

As a guide for the better than average poultryman the following standard is presented. Production is assumed at better than average and mortality at lower than average, while management followed is that shown by cooperators who have been most successful as shown by records over the last few years. Prices had to be assumed in order to show a total cost figure, but these should be taken as possible rather than probable. With the success shown by local poultrymen in halting and reducing the inroads of mortality, this loss should be held down to 25% in 1937. Culling should not be relaxed, however, and the best poultrymen will continue to sell about 40% of their hens as culls each year. Production and sale of 150 eggs or 12½ dozen per hen should be obtained if any kind of success is to be enjoyed. In the following table, quantities and costs for a flock of 2000 hens is shown—this being the minimum size recommended for securing an adequate livelihood for an American family. This flock of 2000 should contain 1350 layers in the summer before the addition of 1300 pullets which would bring it up to 2650 at the start of the period of highest egg prices, which always comes in the fall. These 1300 pullets would be obtained from 3700 day old chicks hatched in the spring, costs for which are included below.

TABLE 54.

A Standard of Inputs and Costs for 1937, Southern California.

| | Quantity | | Unit Price | Value | | |
|---|----------------|---------|------------|----------------|---------|----------------------------------|
| | 2000 Hen Flock | Per Hen | | 2000 Hen Flock | Per Hen | Per doz. Eggs |
| Cull Hens Sold (40%) | 800 | .40 | .45 | 360.00 | .18 | 1.4 ⁶ / ₁₀ |
| Broilers Sold | 1450 | .73 | .25 | 362.50 | .18 | 1.5 |
| Less Chicks Bought | 3700 | 1.85 | .13 | 481.00 | .24 | 1.9 |
| Net Stock Income | | | | 241.50 | .12 | 1.0 |
| Sacks Sold | 1840 | .92 | .02 | 36.80 | .02 | .1 |
| Manure & Litter, cu. ft. | 4000 | 2.0 | .03 | 120.00 | .06 | .5 |
| Total Income not Egg Expenses | | | | 398.30 | .20 | 1.6 |
| Mash, lbs. | 92000 | 46 | 2.10 | 1932.00 | .97 | 7.7 |
| Grain, lbs. | 92000 | 46 | 1.70 | 1564.00 | .78 | 6.3 |
| Total Mash & Grain | 184000 | 92 | 1.90 | 3496.00 | 1.75 | 14.0 |
| Grit and Shell | 5000 | 2.5 | .80 | 40.00 | .02 | .2 |
| Fresh greens - Home Grown | 40000 | 20 | - | 10.00 | .01 | - |
| Total Feed Cost | | | | 3546.00 | 1.78 | 14.2 |
| Operators labor, hr. | 3600 | 1.8 | .30 | 1080.00 | .54 | 4.3 |
| Straw for Litter, 8 changes | 18000 | 9.0 | .75 | 135.00 | .07 | .6 |
| Water for Poultry & Greens | | | | 60.00 | .03 | .2 |
| Electricity for Lights and Power | | | | 30.00 | .01 | .1 |
| Fuel or Energy for Brooding | | | | 35.00 | .02 | .2 |
| Taxes, 1% of \$6,000 actual value | | | | 60.00 | .03 | .2 |
| Fire Insurance on Buildings | | | | 20.00 | .01 | .1 |
| Miscellaneous, Sprays, Vaccines, etc. | | | | 60.00 | .03 | .2 |
| Depreciation, Buildings and Equipment | | | | 180.00 | .09 | .7 |
| Interest on \$6000 Av. Investment at 5% | | | | 300.00 | .15 | 1.2 |
| Total Expense | | | | 5506.00 | 2.76 | 22.0 |
| Less Income not from Eggs | | | | 398.30 | .20 | 1.6 |
| Net Cost of Eggs | | | | 5107.70 | 2.56 | 20.4 |

The above table shows that with the quantities and prices assumed, the net cost of production per dozen eggs would be 20.4¢, if 12½ dozen eggs were sold per hen. The reader is urged to use the above standard as a point of departure or guide in predicting or computing his own cost of production by changing quantities, prices, and production to suit his own conditions.