



FFA MEMBERS OF THE WARWICK CHAPTER who will be participating at Penn State during FFA Week, June 16-18, are left to right above: (seated) Fred Hess, farm mechanics, Eugene Risser, dairy judging; Daniel Nolt, land judging; (standing), William Risser, livestock judging, Gerald Hess, state FFA band — trombone; Paul Brubaker, State FFA chorus — bass. L. F. Photo

Will Fewer Chicks Mean Fewer Hens In Next Year's Flocks?

Will the nation's egg laying flock this fall be smaller than in the same period last year? The hatch of chicks for laying flock replacements the first 6 months of 1965 may give an indication of the situation this fall.

Producers ordered fewer chicks for laying flock replacements because of low January-March prices. Through March, the hatch of chicks for laying flock replacements was about 13 percent below a year earlier. The decline occurred in February and March — 12 and 19 percent respectively. Normally over one-fourth of the year's replacement chicks are hatched in these months.

The hatch was below a year ago in all areas. However, the decrease was not uniform throughout the U. S. Decreases in the March hatch ranged from almost 25 percent in the West North Central to 7 percent in the South Central. For the first three months of the year, the decline ranged from a low of 2 percent in the South Atlantic to 25 percent in the North Atlantic. Although the hatch was down in all areas, it was not down in all states.

Eggs in incubators on April 1 were below the same date a year ago in all areas. Decreases in the number of eggs in incubators on April 1 ranged from 22 percent in the North Atlantic to 10 percent in the South Central.

A change in the number of chicks hatched does not mean the same or nearly the same change in the size of the nation's laying flock. The rate of culling will also influence the number of layers on farms. In the fall and late winter over one-third of the flock will consist of hens. In past years similar reductions in chick hatch resulted in only about a 2 percent change in the size of the nation's laying flock. It is difficult to estimate changes for individual states because of changes

in source of chicks and started pullets. Information available does not give changes in the proportion of chicks purchased from out-of-state sources or those hatched in the state and sold to producers in other states.

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Cattle Market News Reports To Be Revised

The U. S. Department of Agriculture has announced that reporting of slaughter cattle markets has been adjusted, effective June 1, to coincide with the revised carcass beef grades which will go into effect on that date.

The Livestock Division of USDA's Consumer and Marketing Service explained that the reporting change is necessary in order to maintain meaningful supply and price comparisons between carcass beef and slaughter cattle of equivalent grades.

On the basis of recent research findings, the revised carcass beef standards place less emphasis on changes in maturity, as a grade factor, in the USDA Prime, Choice, Good, and Standard grades. This change results in a reduction in the rate of increase in the amount of marbling (flecks of fat within the lean) required to compensate for increasing maturity.

Cattle market reporting will continue on the basis of the carcass grade equivalent until the official standards for grades of slaughter cattle can be revised to coincide with the revised carcass grades.

● M. M. Smith

(Continued from Page 1) agricultural science at Colorado State University. Four other Pennsylvania

County Agents have received W. R. Wallace, Smithport; similar scholarships for advanced study at Colorado: Amos Zimmerman, Lewisburg; Harold Stewart, Harrisburg; Pa.

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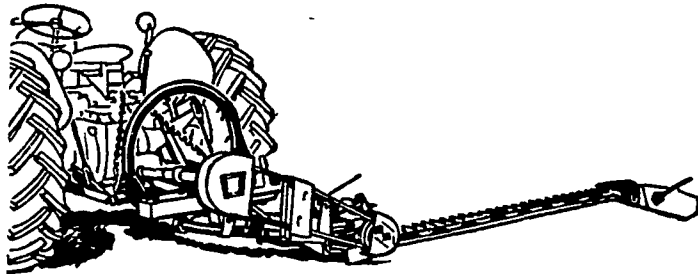
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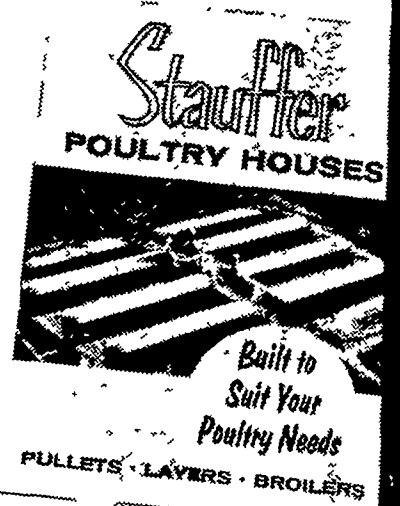
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