

## Egg Numbers Up, Hens Down In February, State Survey Shows

HARRISBURG — Although reduced in numbers, Pennsylvania hens "warmed up" for an expected record observance of March Egg Month by producing 34 million eggs during February, according to Federal-State surveys announced March 14 by the State Department of Agriculture.

Output of eggs was sufficient to give Pennsylvania third place among all the states for February. Production was headed only by Iowa's 447 million and California's 340 million eggs, records show.

Fighting a cost-price squeeze, Pennsylvania farmers last month culled poor-producing layers from their flocks, leaving 18,475,000, lowest for the month in eight years and 745,000 below February 1956. Mild weather assisted hens and laying pullets to come through with a record February average of 15.9 eggs, about one per cent above the February rate last year when adjusted to a 28-

day basis.

Total egg output in Pennsylvania last month equaled February production for each of the past two years. For the first two months of this year the grand total is 622 million eggs compared with 619 million for January-February 1956.

The price received by Pennsylvania farmers for eggs on Feb. 15 averaged 39 cents per dozen, the same as a month previous but 7 cents below February 1956. The price equaled January 1955, May and June 1954, but otherwise was the lowest for any month since 1942.

Liveweight farm chickens at 16.5 cents per pound were down one cent from January, seven cents below Feb. 15, 1956, and excepting the November price was the lowest for any month since 1940.

Broiler prices registered a 1.5 cent increase for the month but averaged three cents below a year earlier. Turkey prices, averaging 34 cents, dropped 1 cent from the Jan. 15 level, 4 cents from mid-February 1956, and equaled the 15-year low of January-February 1955.

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## Egg Marketing Survey Started By Pennsylvania

HARRISBURG — Anticipating that some current ills of the depressed poultry industry in Pennsylvania might be remedied through improved marketing of eggs, the Pennsylvania Crop Reporting Service in the State Department of Agriculture Friday started an intensive survey of egg marketing practices.

More than 18,000 egg producers selected at random in Pennsylvania are being asked to participate.

Queries to the producers include both volume and value of eggs sold by producers in various ways, ranging from sales at the farm to deliveries to a cooperative. Machine sorting of answers will aid in uncovering the poor, indifferent, good and excellent methods currently practiced.

"Pennsylvania's poultry industry has changed greatly in recent years with respect to its geographic distribution of production," Agriculture Secretary William L. Henning declared.

"High production costs and low income from eggs indicate that distribution facts should be most helpful at this time. But we need first-hand information from producers themselves so that programs for improvement can be initiated."

Dewey O. Boster, agricultural statistician in charge of the Pennsylvania Crop Reporting Service, is supervising the study. He said data from the survey will be made available as soon as completed next fall to poultry husbandry officials at the Pennsylvania State University, the State Poultry Federation, the State Bureau of Markets and the Pennsylvania Food Marketing Advisory Committee, among others.

Boster urged all poultry egg producers who receive the survey questionnaire to cooperate by filling out the questions and returning the report as soon as possible.

## Poultry

### LIVE POULTRY

PHILADELPHIA, March 20 — (USDA) — Unsettled. Demand fair. Most classes were in more than adequate supply. White Rock pullets sold slowly at 32-34 cents. White Rock caponettes 29-32 with bulk unsold, medium sizes 25 cents. Caponeted cross fryers 25 cents, White Rocks 23-24 cents, few lots 25 cents without clearing. Reds 23-25 cents with bulk unsold. Turkeys — unsettled. Demand fair. Supplies were more than ample. Few lots heavy type young hens 38 cents, light type 35 cents. Heavy type young toms 25 cents without clearing.

Total receipts March 19 — 110,000 lbs. included Delaware 25,000 lbs., Maryland 9,000 lbs.

Wholesale selling prices No. 1 and fancy quality broilers or fryers; heavy type 3-4 lb., 23-25. Pullets 4½ lb. and over 32-34. Hens, heavy type 19-25, light type 11-14. Ducks, Muscovy 27, Pekin 31-32. Turkeys, young hens 35-38, young toms 25.

### PROCESSED POULTRY

PHILADELPHIA, March 20 — (USDA) — Processed poultry, ready-to-cook (ice packed) young chickens — weak. More than sufficient supplies were offered for the fair demand.

Prices paid delivered warehouse, Philadelphia (cents per lb.) Grade A & U.S. grade A, 2-3 lb. 31-34, mostly 31-32½.

Hens: ready-to-cook (ice packed), barely steady. Demand good for heavy type and fair for light type. Fully adequate supplies were available.

Prices paid delivered warehouse, Philadelphia (cents per lb.) Grade A & U.S. grade A 4-5½ lb. 30-32.

Receipts March 19 — included other than turkeys: Maryland 72,000 lbs., Delaware 72,000 lbs., Virginia 18,000 lbs., Tennessee 27,000 lbs., North Carolina 44,000 lbs., South Carolina 21,000 lbs.

## Eggs

PHILADELPHIA, March 20 — (USDA) — Barely steady. Ample supplies of all grades were available for the continued good demand. Current receipts sold in small lots at 27-28 cents.

Wholesale selling prices: minimum 10 per cent AA quality, large 45-48 lb. white 36-38, brown 36-37, medium white 33-34, brown 33-34. Extras, minimum 60 per cent A quality, large 45-50 lb. white 33½-34, mixed 32½-34, mixed 32½-33, medium white 32-32½, mixed 31½-32. Standards 31-32, checks 27-28.

Receipts March 19 — 3,500 cases all by truck.

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## Lancaster Markets

(Continued from page 2)

1-3, 270-550 lbs. \$13.50-15.  
SHEEP: 193, week ago 119. A small supply of lambs mostly steady with last Wednesday. Quality of the woolled lambs was plain. Bulk good to choice woolled lambs 75-95 lbs. \$19-23, utility and low good \$14-18, cull and utility down to \$12. A few small lot new-crop native spring lambs 45-55 lbs. 26-30. Aged sheep too scarce for a market test.

## CYCOLOGY-SEZ

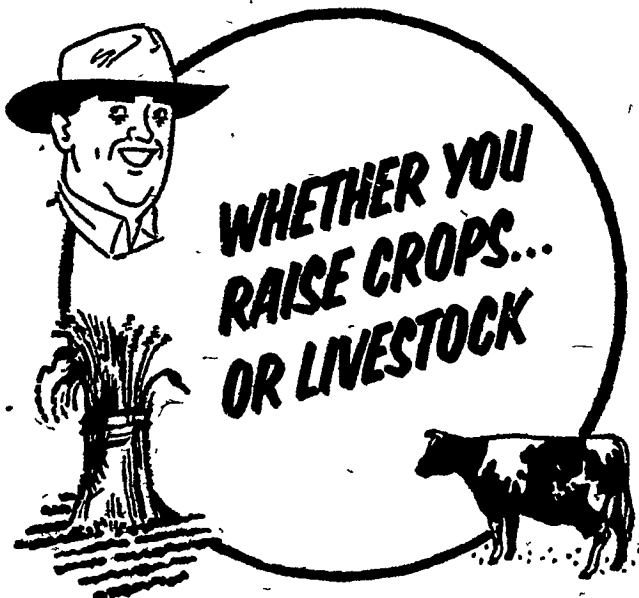


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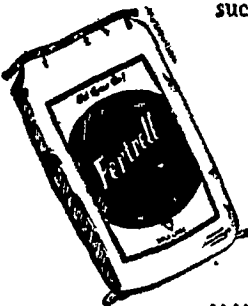
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