

Spring Pig Crop Hits Bottom

A total of 315,000 pigs were produced in the Commonwealth this spring, 7 percent less than in the comparable season in 1964, according to the Pennsylvania Crop Reporting Service.

It was the smallest spring pig crop in the state since 1935, and 27 percent below the 1959-63 average. The number of pigs saved per litter was 7.5, a record high for the spring crop.

Pennsylvania farmers indicate 38,000 sows and gilts will farrow this fall, 7 percent less than last year and the lowest number for any fall season since 1925.

This shortage of feeder pigs is reflected in hog prices rising to a seven-year high in mid-June which sparked an advance in cash returns of keystone State farmers for the third consecutive month.

Average prices received for all farm products rose slightly from mid-May and were about 8 percent above those of June 1964.

The mid-June hog price of \$22.30 a hundredweight was \$2 higher than in mid-May and \$6 above the average price a year earlier. It was the highest price received for hogs since August 1958 when the quotation also was \$22.30 per cwt.

OTHER COMMODITIES

Substantial advances also were recorded in average cattle prices. Steers and heifers gained 90 cents in the month to \$24.20 per cwt. The price was \$4.40 higher than a year earlier.

Egg prices averaged two cents a dozen higher than mid-May quotations but were still one cent below the price last June. Corn prices gained two cents a bushel but most other crops were slightly lower than a month ago.

Pa. Blooms In Cut Flower Biz.

Pennsylvania is the most important cut flower producing state in the Northeast, with current wholesale volume estimated at \$11 million, according to records of a recently completed 11-state survey.

The survey, made annually by the U. S. Department of Agriculture, this year included Pennsylvania for the first time. The study in this state was made by the Pennsylvania Crop Reporting Service.

Highlights of the report showed Pennsylvania to be

Second in production of roses accounting for 17 percent of the 11-state total.

Third in production of carnations, standard chrysanthemums and pompon chrysanthemums.

The report also ranked Pennsylvania third in the United States in wholesale volume with current value of \$11 million.

All known commercial growers with annual volume of \$2,000 or more were included in the survey in which data was gathered on four cut flowers — roses, standard and pompon chrysanthemums, carnations and gladioli.

In addition to Pennsylvania, states in the survey were Massachusetts, New York, New Jersey, Ohio, Indiana, Illinois, North Carolina, Florida, Colorado and California.

Performance Is The Key To Low Costs !



Mr. and Mrs. Glenn Esbenshade stand in front of one half of their twin layer house.

At the end of the 1963-64 season, we published the fine leghorn breeder flock records of Mr. and Mrs. H. Glenn Esbenshade of R. D. 2, Manheim.

Here are some details on their 1964-65 flock:

- Number of birds housed April 29, 1964 — 12,319 pullets plus cockerels
- Date birds reached 50% production — May 15, 1964
- Date flock was sold — April 29, 1965
- Days in production from start of 50% — 349 days
- Hen house mortality — 5.8%
- Total eggs shipped per hen housed starting at 50% production — 243.6
- Average hatchability — 92.9%
- Pounds of feed per dozen eggs produced (not including cockerel feed) — 3.64
- Estimated consumption of cockerel feed per dozen eggs produced — 0.264 lbs.
- Feed used (except for about 3½ weeks) — Early Bird #311 Breeder Mash

Comment from the receiving hatchery to the Esbenshades . . .

"This was one of the finest performing breeder flocks that we have ever had — congratulations from all of us."

A fine performance, Glenn and Rachel.

It's in the feed if you can get it out . . . and you proved it.

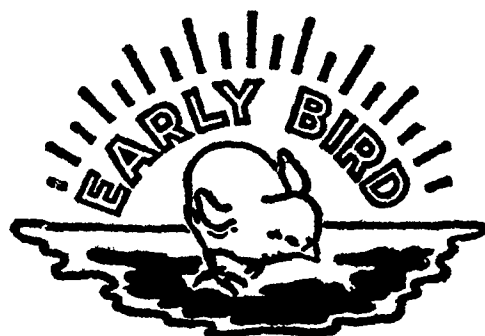


Glenn Esbenshade is shown with some of the 12,000 layers in his poultry house.

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