

## Feb. Egg Output Tops Record

Weather conditions in February holding generally favorable for egg production resulted in a record rate-of-lay for the month in Pennsylvania, according to the Pennsylvania Crop Reporting Service.

Production during February was 301 million eggs, or nine per cent above Feb., 1958 when unfavorable weather hindered production.

Average number of layers on hand was two per cent more than Feb., 1958, or 18,081,000 hens. Jan. to Feb. seasonal decline in layer numbers was only one per cent, compared with a normal three per cent.

The egg-feed ratio was 11.1 or 11.1 lbs of ration equal one dozen eggs in price. This compares with 11.8 for January and 11.9 for February 1958.

The state broiler-feed ratio during February was 4.1, compared with 4.2 for January and 4.5 for Feb., 1958.

U. S. February egg production totaled 5,103 million eggs—seven per cent more than Feb., 1958. Increases were 18 per cent in the South Atlantic states; 14 per cent in the South Central; six per cent in the East North Central; five per cent in the North Atlantic and in the West, and four per cent in the West North Central.

Rate of egg production-per layer was 16 eggs, compared with 15.3 for the 28-day month in 1958. This increase was five per cent nationally and 10 per cent for the South Atlantic; eight per cent for South Central; seven per cent for North Atlantic; five per cent for East North Central and two per cent for West North Central and West.

Commercial broilers averaged 17.2 cents per pound in the nation for February according to the report.

## Pa. 1959 Vegetable Outlook Given

The Pennsylvania Crop Reporting Service has released this 1959 vegetable acreage outlook report.

**TOMATOES** — For processing, prospective planted acreage in the state is estimated at 16,000 acres, based on processor's intentions. This is 24 per cent below the 21,000 acres in 1958 and 29 per cent below the 1948-57 average of 22,600 acres.

**ASPARAGUS** — State asparagus growers will harvest 900 acres this year, the same as in 1958. This includes acreage both for processings and for fresh market.

**GREEN PEAS** — Processors indicate they intend to purchase peas from 6,700 acres for processing from the 1959 crop. This would be 100 acres or one per cent, less than the 6,800 acres planted last year and 48 per cent less than the 1948 - 57 average of 22,600 acres.

For the nation, reports indicate

Tomato acreage will be 308,800 acres, 14 per cent below 1958 and 11 per cent below average. All states with more than 10,000 acres plan reductions. California accounts for over 40 per cent of the total reduction expectations.

Asparagus production will be about 159,300 acres, slightly above last year and 14 per cent above normal.

Green peas acreage is expected to be nine per cent less than last year and 21 per cent below average. If intentions are carried out, this will be the third straight year nationally, with Wisconsin taking over half of the cut.

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## PLAN HAY DRYING

You can't install a mow hay drier overnight. Haying season is several months away but it isn't too early to start planning. Joseph McCurdy, Penn State extension agricultural engineer, says the barn hay drier helps you beat the weather, cuts down leaf losses, and in-

## 14—Lancaster Farming, Saturday, March 21, 1959

creases total digestible nutrients on the outside of the plants.

you buy, says Mrs. Keeney, Penn State summer education

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