

Changes Seen In Egg Picture

The Egg industry continues to undergo changes, Keimit Birth, Penn State Market specialist said this week. In a report called Poultry Marketing Information Outlook, Birth said these changes continue to exert pressure toward increased production and lower prices.

Continued emphasis is being placed on methods of reducing costs and improving income in order to meet competitive pressures both in production and marketing.

U S egg production for 1963 may exceed slightly the production of 1962. Production in the first half of the year is expected to be slightly below the year earlier levels because the increase in the rate of lay is not expected to offset the reduced number of layers on farms. Potential layers on farms the first of December were 1 per cent below the corresponding period a year earlier.

Egg prices may average the same to slightly higher the first half of 1963 for both the U S and Pennsylvania. Birth said

Egg production in Pennsylvania has declined since the peak was reached in 1955, and it appears that production in Pennsylvania in 1963 will be about the same as a year ago.

A smaller state laying flock the first half of the year may be offset by an increase in flock size later in the year. Although the hatch in February and March fell below a year ago, the 11 month total was 6 per cent more than the same period a year ago. But, in July through November the hatch was up 38 per cent.

In the U S, the hatch of egg type chicks, January through November was down 5 per cent. In the period July through November the hatch was up 2

per cent.

In the last quarter of the year the national laying flock is expected to be larger than in 1962.

The size of laying flock and egg prices the last half of the year will be influenced by the size of the hatch the first part of 1963. The size of the hatch will be influenced by prices the early part of the year.

Some of the chicks hatched for flock replacement will be needed to replace the increased proportion of hens now on farms. More pullets grown next year than needed to replace culled hens suggests a lower price level than that of the last quarter of 1962.

Demand for eggs is likely to continue to decline. At the present time, nothing indicates a reversal in the downward trend

● Jack Grey

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wide range of agricultural activities and has worked with farm organizations throughout the State. He is Executive Secretary and Treasurer of the Pennsylvania Horticultural Council, an organization embracing fruit and vegetable growers, food processors, nurserymen and flower growers.

Grey is a member of the Governor's Committee on Migratory Labor, has had charge of program on the Statewide Farm-City Week Committee,

in per capita consumption. Thus an increase in production will result in lower prices. Birth suggests poultrymen keep abreast of chick hatch for laying flock replacements

and has been active on the Statewide Youth Power Congress Planning Committee.

He and Mrs. Grey, the former Emily Kelly, daughter of Louis Kelly, Altoona, have four children, Jack, Jr., 16; James, 14; Janice, 10, and Jonathan, 3.

● Vegetable Growers

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University, Fred Wright, Kingston, was reelected vice president for his second term.

Named to the board of directors were H Herman Hostetter, Sinking Spring; Clair Allison, Hanover R3; Boyd Mertz, Northumberland and Ray Hetherington, Ringtown.

The meeting was held in cooperation with the Pennsylvania Canners Association and the Penn State Extension Service.

● Water Study

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dent of the Conestoga Valley Association, Charles S Conrad, Lancaster County Planning Commission member and Commission Liaison Representative to the Committee, and C Bickley Foster, County Planning Director. Mr. Fuehler reported to the Commissioners that concluding the meeting in Ephrata was a motion which was unanimously adopted stated as follows:

"That the County Commissioners be requested to provide for a Comprehensive Water Resources Study which will consider the impounding of water for public supplies, recreational uses and flood control throughout Lancaster County and which will provide implementation and estimates on structures, stream bank planting and reforestation as generally outlined in the Lancaster County Planning Commission's Water Resources Advisory Committee report and integrating assistance that can be secured from other governmental agencies provided such assistance does not create a hardship or serious time lag."

Mr. Isaac H Weaver, Chairman of the Water Resources Advisory Committee, expressed gratification over the action of the County Commissioners. He said that the Committee will meet on February 13, 1963 to begin more detailed discussions on undertaking the study. "We want to avoid any duplication of costs and effort," Mr. Weaver stated, "and we will look into any State and Federal surveys which relate to our water problems."

The Susquehanna River Basin Study is just getting underway by the U S Corps of Army Engineers and will take many years to complete. The U S Geological Survey office has begun a five year survey of underground water quality and quantity for a small section of the limestone area of Metropolitan Lancaster. The State proposed Project 70, if passed by a referendum of voters in November 1963, would provide, among other things, money for park areas related to sources of water. Other members of the Committee are Samuel S Bard of East Petersburg, Frank H Feagley of Lancaster Township, Earl L Grott of Strasburg, H C Kreisler of Lancaster, and Dr John H. Moss of West Lampeter.

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