



EGGS ENTER BREAKING ROOM through this window which connects to the egg washing room. The eggs feed directly to the breaking machine with each egg breaking into an individual cup. L. F. Photo

● Liquid Eggs

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 ver's total egg purchases are from local sources, Burkholder said, adding that the firm's total breaking operation is presently supplied from this source.

As breaking plants go, Weaver's is not a large set-up, and if the present liquid egg program is to be greatly expanded area poultrymen will have to adjust their operations accordingly. Burkholder said there are two possible egg production programs that could be geared to the liquid egg market. (1) Poultrymen could force molt their birds after 12 months of lay, then bring them back into production for about 35 more weeks with all eggs going to the breaker; or, (2) after 12 months of lay for the shell-egg market, the last three months' production would go for breaking.

In an effort to gain a better understanding of the economics of such production schedules, Weaver's is now running several flocks under the plan (1) program. That is, they have force-molted birds and will absorb into their liquid egg business all the eggs produced by these flocks during the next 35 weeks. Complete cost records are being kept to determine the profitability to the poultryman and to the breaker.

STEADY SUPPLY NEEDED
 Once a breaking plant develops established customers for its liquid eggs, it requires a steady flow of eggs to service those customers. This em-

phasizes one of the major economic problems the breaker encounters. Since the price that he can pay for eggs has to be based on the price he will receive for the liquid product, plus shrinkage and other costs, there has to be some definite relationship between the shell egg and liquid egg market prices. Unfortunately, although liquid egg prices don't fluctuate as widely during any given year as shell egg prices do, neither does one necessarily closely follow the other.

This varying differential, between the prices of the two, means that when market eggs are relatively high, as now, the available supply of eggs for processing tends to lessen.

With this economic fact of life in mind, Burkholder stated that, "The soundness of the liquid egg program lies in providing a market for eggs from older birds." Theoretically, the farmer gains by substantially lowering his pullet depreciation costs by spreading those costs over a longer period of lay.

MARKET FOR LIQUID EGGS

Who buys liquid eggs? Where do they go? These were some of the questions we asked Burkholder and Kennel.

Bakeries provide one important outlet for this product, but most of the liquid eggs wind up in plants for further processing into food products.

Why can't bakeries, and others, break their own eggs? Well, for one thing, the managers said, "It has been shown that it's more economical for bakers to follow the axiom 'Bake, don't Break'. They come



AN EGG'S-EYE-VIEW of the inside of one of the 500-gallon holding tanks where liquid eggs are held for pasteurizing. Eggs are cooled to 38 degrees and constantly agitated until ready for movement. L. F. Photo



ONE OF THE MOST IMPORTANT FACTORS in producing liquid eggs is the pasteurizing process. Weaver employee Leon Stauffer, above, shows the control panel which regulates and permanently records the operation. Part of the pasteurizing unit can be seen to the right of the picture. L. F. Photo

out ahead when they buy the convenience and ready supply which a specialized egg breaking plant can offer them.

Added to that convenience of breaking their own eggs are the increasing rules and regu-

lations governing the whole liquid egg business. On July 1 of this year, the Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture adopted new standards of sanitation for plants where eggs are broken-out. In an effort to further assure a Salmonella-free product, the U. S. Department of Agriculture amended the regulations governing its voluntary egg products inspection pro-

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