

AMOS FUNK, MILLERSVILLE R1, PRESIDENT of the Pennsylvania Horticultural Council, makes a presentation to Dr Russell Larson, Director of Cooperative Extension in Pennsylvania. Larson was head of the University Department of Horticulture before his appointment to the Extension Service post. In the picture are, L to R, John Peters of the Penna Cannery Association, John Eisler, Pennsylvania Nurserymen; Larson; Funk, Penna Vegetable Growers, and Joseph Johnson, Jr. of the Penna Flower Growers. All four men with Larson are past presidents of their respective organizations. Larson was given a leather traveling bag and a certificate of appreciation. The presentations were made at a recent meeting of the Pennsylvania Horticultural Council at the Penn State campus.

Egg Chick Hatch In Down Trend

Poultrymen can expect laying flocks to be smaller this fall and winter according to Kermit Birth, marketing specialist from the Pennsylvania State University.

Birth bases his estimate on the number of pullet chicks hatched for laying flock replacements.

Through May of this year

9 per cent fewer chicks were hatched nationally for laying flock replacements. On June 1 there were 9% more eggs in incubators than a year ago.

In the last 6 months of 1961 the hatch was 23 per cent above the same period in 1961. Thus more pullets were housed the first half of this year than a year ago. This has contributed to the lower prices.

The number of layers on farms in the United States in May was 1 per cent above the

same date last year. This coupled with an increase in the rate of lay resulted in nearly a 3 per cent increase in production. Favorable weather contribution to the increase.

In Pennsylvania during May, production was about 3 per cent below the same month a year ago.

The increase in the laying flock replacement hatch during the last half of 1961 was offset by the decrease after the first 5 months of 1962. For the past 11 months, July 1961 through May 1962 the United States hatch was down almost 2 per cent while the Pennsylvania hatch has less than 1 per cent above the same period a year earlier. In the West North Central area the hatch was down - almost 19 per cent. In the South Atlantic area it was up 9 per cent.

The trend indicates changes taking place in poultry production in these areas. Prices the last quarter of the year probably will average about the same as a year earlier.

The trend toward a higher July-December hatch of layer replacements is expected to continue. The hatching pattern reflects changes in the

season when chicks are hatched for laying flock replacements. It could well result in less month-to-month price variation for the different sizes.

The price spread between large eggs and the smaller sizes this fall is not expected to be as wide as a year ago because of the reduced number of replacements to be housed.

Size of the laying flock this fall will also be influenced by the rate of culling, or the

cent of hens held over. This may be affected by egg prices. If the rate of culling is normal, the laying flock size in the nation, and this state too, for the last quarter of the year may be slightly smaller than a year ago.

Revised estimates indicate further decline in per capita consumption of eggs.

Egg prices received by Pennsylvania producers the last quarter of the year are also expected to average about the same as a year ago.

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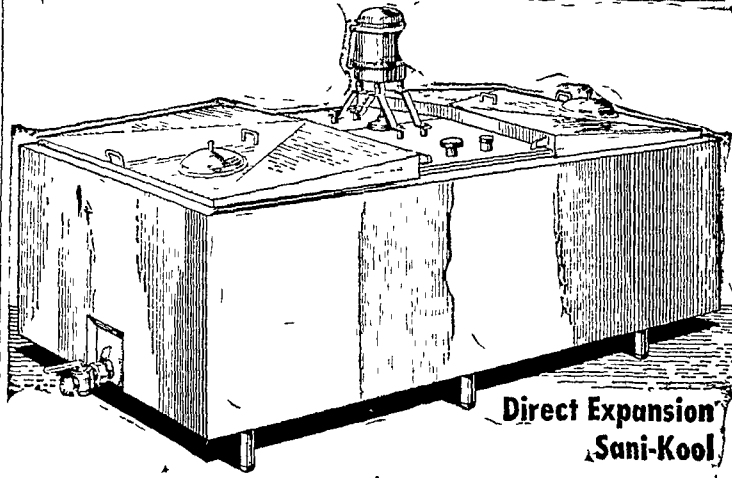
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