

State Federation Warns Poultrymen

Pennsylvania poultry farmers had an income of \$168,634,000 in 1969, an increase of 18 per cent over 1968. Pennsylvania ranks fifth nationally on cash income on eggs, according to the Pennsylvania Poultry Federation.

The USDA reported replacement chicks for egg production continues well above a year ago. Month of February was up 17 per cent and March, 14 per cent.

The West North Central area was at 36 per cent, South Atlantic, 22 per cent, West, 14 per cent; North Central, 12 per cent, South Central, 11 per cent, and North Atlantic, 9 per cent.

Placement of broiler chicks in Pennsylvania are up 21 per cent, while the placements in the 22 major broiler producing states are up 10 per cent. Current settings are running nine per cent above a year ago.

The above figures indicate that we may be heading for a big "bust" in both egg and broiler prices. United Egg Producers are quite concerned about the heavy placements of replacement layers and quoted below is a telegram received a few days ago.

"Urgent, Drastic Egg Price Drop Expected. Paying prices for breaking stock disastrously low. Immediate removal of layers that have been producing 10½ months or longer critically urgent to supplement egg removal program. These

Lancaster Pony Club Show Scheduled May 2

The fourth annual Lancaster Pony Club horse show will be held next Saturday (May 2) at Pony Club Headquarters at the John Gibson farm at Drumore Pa. Directional signs to the show grounds overlooking the Susquehanna River will be posted from Route 272 near Wakefield.

Spectators are welcome and there is no charge for admission to the show grounds. Lunch will be available on the grounds with free coffee served until 10 a.m.

Thirty-four classes for junior riders through age 21 will be on the program. Classes will start at 9 a.m.

A new addition to this year's schedule will be special Pony Club classes for Pony Club members from Pennsylvania, Maryland, Delaware, and New Jersey.

Old hens have little chance of returning any further profit with the egg prices in prospect. A delay in chick orders or cancellation will help bring future egg supply in balance with demand.

Time to Check-Up On the Woolly Bear

Want to check up on the woolly bear and the almanac? and precipitation in Pennsylvania weather records.

If so, recall the forecasts and compare with the results of the past harsh winter as compiled by the Pennsylvania Crop Reporting Service in cooperation with various other state and federal groups, including the Weather Bureau.

Temperature this past winter season averaged four degrees below normal while the total water equivalent of precipitation was near normal.

The sub-normal temperatures in March marked the 12th consecutive month of below normal readings in Pennsylvania.

Snowfall totals exceeded 100 inches at many higher elevations in northern locales. This winter's total went down as the greatest or second greatest on record at a majority of the climatological substations scattered over the State.

November temperatures were two degrees below normal with most of the snowfall confined to the western half of the State.

The big news in December was the white Christmas experienced by almost all of Pennsylvania. A series of snowstorms started December 22 and by the 27th snow depths were six inches in lesser affected areas in the extreme west, 20 inches in central portions and much of the southeast, and over 36 inches in the Pocono Mountains.

While near record totals of precipitation were recorded in December, January result was just the opposite. Temperatures 10 degrees below normal marked the month as one of the coldest January's of record and at the same time precipitation totals (melted water equivalent) were among the lowest on record. Undoubtedly January represented the lowest monthly combination of temperature

and precipitation in Pennsylvania weather records. Subnormal temperatures and near normal melted precipitations (above normal snowfall again due to lower temperatures) were observed in February and March. A major snowstorm on March 29th marked a fitting finish to the winter season.

The heavy and persistent snow cover was an excellent insulating blanket over the Commonwealth, thus limiting frost penetration to less than two inches in most areas.

Moisture penetrated to significant depths so that initial soil moisture conditions this spring are the best in many years.

ICC Holds Up Rail Rate Hike, Hearing Is May 2

Temporary relief from a new general freight rate increase was granted by the Interstate Commerce Commission. The ICC rejected a request by the railroads for an immediate six per cent boost, and ordered a broad investigation of all rates and charges.

Don Graham, who directs transportation activities of the National Council of Farmer Cooperatives, welcomed the ICC decision, saying such a study is long overdue.

"Farmers are hit especially hard by freight rate increases," Graham declared. "They've already been saddled with three rate hikes in less than three years, the most recent coming last November. The new demand by the railroads would have brought the total to 23 per cent in a 31-month period."

Graham said the ICC investigation scheduled for oral hearings beginning May 2, will give shippers a chance to air their grievances and require the railroads to justify the need for their demands.

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