

Can Egg Industry Stop Bust?

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At the time in April when Delano made his analysis of the potential egg bust, the USDA had released figures showing national layer hatch up 21 per cent in January over the same month a year ago and up 17 per cent in February.

Noting these figures, Delano said on April 4, "This is very serious if this continues for the next couple of months. We can look (if it continues) for very, very low (egg) prices beginning early next year."

Since that statement, USDA figures show the layer hatch climbed 19 per cent in March and 15 per cent in April.

Although no figures had been released by mid-week for May,

officials indicated a similar large increase was made in May and is probably continuing into June.

Meanwhile the egg price quote by Umei Barry on Friday last week was 34½ cents for fancy large white eggs, down about three cents from the post-Easter range.

Commenting on the 37-38 cent price in early April for fancy large whites, Delano said these prices were just about "break even" for the producer. (Many local producers, however, have been reporting a profit ranging from about one to six cents a dozen at this price, according to local sources.)

But egg prices since early April have been generally lower than 37-38, eating up most of this small profit.

While prices already are at the break even level for most producers, lower for some, knowledgeable authorities agree that the impact of the big layer build-up since January has not even begun to play its part in egg prices.

Jay Irwin, associate Lancaster County agent, said this week it takes 22 weeks from the time of hatch until the birds begin to produce eggs.

This means that the increased hatch on January 1 should begin to start production around the end of the first week in June. This early production, however, is generally light and gradually picks up steam for several weeks before peak production is achieved.

This means that the increased production that egg authorities are expecting to result from the large hatch increase in the first half of 1970 has just barely started to enter the egg market picture.

What will happen is that this increased production, if something isn't done to stop it, will enter the market steadily over the second half of 1970, always about 22 weeks behind the hatch.

Thus, the full impact of the industry record level increase in layer type chicks will not confront the industry until about January 1971.

With the impact on the egg industry not even begun, most authorities on eggs and egg marketing, like Delano, are projecting the worst egg bust in the

history of an industry which is noted for busts.

The worst bust in history UNLESS the industry moves quickly and decisively to stave off the market glut which now appears inevitable some add.

The issue now facing the industry, as it has been described to us by numerous persons, is this:

Can large numbers of individual farmers scattered throughout the nation act together for the first time, on short notice, to stop what many believe will be certain economic disaster for many individual egg producers and related firms and a major blow to the entire egg industry?

It's in the context of this historic and massive egg production capacity build-up, which on even much smaller scales in the past has always resulted in disastrous 'busts,' that Delano will call on state egg producers Wednesday to help avoid economic disaster.



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Dairy Princess Judges Named

Judges have been announced for the Lancaster County Dairy Princess Pageant to be held Tuesday, June 23 at the Fair and Home Center.

Serving as judges will be Robert Bucher, farm relations director, Commonwealth National Bank; Miss Skip R Palmquist, public relations supervisor, Godfrey Agency, Inc., and Bob Malack, farm editor, WGAL TV.

Master of ceremonies will be Harry Kauffman, director of American Dairy Association. Committee co-chairmen are Miss Robert Gregory and Sterling Elmer.

A reception will begin at 6:30 p.m. and the dinner and pageant will follow. Tickets for the Pageant may be obtained from DHIA Supervisors, members of the committee or at the Agriculture Extension Office.

Dairy Princess candidates are Susan Kauffman, Patricia Bare, Marilyn Kiantz, Donna Hess, Linda Krieder, Nanette Stauffer, Charlene Smoker and Lois Gruber.



Doggie Roast Planned

The 4-H Soil and Water Conservation Club is holding a Doggie Roast at Fishing Creek along the Susquehanna River at 5 p.m. June 27.

Arrangements have been made by Mr. Vincent Hoover for free boat rides and water skiing anytime after 2 p.m.

Members are asked to bring only a covered dish and cold drink, as the doggies and rolls will be provided.

Anyone wishing to water ski should bring his own skis. A cottage, two power boats and operators will be available.

Penn Willow Clean-Up

The Penn Willow 4-H Club is having a clean-up today (June 20) from 9 a.m. to 12 Noon in Matic, Pequea, and Conestoga Townships.

The 35 member group will meet at the Conestoga Elementary School and will proceed to clean-up the roadsides in the three townships. They're being assisted by borough-trucks and drivers.

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