

## Low Temperatures, Snow, Reduced Rate of Lay in State During March

Below normal temperatures and the severe snow storm of March 19 and 20 reduced the rate of lay in Pennsylvania poultry flocks. Poultry was left without lights and pumped water for upwards to a week.

Effects on egg production varied with some showing little change and others a sharp drop, the state crop reporting service reports.

A rate of lay during March at 17.67 eggs per layer compares with 18.79 in March of 1957. It was the lowest rate for March since 1951. The number of layers declined less than usual, but at 17,176,000 were down three per cent from both February of this year and March of last year.

A low rate of lay and the reduced number of layers dropped

production to 303 million to affect a nine per cent drop in egg production from March 1957. Production from January to March of this year at 896 million is six per cent below the 956 million eggs during the same three months of 1957.

Prices received by farmers for chickens on March 15 climbed to the highest level in almost two years and at 19 cents per pound, exceeded mid-February by one cent and March 1957 by two cents.

Commercial broiler prices at 22.5 cents were up 1.5 cents from a month previous and from March of last year.

Turkey prices advanced two cents from the 15 year low of 30 cents in mid-February, but were two cents below a year earlier.

## Don't Invite Death! Rid Farm Of Old Chemicals

Those unlabeled agricultural chemicals around the home barn or workshop are dangerous. Get rid of them, the State Department of Agriculture urged today.

There are more than 200 poisonous chemicals, some of which can be fatal if used improperly, according to Delmar K. Myers, director of the Bureau of Foods and Chemistry.

Farmers, gardeners and others should know what they are buying and the toxic effects of these chemicals, Myers said. "Read the label and when poisonous chemicals are used keep them away from youngsters," he said.

Myers believes that many illnesses during summer months can be attributed to "low level" exposure to poisonous chemicals. He said if a farm worker, after spraying a fruit orchard all day, complains of respiratory congestion or troubles it might be traced to over exposure to chemicals.

"The biggest job we have in the chemical field is education," the Department official said. "Although we have strong State and Federal labeling requirements to identify poisons, many fail to heed them."

He urged persons using chemicals to keep them away from youngsters and migrant workers who can't read English.

## Farming Starts As Sun Finally Begins to Shine

(Continued from Page One)

the tobacco seed beds had been planted.

Potato planting was in full swing the beginning of the week. The early cobblers are now some two weeks late in planting. Most potatoes growers like to get the tubers into the ground in March if at all possible.

Some oats have been planted but the acreage in Lancaster County is limited. A crop of oats planted this late in the season is risky, because the crop requires cool weather for maximum production. It is doubtful that crops planted this late will give the usual returns.

But, as one farmer remarked wryly, its better than shoveling snow.



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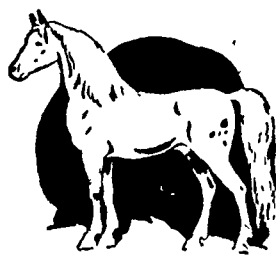
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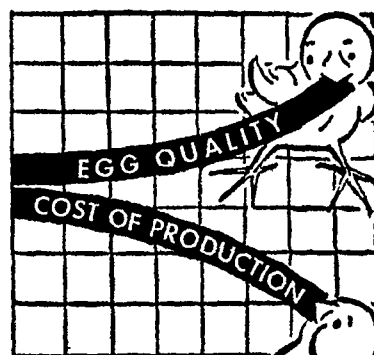
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