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University of California
Agricultural Extension Service
San Diego County
Bldg. 1, 4005 Rosecrans St.
San Diego 10, California

POULTRY EGG COST STUDY

Compiled by Robert H. Adolph, Farm Advisor

The 1955 Poultry Egg Cost Study is a cooperative study with poultrymen of San Diego County conducted by the University of California Agricultural Extension Service.

Results of these 41 records, averaging 3808 layers, should be evaluated not only by management income, but also farm income, feed efficiency, net costs of production, size of flock and type of housing. Heat losses around September 1st accounted for heavy mortality in a number of flocks reporting. Without heat losses the average for the study would have been twelve per cent mortality.

Reports cannot be considered as representative of the industry in the County. The purpose of the study is to provide participating poultrymen a detailed analysis of their operation. It is published to help participating producers and other poultrymen in the County to improve production efficiency by comparative study of the records compiled.

Poultrymen interested in participation in the study may contact the Farm Advisor.

DEFINITIONS OF TERMS USED

RANK identifies cooperator's record, arranged according to management income.
COSTS & INCOME are based on totals for year, divided by average number of birds over 5½ months old on a hen day basis.

SIZE OF FLOCK: Under 2000-A; 2000-3000-B; 3000-4000-C; 4000-5000-D; Over 5000-E.

LABOR: Hired labor at cost. Family labor at \$1.00 per hour.

INTEREST: Based on average investment at 5%.

MANAGEMENT INCOME: All income less all costs. FARM INCOME: Same except home labor and interest on investment not included as a cost.

NET COST: Total Costs less OTHER INCOME including poultry, manure and stock inventory credit or debit.

ONE BIRD CAGE: Mostly 8" x 18" cages. TWO BIRDS TO A CAGE - 12" x 18" cages.

WIRE COLONY: Mostly 4' x 12' and 6' x 12' pens.

COST BUILDING AND EQUIPMENT PER SQUARE FOOT LAYING HOUSE SPACE: Total cost divided by number of square feet of poultry housing used for laying flock. Allowance was made where equipment was used part of time for layers and the other part of time for growing birds.

EGGS PER HEN, PER CENT DIED, CULLED, ADDED: Based on total for year, divided by average number layers.

FEED COSTS: Bulk delivered net cost basis with sacks and refunds considered.

LAYERS ONLY - FEED: Based on total feed less estimated amount used for growing pullets.

MISCELLANEOUS COSTS: Includes electricity, other fuel, water, taxes, insurance, vaccines, drugs, minor equipment, repairs, transportation and any other costs.

TABLE I. INCOME AND COSTS - DOLLARS PER AVERAGE LAYING HEN - 1955

Rank No. & Flock Size	Cash and Depreciation Costs					FARM IN- COME	Other Costs		MANAGE- MENT INCOME
	Feed	Chix	Misc.	Depreci- ation	Hired Labor		Home Labor	Int- erest	
One Bird to a Cage Housing									
7 E	4.52	.34	.38	.54	.84	3.14	.39	.26	2.48
9 B	4.85	.58	.46	.33	.15	3.42	.84	.29	2.30
16 C	4.78	.34	.39	.38	.44	2.31	.26	.20	1.85
18 C	4.60	.30	.43	.61	.86	2.49	.43	.28	1.78
20 B	4.33	.36	.39	.59	.63	2.01	.01	.26	1.74
22 B	4.75	.26	.21	.42	.36	2.23	.38	.20	1.65
23 A	5.29	.50	.35	.37	--	3.17	1.34	.20	1.64
24 B	4.91	.44	.26	.40	--	2.80	.96	.20	1.64
26 C	5.13	.35	.48	.34	.54	2.40	.68	.20	1.52
27 C	4.93	.32	.32	.39	.40	2.20	.51	.23	1.47
31 E	5.61	.87	.31	.49	.42	2.11	.62	.25	1.23
38 A	5.22	.67	.25	.58	--	2.57	2.00	.27	.30
Average 12	4.94	.46	.36	.46	.46	2.53	.61	.24	1.68
Two Birds to a Cage Housing									
3 E	4.39	.56	.22	.31	.56	3.38	.36	.20	2.82
6 C	4.60	.42	.41	.34	.11	3.41	.68	.21	2.52
8 D	4.64	.40	.43	.26	.27	2.88	.31	.20	2.37
10 D	4.96	.31	.48	.28	.44	2.76	.31	.15	2.29
12 E	3.87	.29	.51	.22	.57	2.70	.34	.15	2.21
19 E	3.64	.30	.27	.28	.65	2.06	.16	.15	2.06
21 C	4.39	.46	.30	.24	.03	3.29	1.40	.16	1.73
29 B	4.88	.51	.52	.46	.35	2.60	1.00	.23	1.37
30 B	5.84	.60	.63	.28	.16	2.01	.48	.23	1.29
32 C	4.81	.20	.49	.25	.08	2.21	1.00	.16	1.05
33 A	4.36	.88	.35	.29	--	2.57	1.35	.17	1.05
34 A	6.51	1.09	.59	.41	.39	2.65	1.48	.27	.90
35 A	5.85	.52	.35	.44	--	1.73	.69	.26	.77
39 B	5.23	.50	.27	.40	.68	1.38	1.11	.26	.01
40 A	5.95	.79	.57	.49	.01	1.92	1.81	.26	-.16
Average 15	4.61	.44	.41	.30	.36	2.65	.64	.19	1.82
Wire Colony Pen Housing									
1 B	4.71	.57	.45	.29	.97	3.13	.03	.19	2.91
2 B	5.14	.75	.61	.22	.38	3.94	.85	.23	2.86
4 E	4.01	.39	.35	.18	.31	3.28	.36	.15	2.77
5 D	4.19	.39	.35	.32	--	3.78	.90	.20	2.68
11 C	4.23	.25	.35	.27	.13	3.06	.63	.18	2.25
13 E	3.90	.42	.22	.32	.60	2.73	.37	.18	2.18
14 D	4.62	.47	.50	.23	.29	2.52	.33	.18	2.01
15 B	4.99	.42	.21	.26	.37	2.55	.43	.19	1.94
17 C	4.37	.45	.40	.22	--	2.98	1.00	.16	1.82
25 E	3.80	.26	.59	.24	.81	1.90	.09	.18	1.62
28 A	4.43	.47	.30	.25	--	3.65	2.00	.21	1.44
36 A	4.32	.27	.35	.42	.63	2.43	1.37	.25	.81
37 C	4.28	.39	.50	.26	.28	1.48	.98	.18	.31
41 C	4.16	.36	.48	.36	.61	1.13	1.21	.19	-.27
Average 14	4.18	.38	.44	.26	.47	2.57	.54	.18	1.85
Av. 41-'55	4.52	.42	.41	.33	.43	2.58	.59	.20	1.80
Av. 38-'54	4.86	.46	.40	.34	.40	1.27	.54	.20	.53

* See Page 1 for explanation of terms.

TABLE II. INCOME AND COSTS - 1955

Rank No. & Flock Size	Dollars Per Average Lay Hen				Cents Per Dozen Eggs Sold			
	Egg Sales	Other Income	Total Income	Total Costs	Whlse Price	Net Cost	Mangt. Income	Farm Income
One Bird to a Cage Housing								
7 E	8.86	.92	9.78	7.29	43.9	31.5	12.2	15.5
9 B	8.53	1.26	9.79	7.49	41.4	30.3	11.2	16.6
16 C	8.18	.46	8.64	6.79	41.7	32.1	9.4	11.7
18 C	8.63	.66	9.29	7.51	42.0	33.5	8.7	12.2
20 B	7.94	.37	8.31	6.57	41.9	33.1	9.1	10.5
22 B	8.05	.19	8.24	6.58	41.6	33.5	8.7	11.7
23 A	8.96	.73	9.69	8.05	39.6	34.5	7.7	15.0
24 B	8.09	.72	8.81	7.17	41.1	32.6	8.3	14.1
26 C	8.66	.60	9.26	7.74	42.1	34.9	7.4	11.7
27 C	8.01	.56	8.57	7.10	42.5	34.7	7.8	11.7
31 E	8.53	1.27	9.80	8.57	40.4	38.7	5.9	10.1
38 A	8.48	.81	9.29	9.23	41.5	42.0	.3	12.4
Average 12	8.44	.77	9.21	7.53	41.8	33.6	8.4	12.6
Two Birds to a Cage Housing								
3 E	8.55	.88	9.43	6.61	41.1	27.5	13.6	16.2
6 C	8.74	.55	9.29	6.77	43.2	31.1	12.6	17.0
8 D	8.30	.58	8.88	6.51	42.6	30.3	12.1	14.7
10 D	8.80	.43	9.23	6.94	42.8	31.7	11.2	13.4
12 E	7.54	.61	8.15	5.94	42.5	30.0	12.4	15.2
19 E	6.90	.30	7.20	5.45	42.5	31.5	10.7	12.6
21 C	8.24	.48	8.72	6.98	41.2	32.5	8.7	16.5
29 B	8.57	.75	9.32	7.95	41.7	34.9	6.6	12.6
30 B	8.21	1.31	9.52	8.23	42.6	37.2	6.9	10.8
32 C	7.55	.48	8.03	6.98	40.5	35.7	5.8	12.1
33 A	8.08	.37	8.45	7.40	39.7	36.2	5.2	12.7
34 A	9.26	2.38	11.64	10.74	43.1	38.4	4.2	12.4
35 A	8.23	.65	8.88	8.11	38.6	35.9	3.7	8.3
39 B	7.85	.61	8.46	8.45	41.3	41.8	.1	7.3
40 A	7.83	.90	9.73	9.89	38.6	43.9	-.9	10.6
Average 15	8.09	.68	8.77	6.95	41.8	32.6	9.5	13.8
Wire Colony Pen Housing								
1 B	8.77	1.36	10.13	7.22	42.2	28.7	14.3	14.8
2 B	8.79	2.26	11.05	8.19	41.6	28.0	13.5	18.6
4 E	8.06	.46	8.52	5.74	40.8	26.8	14.0	16.6
5 D	8.48	.55	9.03	6.35	40.2	28.0	13.0	18.3
11 C	7.57	.72	8.29	6.04	40.6	28.6	12.1	16.5
13 E	7.52	.68	8.20	6.02	42.0	29.7	12.1	15.2
14 D	7.83	.79	8.62	6.61	41.2	30.6	10.6	13.2
15 B	8.15	.65	8.80	6.86	41.2	31.3	9.8	12.8
17 C	7.55	.87	8.42	6.60	39.5	29.9	9.5	15.6
25 E	7.19	.42	7.61	5.99	39.7	30.7	8.9	10.5
28 A	8.00	1.10	9.10	7.66	39.1	36.4	7.6	19.4
36 A	8.33	.08	8.41	8.00	40.0	39.5	2.0	12.1
37 C	6.78	.41	7.19	6.88	39.7	37.7	1.8	8.7
41 C	6.29	.81	7.10	7.37	38.8	37.3	-1.5	6.4
Average 14	7.64	.67	8.30	6.45	40.5	30.7	9.8	13.6
Av. 41 - '55	8.00	.70	8.70	6.90	41.3	32.1	9.3	13.4
Av. 38 - '54	7.12	.61	7.73	7.20	36.8	34.1	2.7	6.6

* See Page 1 for explanation of terms.

TABLE III. FEED - LABOR - CAPITAL

Rank No. & Flock Size	Feed Bulk Delivered to Ranch				Hours Labor Per Hen	Cost Bldg. Equip. Per Sq. Foot Lay Space	Ave. No. Housed Per Sq. Ft. Lay Space	
	Cost Per Cwt.	Lbs. Per Hen		Lbs. Per Dz. Sold				
		Lay & Chix	Lay Only	Lay & Chix				Lay Only
One Bird to a Cage Housing								
7 E	3.72	120	92	5.9	4.5	1.4	4.95	.9
9 B	4.01	120	91	5.8	4.4	1.0	3.29	1.0
16 C	3.78	127	103	6.4	5.2	.8	3.63	1.0
18 C	3.68	125	97	6.1	4.7	1.4	6.36	1.0
20 B	3.80	114	87	6.0	4.5	1.0	4.78	.8
22 B	3.85	123	103	6.4	5.4	.9	4.03	1.0
23 A	4.13	128	99	6.0	4.7	1.3	3.38	.9
24 B	3.73	131	105	6.6	5.3	1.0	3.81	1.0
26 C	3.86	133	108	6.5	5.3	1.3	3.37	1.0
27 C	3.82	129	109	6.8	5.8	.9	3.68	.9
31 E	3.82	147	105	7.1	5.0	1.0	5.00	1.0
38 A	3.86	135	105	6.5	5.1	2.2	5.31	.9
Average 12	3.83	129	101	6.4	5.0	1.2	4.41	1.0
Two Birds to a Cage Housing								
3 E	3.76	115	82	5.5	3.9	.8	3.52	1.1
6 C	4.00	115	91	5.7	4.5	.8	4.38	1.3
8 D	4.15	112	92	5.7	4.7	.6	4.58	1.7
10 D	3.88	128	109	6.2	5.3	.9	3.18	1.1
12 E	3.90	99	78	5.6	4.4	.9	3.35	1.5
19 E	3.84	95	76	5.8	4.6	.8	3.08	1.1
21 C	3.90	113	84	5.7	4.2	1.4	3.41	1.4
29 B	3.84	127	97	6.2	4.7	1.3	5.67	1.2
30 B	3.90	150	113	8.1	6.1	.7	2.83	1.1
32 C	3.85	125	102	6.8	5.6	1.1	2.87	1.1
33 A	3.73	117	81	5.8	4.0	1.3	3.52	1.2
34 A	3.86	169	119	7.9	5.5	1.9	4.33	1.1
35 A	3.85	149	124	7.2	5.6	.7	4.78	1.1
39 B	4.25	123	103	6.5	5.4	1.8	3.70	.9
40 A	4.32	138	106	7.6	5.8	1.8	3.60	.7
Average 15	3.91	118	93	6.1	4.8	1.0	3.65	1.2
Wire Colony Pen Housing								
1 B	3.57	132	100	6.5	4.9	1.1	2.57	.9
2 B	3.90	132	92	6.2	4.3	1.5	3.14	1.4
4 E	3.80	105	79	5.3	4.0	.7	2.65	1.5
5 D	4.05	104	82	5.0	4.0	.9	2.88	.9
11 C	3.67	115	95	6.2	5.1	.9	2.57	1.0
13 E	3.93	99	76	5.5	4.2	.8	2.94	.9
14 D	3.89	120	86	6.3	4.5	.8	1.73	.8
15 B	3.86	127	99	6.4	5.0	.9	2.31	.9
17 C	3.87	113	83	5.9	4.3	1.0	2.29	1.0
25 E	3.70	103	84	5.7	4.6	.8	2.51	1.1
28 A	3.87	115	86	6.1	4.6	2.0	1.77	.7
36 A	3.75	115	93	5.7	4.6	2.4	3.65	.9
37 C	3.78	113	88	6.7	5.2	1.4	2.23	.8
41 C	3.50	119	95	6.8	5.4	2.0	3.91	1.1
Average 14	3.78	111	86	5.9	4.6	.9	2.58	1.0
Av. 41 - '55	3.84	118	92	6.1	4.8	1.0	3.41	1.0
Av. 38 - '54	3.95	123	94	6.4	4.9	1.0	3.40	1.0

* See Page 1 for explanation of terms.

TABLE IV. PRODUCTION AND MANAGEMENT

Rank No. & Flock Size	% of Average Laying Flock				% Loss of Chix Purchased	Eggs Prod. Per Hen	% Large Eggs	Price Rec'd \$ Per Cull
	Died	Culled	To Be Replaced	Actual Added				
One Bird to a Cage Housing								
7 E	15	114	129	112	1	248	68	.55
9 B	7	54	61	115	5	249	68	.60
16 C	26	60	86	81	16	237	76	.36
18 C	10	73	83	111	4	254	65	.57
20 B	21	79	100	65	5	232	80	.67
22 B	28	71	99	94	6	229	--	.61
23 A	17	107	124	116	0	260	58	.57
24 B	20	72	92	104	2	241	70	.56
26 C	12	80	92	98	1	246	74	.48
27 C	9	64	73	79	1	229	82	.56
31 E	18	79	97	165	2	250	57	.48
38 A	6	98	104	119	12	255	--	.55
Average 12	16	79	95	111	4	244	69	.52
Two Birds to a Cage Housing								
3 E	13	90	103	133	6	254	63	.53
6 C	21	65	86	97	4	242	--	.55
8 D	13	65	78	85	6	235	71	.54
10 D	16	49	65	74	9	251	72	.48
12 E	18	25	43	85	4	216	74	.49
19 E	13	47	60	75	7	201	--	.64
21 C	11	55	66	114	10	238	62	.48
29 B	18	88	106	119	8	250	--	.62
30 B	8	111	119	122	6	223	77	.87
32 C	14	85	99	91	4	226	66	.45
33 A	27	80	107	132	20	243	--	.54
34 A	14	16	30	201	11	257	57	.39
35 A	14	104	118	102	0	242	55	.53
39 B	55	69	124	78	0	226	80	.67
40 A	42	114	156	106	13	225	53	1.04
Average 15	17	65	82	101	7	233	68	.57
Wire Colony Pen Housing								
1 B	16	73	89	130	5	240	74	.65
2 B	13	22	35	157	15	259	66	.65
4 E	20	89	109	101	8	240	62	.53
5 D	7	82	89	101	8	249	63	.66
11 C	19	47	66	79	1	226	61	.59
13 E	10	66	76	90	3	217	69	.50
14 D	26	95	111	136	16	229	55	.61
15 B	19	96	115	111	10	239	56	.54
17 C	16	67	83	119	2	229	--	.57
25 E	15	50	65	75	11	227	62	.56
28 A	28	81	109	114	6	226	61	.74
36 A	17	71	88	87	8	239	66	.33
37 C	36	73	109	99	7	209	57	.60
41 C	18	78	96	98	0	212	57	.62
Average 14	17	68	85	99	8	230	62	.57
Av. 41 - '55	17	70	87	103	7	234	66	.56
Av. 38 - '54	14	86	100	114	8	235	61	.52

* See Page 1 for explanation of terms.