

Consumption Of Eggs Lags As Population Gains

Despite United States population increase of 42 million persons during the past 15 years, our poultrymen are not being called upon to supply more eggs to keep pace with the population explosion. The total number of eggs consumed by our civilian population is about the same as it was in 1951.

"Americans are not eating as many eggs as they used to," says A. Kermit Birth, extension poultry marketing specialist at Penn State University. "In 1951, per capita consumption was 393 eggs. In 1966, this figure dropped to 303 eggs per person."

In explaining why fewer eggs are being eaten, the marketing specialist points out that characteristics of the nation's population have changed. The average age has decreased.

There are proportionally more persons in the teen and sub-teen, and retirement age groups. These two groups, Birth says, may have different egg consumption patterns.

Even though consumers are purchasing fewer eggs in recent years, they are buying them for less, the specialist points out. Annual average prices of grade A large eggs in urban centers dropped from about 74 cents per dozen in 1951 to a low of less than 53 cents in 1965. In 1966, the average retail price was almost 60 cents per dozen.

In the past five years, the estimated quantity of eggs available for civilians has ranged between 4,920 million and 4,970 million dozen, Birth said.

"If egg supplies increase faster than the population or per capita consumption does, depressed prices will occur unless the demand increases," the marketing official indicated. "The effect of population growth on prices will depend on how well the industry coordinates production to market needs."

Slusser (Continued from Page 1)

production, he has been associated with extension work. First as a summer assistant with the National 4-H Center in Washington, D.C., and since September 1965, as county extension 4-H agent in Geauga County, Ohio. While attending Penn State, he spent one summer with the extension service in Snyder County. A native of Adams County, he has had farm experience working with registered Holstein herds in that area.

Slusser and his wife, Kaye, will re-locate in mid-June in the State College area, the location of the State Holstein office. As fieldman, he will be assisting State Holstein Secretary, William C. Nichol, in conducting the association's breed promotion and membership service programs.

The trouble with people these days is that they want to reach the promised land without going through the wilderness!

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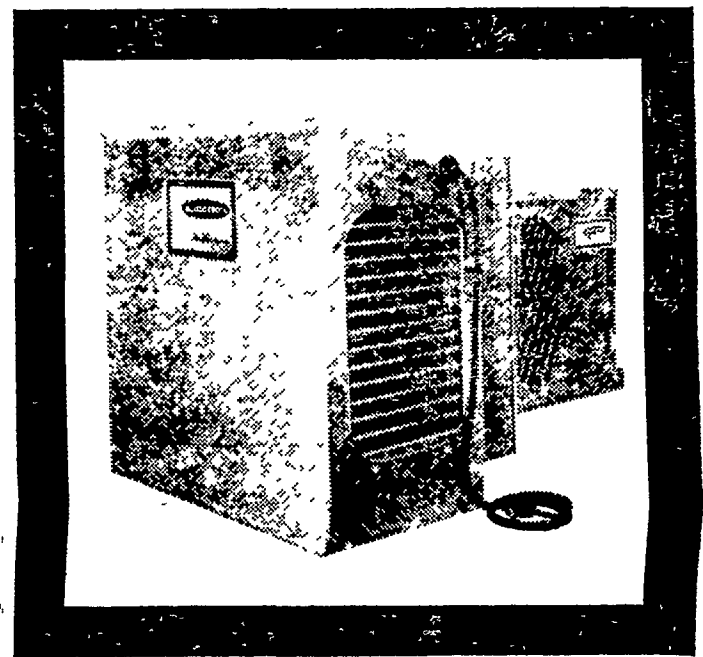
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