be offset by expenses for raising pullets.

**Low Expense as Important as High Income**

Feed - feed economical rations and prevent waste - see Table 2

Labor - Keep as low as possible through efficient use

Chicks - Do not skimp on cost per chick. Keep cost low by reducing chick mortality

Miscellaneous - Do not buy unnecessary medicines, etc.

Depreciation - Use facilities efficiently

**Farm Income - What you have to live on**

**Management Income - This is what you have left after paying all cash costs, setting aside a reserve for depreciation, receiving \$1.00 per hour for your labor, and also 5 percent on your investment.**

Table 2. Flock Statistics and Production Factors

	7	9	13	5	Ave.
Average number hens	791	733	352	121	499
Breed	WL	WL	WL	NH	---
Laying Flock					
Percent mortality	23	21	16	28	21
Percent culled	134	43	115	122	97
Percent change	55	21	43	-66	33
Percent added	212	85	174	84	151
Average Price Cull Hens	1.43	1.21	1.12	1.44	1.34
Chicks					
Percent sexed pullets	66	100	35	0	52
Percent mortality	24	11	14	33	12
Cost per chick	32.1	39.0	32.2	20.0	31.2
Hours Labor per Hen	3.7	1.1	3.6	3.0	2.7
Pounds feed per Hen	132	115	176	173	137
Percent Mash	48	57	51	60	54
Cost per Cwt.					
Mash	4.68	4.54	4.66	5.89	4.73
Grain	3.20	3.53	2.92	2.94	3.22
Average	3.90	4.11	3.81	4.70	4.02
Investment per Hen	11.89	5.94	14.45	4.75	9.73

Size of Flock - Low for most efficient use of labor and equipment

Breed - Usually not important in determining profit. Heavier breeds eat more feed - 8 pounds per pound live weight. Leghorns not satisfactory for meat production.

Laying Flock - Cut mortality to 15 percent. Cull 70 percent or more. Watch cull hen prices, your costs of raising pullets, and the price of eggs to determine your culling rate.

Price Cull Hens - Let egg production be your culling guide rather than the price of cull hens.

Chicks - Get good stock. A few cents extra per chick usually returns good dividends. Get mortality to less than 10 percent.

Labor - High but characteristic of small flocks. Selling retail eggs and dressed poultry accounts for some of this labor.

Pounds of Feed - Varies with the number of pullets and broilers raised. Check around your feeders for wastage.

Investment - High for some records.

Table 3. Egg Production and Sales

	7	9	13	5	Ave.
Eggs per hen	165	164	235	186	179
Percent of eggs sold					
Large	58	63	56	---	60
Medium	24	28	29	---	27
Small	18	9	15	---	13
Percent fall eggs	51	38	42	27	43
Percent fall hens of ave.	175	178	118	116	163
Fall eggs per fall hen	48	35	84	43	47
Percent pullets	92	66	100	100	84
Percent added - July-Oct.	82	52	100	100	80
Ave. price per dozen	58.6	47.1	54.5	52.9	53.1
Net cost per dozen	47.8	39.4	57.4	66.9	47.4
Management income	10.8	7.7	- 2.9	- 14.0	5.7

Egg production per hen is usually the most important factor affecting profit.

Get: High production per hen

  Good stock

  Constant culling

  Rigid disease control

  High-quality feed

High-percent-of-large-eggs

  Stock producing large eggs

  Produce clean eggs

  Have good storage facilities

High fall egg production - see graph on cover

  Houses filled to capacity in fall with spring hatched pullets

  Lights to lengthen the day to 14 hours

Have a high percent pullets

  Egg production decreases about 20 percent during the second year

  The lower quality the second year offsets the smaller sizes of the pullet eggs

Keep costs low

  Feed economical rations - cheap feed may not be economical and expensive rations may not be best

  Have an efficient arrangement of buildings and equipment

  Keep mortality low

  Watch your costs of raising replacement pullets

Table 4. Summary of the Lassen County Poultry Management Studies for 1932-37 and 1947-50.

	1932	1933	1935	1936	1937	1947	1948	1949	1950
No. records	8	4	9	6	6	8	5	5	4
No. of hens per flock	363	445	472	401	435	338	620	550	499
No. eggs per hen	156	165	150	154	156	165	163	180	179
% fall eggs	23	19	22	20	22	26	34	34	43
Percent mortality	20	22	26	26	24	18	19	18	21
Percent culled	43	25	19	19	46	56	59	49	96
Percent pullets	--	46	52	54	48	60	70	69	84
Hrs. labor per hen	2.3	2.1	2.0	2.0	2.1	2.6	2.4	1.8	2.7
Lbs. feed per hen	88	80	98	87	80	109	132	122	137
Percent mash	37	38	28	24	21	44	52	50	54
Price per Cwt.									
Mash	1.94	1.72	1.95	2.01	2.26	5.05	5.21	5.09	4.73
Grain	1.19	1.36	1.50	1.47	1.63	3.55	3.92	3.15	3.22
Average	1.33	1.50	1.62	1.60	1.76	4.20	4.59	4.13	4.02
Feed-egg ratio	7.4	8.2	6.6	7.2	7.1	6.9	7.5	7.5	7.6
Ave. price eggs	17.5	18.2	24.7	21.9	24.5	58.6	60.4	54.6	53.1
Net cost per doz.	15.0	15.5	17.7	18.0	19.2	53.8	63.1	45.5	47.4
Net income per doz.	2.5	2.7	7.0	3.9	5.3	4.8	- 2.7	9.1	5.7
Value Per Hen									
Total income	2.57	2.75	3.50	2.97	3.24	8.43	9.39	9.37	10.71
Total expense	2.25	2.38	2.64	2.46	2.56	7.78	9.74	8.07	9.77
Mgt. income	.32	.37	.86	.51	.68	.65	-.35	1.30	.94
Farm income	.84	.77	1.57	1.23	1.43	2.96	2.28	2.91	3.74

The number of records is small but they are representative of the poultry industry in this area. Size of flock has remained low. Most of the flocks are part time operations or one of several enterprises on the farm.

Number of eggs per hen is low, compared to other production areas, but individual flocks obtain good production.

Percent fall eggs and percent pullets have shown desirable increases.

Labor per hen is high but characteristic of small flocks.