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FRESNO COUNTY  
CHICKEN MEAT  
STUDY  
1930

Compiled by  
THE AGRICULTURAL EXTENSION SERVICE  
University of California  
United States Department of Agriculture

*Agriculture, College of*

INFORMATION GIVEN IN THIS REPORT:

Average

Income per bird . . . . .	10¢
Costs of production . . . . .	89¢
Pounds of feed per pound of meat produced .	3.09
Hours of labor per bird . . . . .	.07
Mortality . . . . .	3.94%
Price received per pound . . . . .	30.6
Weight of birds at market age . . . . .	3.24
Age of birds at market. . . . .	76 days
Mash costs . . . . .	\$5.38
Chick costs . . . . .	17.6¢
Cost of medicine per bird . . . . .	1.3¢

POINTS ESSENTIAL TO SUCCESSFUL OPERATION ARE:

- Rapid Growth
- Low Mortality
- Good Feed Conversion
- Adequate Marketing Outlets

WHO MAY COOPERATE?

Any commercial fryer producer in Fresno County.

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## INTRODUCTION

This is the first annual report on the Fresno County Chicken Meat Cost Management Study. Detailed records were kept on 7 poultry ranches during the time required for each cooperator to brood 4 groups of birds.

The Study is conducted by the Agricultural Extension Service, in cooperation with local fryer producers. It covered the production and marketing of 301,109 meat birds. The gross income from these birds amounted to \$298,387.

The price paid for fryers is subject to rapid changes, while production costs are rather stable. The net income per bird is normally low. To stay in business over a long period of time it will be necessary to have a large operation and obtain maximum efficiency in the use of labor, housing, and feed. The purpose of the Study is:

1. To assist the operator in analyzing his business --that is:
  - a. To determine where his money goes and why.
  - b. To compare his operations with other growers!
  - c. To check on the efficiency of his management.
  - d. To point out unprofitable practices.
2. To obtain local information on the most profitable methods and practices used in production of fryers.

The following analysis applies only to the producers cooperating. It is not given to represent averages for the industry.

### TABLE FACTS:

The records on the following table are arranged from left to right in order of decreasing management income per pound produced.

The averages shown in the table are based upon four broods, with the exception of Cooperator No. 1, who raised three broods. UC Cooperative Extension

Summary of Costs, Income, Earnings and Related Factors - Fresno County  
 Chicken Meat Management Study - 1949-50

*Bulby*

Record Number	2	3	7	5	6	4	1	Average
Birds raised per brood (Group)*	C	C	A	B	B	C	A	11,152
Average cost per chick bought	17.3¢	17.0¢	17.2¢	17.1¢	18.4¢	18.1¢	17.4¢	17.6¢
Per cent mortality	4.41	1.75	4.84	7.15	3.07	3.30	6.45	3.94
Av. weight birds sold, pounds	3.29	3.35	3.07	3.24	3.52	3.07	3.23	3.24
Av. number growing days per brood	80	75	67	75	87	73	73	76
Pounds feed per pound produced	3.00	2.95	3.05	3.21	3.34	3.10	3.27	3.09
Per cent mash	99.8	99.7	100.0	100.0	99.1	100.0	100.0	99.8
Average cost per cwt. mash & grain	\$5.34	\$5.26	\$5.64	\$5.41	\$5.28	\$5.43	\$5.53	\$5.38
Hours labor per bird	.08	.05	.06	.08	.04	.06	.08	.07
Total net cost of production per bird sold	.87	.84	.83	.90	.95	.91	.96	.89
Average price received " " "	1.04	1.00	.98	1.02	1.06	.92	.93	.99
Management income " " "	.17	.16	.15	.12	.11	.01	-.03	.10
<u>Costs per pound produced:</u>								
Feed	16.0¢	15.6¢	17.3¢	17.4¢	17.7¢	16.8¢	18.1¢	16.7¢
Hired labor	.1	.3	.1	-	-	1.6	.2	.5
Operator's and family labor	1.9	1.0	1.6	2.1	1.0	.3	1.9	1.2
Brooding fuel	.5	.7	.2	.5	1.2	1.3	.9	.8
Medicine	.3	.4	.3	.1	.3	.8	.3	.4
Miscellaneous	.8	.5	.7	1.0	.6	1.0	.9	.8
Depreciation	1.0	.9	.6	.6	.5	1.2	1.1	1.0
Interest	.6	.4	.5	.4	.4	.5	.5	.5
Chicks	5.5	5.1	5.9	5.7	5.4	6.1	5.7	5.6
Total Cost	26.7	24.9	27.2	27.8	27.1	29.6	29.6	27.5
Less miscellaneous income (manure)	.1	-	-	-	.1	-	-	.1
Net cost of production	26.6	24.9	27.2	27.8	27.0	29.6	29.6	27.4
Average price received per pound	31.7	29.8	32.1	31.6	30.1	29.8	28.8	30.6
Management income per pound	5.1	4.9	4.9	3.8	3.1	.2	-.8	3.2

\* Group A = 4,000 - 6,000; Group B = 6,000 - 13,000; Group C = 13,000 - 35,000

THE FOLLOWING TABLES were prepared from figures obtained in the Study. We don't feel that we have enough records over a long enough period of time to draw definite conclusions; however, the figures may indicate trends and give hints as to good management practices.

#### DOES MORTALITY AFFECT INCOME?

	Av. of 3 with highest mortality	Av. of 4 with lowest mortality
Mortality	6.14%	3.13%
Feed to produce a pound of meat:	3.17	3.09
Total costs per pound of meat:	28.2¢	27.3¢
Income per pound	2.6¢	3.3¢

Mortality reduced income about seven-tenths (.7) of a cent per pound produced.

#### HOW ABOUT SIZE OF OPERATION?

	Av. of 4 smallest	Av. of 3 largest
Birds per brood	5,875	17,258
Income per bird	11.6¢	11.3¢
Income per pound	2.75¢	3.4¢
Labor costs per pound	1.7¢	1.8¢

On the average, the large ranches were about as efficient as the smaller ranches.

#### EFFECT OF FEED CONVERSION

	Av. of 4 with lowest feed ratio	Av. of 3 with highest feed ratio
Feed to produce a pound of meat:	3.02	3.27
Feed costs per pound of meat:	16.4¢	17.7¢
Income per pound	3.77¢	2.03¢

The lower the feed ratio, the higher the profit. On many ranches, the feed ratio can be lowered by better feeding practices. UC Cooperative Extension

## TYPE OF BUSINESS

Fryer production in this area involves starting day-old chicks and raising them for 10 to 12 weeks, or until they weigh from 3 to  $3\frac{1}{2}$  pounds each.

All houses are filled to capacity with day-old chicks at one time. When the birds reach market weight, they are all sold. The houses are cleaned and the process repeated. Most operators raise and market four broods per year.

Past experience indicates that continuous brooding and marketing usually results in greater losses from disease than when birds are brooded and marketed as previously described.

The most popular chick for fryer production is a Barred Plymouth Rock and New Hampshire cross. All birds covered by the Study were of this type.

## HOW INFORMATION IS OBTAINED

Poultrymen who wish to cooperate in this Study keep records on their operation. When the birds from each brood are marketed, a report form is completed and sent to the Farm Advisors Office. The record is tabulated, analyzed, typed, and a completed copy returned to the grower. Forms and envelopes for mailing are provided by the Farm Advisors Office.

## WHO MAY COOPERATE?

Any commercial fryer producer in Fresno County. All cooperators are assigned a number. Their identity is confidential.

## HOW DOES THE COOPERATOR BENEFIT?

He receives, free, a complete analysis of his fryer business. He has an opportunity to compare his operating efficiency with that of other growers of a similar size.

Report Issued at  
Office of the Farm Advisor  
Post Office Building, Fresno, California  
December, 1950

UC Cooperative Extension