

Here's How To Cut Production Costs!

Research Report from Early Bird



General view of buildings on the Early Bird Experimental farm. At this location we continually conduct projects connected with lowering egg production costs.

Below is a summary of results of a 6 months comparison of Mash versus Crumbles to laying flocks.

Groups 3 - 4 Fed Crumbles

	No. Birds	Per Cent Production	Lbs. Feed/Doz. Eggs
Month			
May 1959	2190	67.26	4.52
June	2150	82.52	4.13
July	2117	81.07	3.74
August	2087	78.05	4.09
September	2065	72.73	3.80
October	1891	74.19	3.85
Average		76.14	4.02

Groups 1 - 2 Mash Fed

	No. Birds	Per Cent Production	Lbs. Feed/Doz. Eggs
Month			
May 1959	2193	67.68	4.43
June	2150	84.63	4.02
July	2122	83.98	3.65
August	2096	80.34	3.85
September	2078	76.99	3.62
October	1856	78.07	3.80
Average		78.61	3.90

100 Culled
50 Culled

the averages for 6 months production—not 5½ lb. lb. per dozen, but 4.02 and 3.9 lb. per dozen eggs.



Ralph Holder, Director of Research and Nutrition, and Noah Gehman (left) farm manager examining one of the birds used in a research project.

EACH POINTS THE WAY

Miller & Bushong are constantly searching for better ways to build more efficiency in their feeds and thereby truly lower the Per Unit production costs for you.

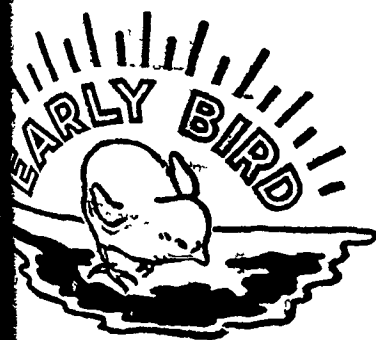
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blemishes and of good size—compared to Stokesdale.

Heisey raised 5,000 staked plants last year and has doubled his planting this summer.

"It didn't take Lancaster County growers long to learn about Pa 103," says B. L. Pollack, vegetable plant breeder at Penn State. "Most of the seed of Pa. 103 available this season went to the county growers," he adds.

Dr. Pollack reports staked tomatoes in the county are valued at between \$3,000 to \$5,000 per acre. The acreage of staked tomatoes in Lancaster County is the largest in the State.

Just released for commercial production this summer, Pa. 103 has been tested in Lancaster County for five years.

Tomatoes in the comparison tests were harvested, counted, graded, and weighed by Heisey's daughter Carole (a junior at Penn State).

Grading was in accordance with standards set by the Washington Boro Tomato Growers Cooperative Assn.

All production was sold (in pools) through the Co-operative at the prevailing-market price. The Heiseys are keeping accurate records again this summer.

Staked tomatoes can mean a real profit for the efficient producer, Penn State's Dr. Pollack observes.

Good quality, high yielding, early tomatoes demand a good price. He believes these qualities make Pa. 103 a desirable hybrid.

At the same time, he reminds growers that efficient management is a "must", due to the high costs of hand labor involved in staking, tying, pruning, picking, and grading.

Henry Heisey, Leroy Funk of Washington Boro, and most county growers trim their plants to a single stem.

However, Amos Funk of Millersville is growing 10,000 plants this summer on double stems.

Funk says the double stems were not hurting maturity of his plants as of late June.

He irrigates his tomato plots like most growers of staked tomatoes and claims he has very little trouble, if any, from gray wall disease.

This summer, for the second season, he is mulching his tomatoes with black plastic.

Dr. Pollack says tests at the Penn State campus and elsewhere show that Pa 103 matures equally well grown either single or double stem. However, maturity is often delayed when double stemming is used with Stokesdale.

These Penn State trials in Lancaster County are continuing. Many new experimental hybrid tomato strains are being developed.



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