

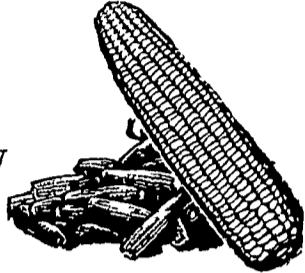
## Broilers Seemingly Fail to Respond To Law of Supply and Demand

by MARTIN J. GERRA  
Agricultural Economist, AMS  
As a rule, farmers expect the prices they receive for their products over the marketing year to vary in an inverse relationship with the quantity that is sold.

Generally speaking, when supplies are heaviest, prices are lowest. This economic precept is probably as well known as the rhymes we learned as children. Hogs, eggs, cattle, wheat, corn and most agricultural commodities generally follow such a pattern. Broilers and turkeys, however, do not.

More farmers each month prefer to buy their

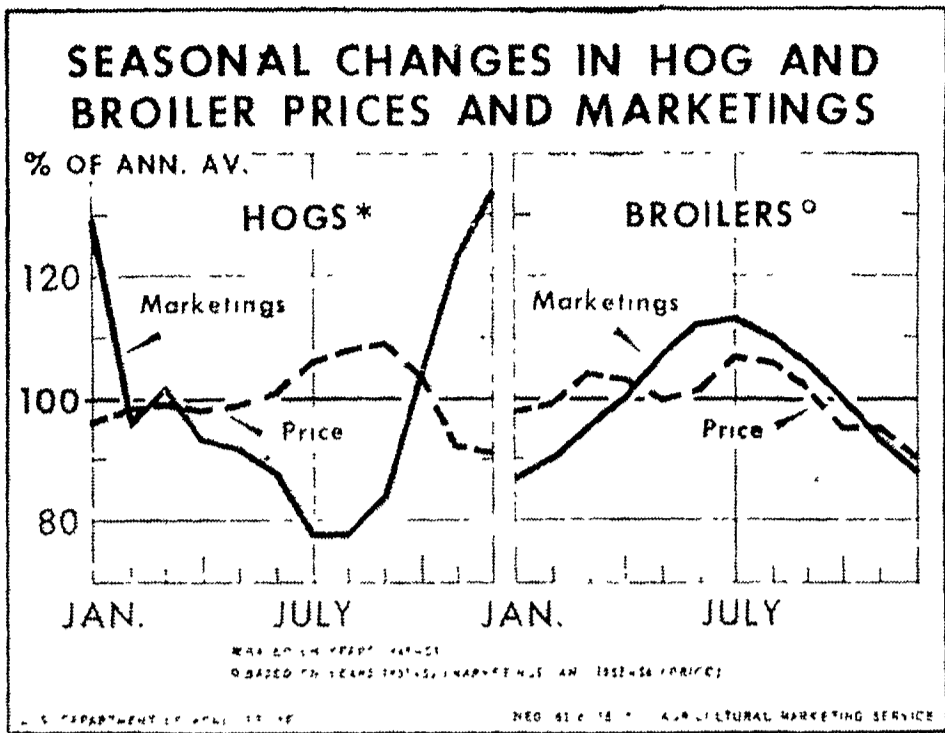
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TO ILLUSTRATE, look at the seasonal patterns in hog marketings and prices. Sows typically farrow twice a year, in the spring and fall. About three fifths of all pigs are born in the spring. As hogs are not adapted to extended feeding beyond a preferred market weight, the seasonally bunched births are reflected in seasonally bunched marketings. The chart shows that hog marketings are largest in Novem-

ber-January with marketings declining sharply until July. Corresponding inversely to marketings, hog prices are lowest in November-December and highest in July-September. These traditional patterns, however, are mov-

ing somewhat earlier NOW, LOOK AT the seasonal patterns in broiler marketings and prices. The peak in marketings of broilers occurs in July. But contrary to the expected patterns, however, are mov-

(Continued on page nine)

## 1000 HONEGGER PULLETS

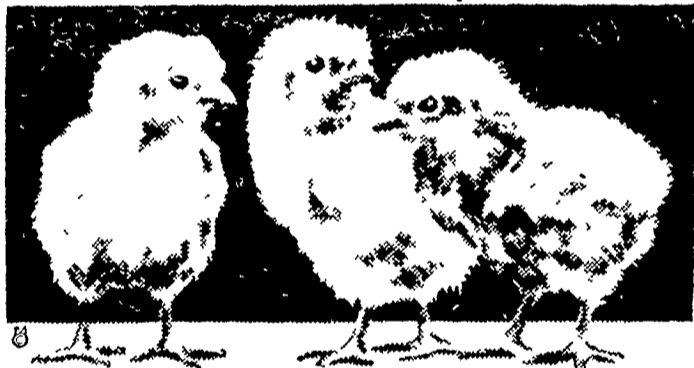
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18 WEEKS OLD — FULLY VACCINATED  
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1 to 3



For every dollar invested in limestone, experiment stations conclude, three dollars are returned in increased crops. Sometimes the ratio climbs to one to 15.

This explains why the Government pays about half the cost of applying limestone, if help is desired. The Government is convinced that farmers cannot afford to not use limestone.

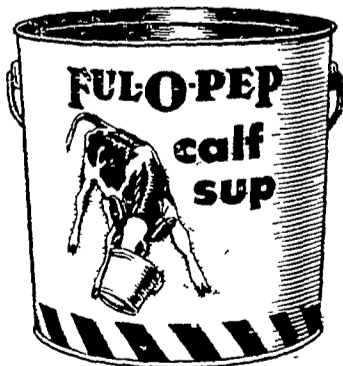
Where else does one dollar spent bring at least three in return? It does pay to use good limestone!

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# Babcock's

Dear Poultryman:

How are you? Probably very busy with your field work. We at the hatchery are all fine. This is the time of year when many poultrymen are cleaning out after their hens to get ready for pullets. I have been calling on a lot of poultrymen lately and I find quite a few putting young pullets on old litter. This is bad. Here's why. When a pullet begins to lay she is pregnant for the first time. She is under a tremendous strain like a heifer having her first calf. She is more nervous and jumpy. Now if at this critical time she must come in contact with all the disease eggs and contaminated droppings of the old hens before her, there is a good chance the stress will be too great. There is always a certain number of weaker birds in a flock. It is these birds that will fold up under old litter conditions. A good poultryman is one who can bring 90% of his pullets into production at one time and I can guarantee you won't get 90% on old litter!

Your Babcock Bessies are bred to peak at 90% — I see it everywhere I go — so be a top poultryman and give the girls a chance this year with a good, clean pen. A good program to follow would be to clean out all the manure, then scrub the floors and three or four feet up walls with hot water and lye solution. Let it set a couple days, then spray thoroughly with Carbolineum or some other good disinfectant. Wait a week or so before putting in the young ladies.

P. S. You'll like our new lower price now in force

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