

Low Prices Continue to Plague Poultrymen; Egg Price at 12 Year Low

HARRISBURG — Although average returns to Pennsylvania farmers for chickens and eggs were up slightly in mid-April from a month earlier, low prices continued to plague producers, the State Department of Agriculture announced today.

Egg prices in mid-April averaged eight cents a dozen less to farmers than a year previous and chickens were down five cents a pound liveweight, according to Pennsylvania Crop Reporting Service surveys.

Compared with mid-March, the average return to producers was up half a cent a pound for chickens and up one cent a dozen for eggs. The April 15 average of 37 cents a dozen for eggs was the lowest for the date in 12 years.

In April, 315 million eggs were produced on Pennsylvania farms

by 16,896,000 layers. This output was two per cent higher than April 1956, although there were 861,000 fewer layers producing. A record high average of 18.66 eggs per layer was responsible.

Commercial egg producers report they culled flocks lightly during April and a few poultrymen indicated plans to keep older layers rather than start replacement chicks. Reports from commercial egg producers indicate the number of chicks for flock replacements continued downward from last year.

Growers in the Keystone State as of April 15 received an average of 17.5 cents a pound for chickens; 20 cents a pound for commercial broilers, and 34 cents a pound for turkeys. Egg prices averaged 37 cents a dozen to producers. Nationally, farmers averaged 14.5 cents for chickens; 19.1 cents for commercial broilers, and 26.8 cents for turkeys. Egg prices averaged 30.8 cents a dozen, as of April 15.

With the return for their product on April 15 Pennsylvania poultrymen could buy only 4.7 pounds of feed for every pound of chicken sold. This compared with 6.4 pounds of feed that could be bought a year ago for the same pound of chicken. On April 15, 1956, poultrymen could purchase 12.2 pounds of feed for the price they received for one dozen of eggs compared with 9.9 pounds this April.

Broilers

Processed poultry, ready-to-cook (ice packed) young chickens - steady. Supplies were about sufficient to meet the good demand. Closer holding by sellers was apparent in some quarters.

Prices paid delivered warehouse, Philadelphia (cents per lb) grade A & U. S. Grade A, 2-3 lb 31 1/2-34, mostly 32-33.

Hens: Ready-to-cook (ice packed) steady. Demand improved. Barely sufficient supplies were available.

Prices paid delivered warehouse, Philadelphia (cents per lb) Grade A & U. S. Grade A 4-5 1/2 lb 31 1/2-33.

Receipts May 14 included other than turkeys: Md. 88,000 lb, Del. 70,000 lb, Va. 37,000 lb, South Carolina 23,000 lb, North Carolina 22,000 lb.

Smokey Bear To Be Feature Of Comic Strip

A new adventure comic strip, "Smokey the Bear", syndicated through a joint arrangement between the Forest Service and Columbia Features, Inc., and designed to extend further the educational value of Smokey in forest conservation, will be released for daily and Sunday features starting Sunday, June 16, the U.S. Department of Agriculture announced today.

This comic strip character will enjoy the distinction of being the only one authorized by Congress. By a Congressional Act of 1952 the Smokey Bear symbol was declared the trademark of forest fire prevention. The symbol can be used for educational commercial purposes, but only upon approval of the Secretary of Agriculture. Under controlling legislation, royalties from the comic strip will go to the Forest Service for cooperative forest fire prevention work.

Smokey's role as America's guardian of the forests will continue in the comic strip feature, but the educational aspect of Smokey's role will be greatly extended in feature series. Smokey, together with a scrappy bear youngster, Little Smokey, and a comical racoon named Specs, will acquaint readers with conservation of our forest resources. The ways of animals and birds, folklore, path-finding, fire control, game conservation, and woodcraft, will be learned through the eyes and daily capers of Smokey and his interesting animal companions.

Through the licensed sales of commercial educational items bearing the Smokey Bear symbol, a new league of young forest-minded Americans has been created by the Forest Service under the name of "Junior Forest Rangers". Young Americans who pledge their loyal protection to our Nation's forests receive a kit including a membership card for the Junior Forest Rangers organization.

Smokey is an honorary member of the Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts, Camp Fire Girls, 4-H Club, School Safety Patrol, Order of Eagles, Maryland League of Sportsmen and Oregon Green Guards. He is an honorary State Forester of Florida and honorary Fire Chief of the Washington (D.C.) Fire Department. Many schools have adopted him as their official mascot. Last October, the citizens of International Falls, Minn, put up a 26-foot statue of Smokey Bear in that city.

The original Smokey, a real bear now in Washington's Zoo, receives a constant stream of homage from youngsters.

The Sunday "Smokey the Bear" feature is designed for a permanent child's reference book on forest life. Entitled "Smokey Says", it is a large full color panel to be cut out, featuring instructions in woodcraft, nature study, and valuable, practical knowledge concerning the forest world.

Freedom of speech gives you the right to say what you please, subject only to such censorship as may be imposed by your good judgment and conscience.

The growers and feeders of the nation's 60 1/2 million head of beef cattle are providing the nation's increasing population with ample supplies of healthful, strength-giving, appetizing and satisfying beef. In fact, the amount of beef moving from the farms and ranches through the livestock markets and packing plants and across the retail meat counters into America's 142 million homes has increased an amazing 103 per cent since the pre-World War II years of 1935-39.

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