

Egg Prices
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a less favorable situation. But how much change has there been in prices following an increase or decrease in egg production? Economists indicate when there is no change in demand, that, on the average, a 1 percent change in supply is followed by a 4 percent change in farm egg

prices. Thus, at 40 cents per dozen, an increase in supply of 1 percent would result in a drop in price to 38.4 cents or 1.6 cents per dozen. This could be the difference between profit or loss for some poultrymen. A decline in demand would result in a further decrease in price.

During the past decade, both total and per capita consumption by the civilian population of the United States has declined. Also, with the exception of one year, the change in civilian consumption from one year to the next has not exceeded one percent. Change in production followed the same trend; but, there were three years when the change in production exceeded one percent. The change in price was less than 2 percent in only two of the ten years.

In all but three years the price, when compared to a year earlier, decreased when supply increased, or, increased when supply decreased. Prices of other food products, as well as many other factors, influenced the price of eggs.

Civilian consumption is determined by subtracting from production: quantities exported, purchased for military use, used for hatching, and stocks of eggs on hand at the end of the year. Eggs on hand at the beginning of the year and imports are added to production.

This year, because of the sharp increase in chick hatch plus subsequent quantity of chicks raised for laying flock replacements, one would expect prices to average well below the same period a year earlier. More layers, plus more eggs per layer this fall and winter, mean more eggs.

If the laying flock size on the first of January is 2 to 3 percent larger than at the beginning of 1966, and prices respond to changes in supply as they have in the past, prices could average 10 to 15 percent or more below the same period last year. Weather—extreme cold in the winter and heat in the summer—has played a significant part in the past year's prices.

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Bull Cited By Pa. Nurserymen's Assn.

State Agriculture Secretary Leland H. Bull was cited Wednesday by the Pennsylvania Nurserymen's Association for "outstanding service to the nursery industry."

A resolution adopted by the association's board of directors commended him specifically for publication of the first directory and buyers' guide "of Pennsylvania-grown nursery stock." A copy of the resolution was presented to Secretary Bull at a meeting of the

State Nursery Marketing Advisory Council.

The directory, issued in September, carries a detailed list of varieties, size and quantity of plants available in Pennsylvania and nurseries where they may be obtained. Its purpose is to provide buyers with finger-tip information about sources in Pennsylvania where these products can be purchased.

Publication of the directory is part of a buyers' guide program introduced by the department in 1964 to develop stronger markets for Pennsylvania agricultural products.

FRIDAY, NOV. 4, 1966

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