

● Eggs Incorporated

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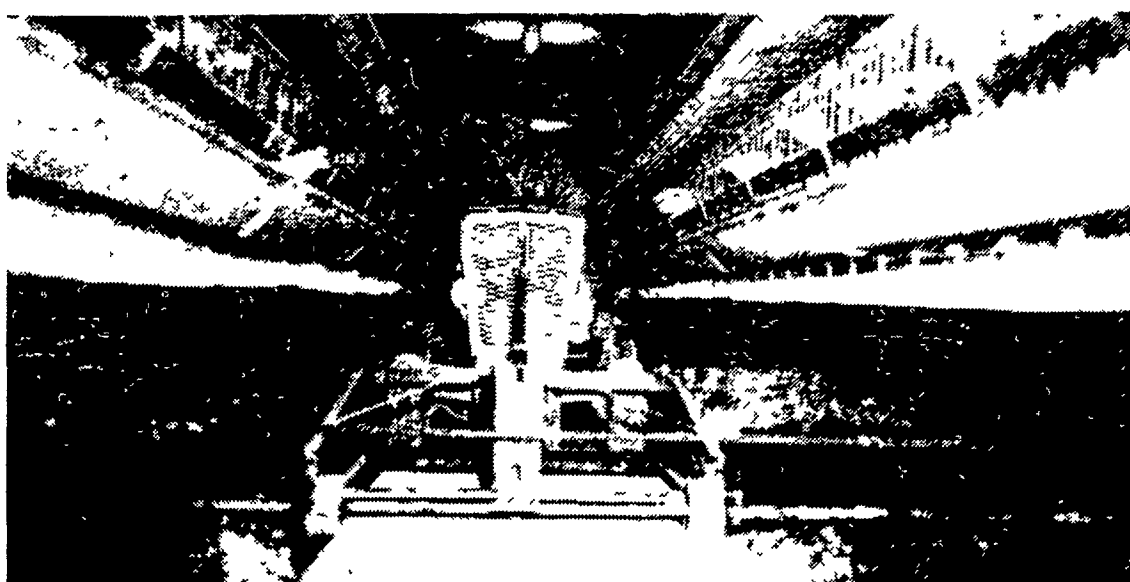
mediately and will be ready for the consumer within 48 hours from the time they are laid.

Chores in the six 32 feet x 268 feet houses will be nearly automatic. Feed will be delivered to the houses in bulk and a motorized cart fills the troughs on the double decker cages faster than a man can walk. Fresh water flows in front of the cages at all times, and temperature and ventilation in the windowless houses is controlled by six thermostatically controlled fans.

Every six weeks, a small

tractor with a double blade scrapes manure from under the cages to a center cutter where a paddle system takes it to a manure spreader outside the house.

But, while efficiency will be the watchword, Uniformity of product will be the goal. We want to put out a dozen of eggs that are all alike, Wenger said. If a housewife breaks two eggs in a pan and one has a dark yolk and the other a light yolk, she thinks something is wrong. They may both be good eggs, but she thinks one is not good — she might not know which one, but she thinks one is wrong.



CLEANING MANURE FROM UNDER the cages at Eggs, Incorporated is mechanized. The small tractor equipped with a double blade pushes the droppings to a gutter in the center of the house where a paddle conveyer takes it to the manure spreader outside. Lights in the windowless, fully insulated house keep the caged layers producing clean eggs on a round-the-clock schedule. Here Charles Goodling sits on the tractor which follows the edges of the pit without steering. The small wheels at the front of the scraper keep the machine on the walkway.

L. F. Photo.

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eggs in preference to imported eggs Wenger said. He believes the best way to produce a uniform product is to keep the entire program under the same

management plan. At present, the only phase of the program not under his direct control is the pullet rearing program. He contracts with farmers to brood the chicks and grow them to 12 weeks, but after the laying units are complete he plans to add brooding and chick rearing facilities on another section of the farm.

When this is done, Eggs, Inc. will handle the production of high quality eggs all the way from the hatchery to the retailer's shelves. Wenger believes Pennsylvania farmers can produce all the eggs used by the housewives in the state.

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### Farm Prices Are Lower For Month

Prices received by Commonwealth farmers at mid-January for their agricultural products were down 1 percent from a month earlier, but nearly 4 percent above a year ago, according to the Pennsylvania Crop Reporting Service.

Primarily responsible for the seasonal decline in the price index was a 15 cent per cwt. drop in wholesale milk price. Cattle prices and hog prices also declined during January.

Partially offsetting these lower prices for the month were higher prices of all field crops. Allstate hay price at \$45.00 per ton, was the highest on record and showed a \$2.00 increase from December. Potato prices showed a 15 cent per cwt gain over December, while poultry and egg prices remained steady.

The Index of Prices Received, which is a measure of the trend and changes of prices received by farmers, was 231 percent of the 1910-14 — 100 base. This compared with 233 a month earlier and 223 a year earlier.

During the month ended January 15, the Index of Prices Received by Farmers over the nation rose nearly 1 percent to 244 percent of its 1910-14 average. Generally higher prices for vegetables and oranges, following freeze damage in important producing areas, were primarily responsible. Seasonally lower prices for wholesale milk and cotton were partially offsetting.

The January index was nearly 1 percent above a year earlier. The Index of Prices Paid by Farmers for Commodities and Services including Interest, Taxes, and Farm Wage Rates rose nearly 1 percent from the revised December index of 309 to 311 on January 15. This was a new high.