

Poultry Numbers Still Decline

The number of layers on Pennsylvania farms is the lowest for November since 1942, according to figures released by the Pennsylvania Crop Reporting Service this week.

The number of layers on Pennsylvania farms during November was estimated at 17.5 million. Also, this is the first time since records were started, in 1925, in which average number of layers did not show an increase from October to November. The average seasonal increase is about 3 per cent.

Total egg production dur-

ing the month was 284 million, 2 per cent below a month earlier, and the lowest for November since '51. The rate of lay at 16.20 eggs per layer was below a year ago but the second highest of record for the month.

Temperatures during the first half of November averaged normal. The third week a mass of cold air moved across the State dropping temperatures as much as 32° in a 24 hour period giving us the coldest week of the season up until that time. Many poultrymen reported that eggs dropped considerably during the cold snap. Total egg production for the first 11 months of this year is about 1½ percent above the comparable period of last year.

Prices received by Keystone farmers for eggs at mid-month averaged 28 cents per dozen up 3 cents from the previous month but 1 cent below a year ago. Egg prices were the lowest for the month since 1941.

Prices received for farm chickens at 14.0 cents per pound were 5 cents above the previous month and this is the first time since 1950 in which farm chickens showed an increase from October to November.

Christmas Tree Can Be Hazard

A gaily decorated Christmas tree lights up the heart as well as the home during the holiday season, but don't let this year's fun turn into tragedy by neglecting a few simple pointers.

Leave your tree outside, not in the garage, until you are ready to put it up. This will prevent it from drying before you even start. When you bring it inside, make a fresh cut at the base of the tree. This cut should be diagonal to allow more surface to be exposed to the moisture in the container.

Fill the container with water or wet sand. Dry Christmas tree needles are a fire hazard and the water helps keep the needles moist. Moist needles stay on the tree longer, but one week is about the maximum time the tree should be up.

Be sure that tree light cords, sockets and plugs are in good condition. Place the tree near an outlet fused for 15 amperes. This means the fuse will blow easily if the load is too heavy or if a short circuit develops. You'll also keep from tripping over extension cords.

For safety's sake, be sure the Underwriters' Laboratory label is on any string of lights you buy. Look for parallel-wired strings of all-glass having a fiber washer pressed against the bulb socket. The washer helps keep burnable material out of the socket and lessens chance of shock, if you touch the metal part of the bulb when the lights are on. Parallel wiring means that all of the properly working lights stay on if one bulb should burn out.

You'll add to the extra safety provided by the fiber washer if you screw the metal part of the bulbs all the way into the sockets. One more important bit of advice, be sure to turn off the tree lights when you leave the house or go to bed.

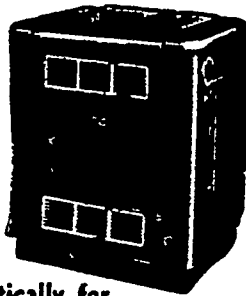
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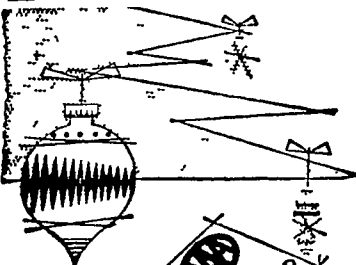
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