

EGG PRODUCTION DOWN FROM YEAR EARLIER

Egg production totaled 272,000,000 in Pennsylvania during March, according to the Pennsylvania Crop Reporting Service.

ice. This production was two percent less than the March 1966 production. On a daily basis March production was about the same as the daily rate during February 1967.

Poultrymen had one percent fewer layers on hand during March than they had in February and three percent fewer than during March 1966. Death losses and culling more than offset additions of pullets to the laying flock during March.

The April 1 rate of lay at 61.6 percent was up three percent from March 1, 1967, but slightly less than the April 1, 1966 rate of lay. Rate of lay normally increases at this time of the year.

The average price received for all eggs sold during March was 39 cents per dozen, three cents more than the February price but five cents less than for March 1966. The Easter demand strengthened prices but did not push them to year earlier levels.

Pennsylvania hatcherymen produced 4,285,000 egg-type chicks during January-February 1967, four percent more than the 1966 cumulative hatch

for the two month period. The United States egg-type chick hatch for the first two months of 1967 was 87,024,000, 12 percent more than the comparable period in 1966.

Stocks of all eggs in cold storage on February 28, 1967 totaled 1,101,000 cases. This was 10 percent more than January 31, 1967, 37 percent more than February 28, 1966 but five percent less than the February 28, five-year average.

U.S. EGG PRODUCTION UP SIX PERCENT

March egg production is estimated at 6,127 million eggs, six percent above both March 1966 and the 1961-65 average. The average number of layers for March 1967 is estimated at 317 million, up five percent from both a year earlier and average. Egg production per layer averaged 19.32 during March 1967 compared with

19.01 eggs for March last year and the five-year average of 19.12 eggs.

March egg production was up from a year earlier in all regions. The South Atlantic and South Central regions had the sharpest increases, being 11 percent above last year.

The number of layers on April 1, 1967 is estimated at 316,703,000, which is five percent above both a year earlier and average. Estimated layer numbers were up nine percent in the South Central region, eight percent in the South Atlantic, six percent in the West, four percent in the East North Central and two percent in the West North Central. A slight decline from a year earlier was recorded in the North Atlantic region.

The rate of lay on April 1 averaged 63.5 eggs per 100 layers compared with 62.7 a year earlier and the average of 62.9. Rate of lay was equal or above last year in all regions except the West which had a slight decline.

PENNA. MILK PRODUCTION DOWN 15 MILLION POUNDS

Most of Pennsylvania had more precipitation during March than in either of the preceding two months. Soil moisture is the best it has been for April 1 in several years. Although there were a few warm days toward the end of the month, temperatures averaged below normal with some sub-zero readings. Winter grain and grass seedings appear to be in good shape. There were some reports of winter-kill but it is too early to determine the extent of the damage.

Milk cows on Pennsylvania farms during March produced 630 million pounds of milk—a decline of 15 million pounds from March 1966—according to the Pennsylvania Crop Reporting Service. March milk production was 17 million pounds below the 1961-65 average, and 31 million pounds less than the record high for the month in 1963.

The number of milk cows on Pennsylvania farms in March was 750,000. Milk cow numbers are down approximately three percent from March 1966 and 13 percent from the March 1961-65 average.

March production per cow was 840 pounds or 10 pounds above March 1966 and 85 pounds above the five-year average.

On a daily basis, March output at 27.10 pounds was 1.56 pounds above February and 33 pounds above March last year.

Based on the July 1, 1965 Pennsylvania population estimate, March milk production was at a level to provide 1.76 pounds or 82 quarts daily per person in the State.

The daily rate of feeding grain and concentrates was 13.4 pounds per cow during March, an increase of 1 pound from February and an increase of 2 pounds from March last year. The amount of grain fed to produce 100 pounds of milk declined 7 pounds from February, but was 4 pounds greater than March last year.

Reporting commercial dairymen indicated the replacement value of dairy cattle as Milk cows \$387, heifers (over 16 months), \$268, heifers (4-16 months), \$157 and calves \$75.

Fifty-five percent of the hay fed to milk cows during the winter feeding period was alfalfa, 28 percent was clover, and 17 percent other hay. Of the silage fed during the same period 89 percent was corn, eight percent grass and three percent other kinds of silage.

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