

# Eggs - A Good Nutrition Buy

Today's housewife may not realize it, but she's getting a better buy in eggs than her mother experienced, according to Dr. Gene C. Masters,

Executive Vice President of United Egg Producers, an Atlanta based national egg marketing cooperative.

"Eggs are more economical today and consumers have more money to spend than in the 1950's," Dr. Masters said. "Most of today's young homemakers were children or teenagers in the '50s so they didn't realize what a problem their mothers had in stretching the food dollar."

Another thing food planners do not take into consideration is the fact that eggs are the cheapest source of high protein in the supermarket today, Masters said. At today's prices eggs are an excellent protein substitute for high priced meats. A dozen large eggs (minimum 24 oz. by government regulation) selling for 75 cents per dozen are really 50 cents per pound.

Disposable consumer income has increased on a steady scale since 1950 while egg prices have

erratically declined during the period, Dr. Masters pointed. In 1950 when the annual per capita disposable income was under \$1,400, large shell eggs averaged 60.4 cents per dozen. In 1972, when per capita disposable consumer income passed \$3,800 the annual average price for shell eggs had declined to 52.4 cents per dozen. Highest annual average prices in recent years for shell eggs was in 1970 when the prices reached 61.4 cents per dozen, a 2 percent increase over the prices of 20 years before while consumer disposable incomes advanced 136 percent.

"One must conclude that eggs are not contributing significantly to the increase in the consumer's food budget," Dr. Masters said. "Certainly, today's egg prices are higher than a year ago, but consumers enjoyed two years of severely depressed egg prices caused by over production to

which the egg industry is now adjusting."

Dr. Masters estimates 1973 annual retail prices for large eggs will average between 65 cents and 70 cents with seasonal variations. At the same time, the annual per capita disposable income in 1973 is projected to reach over \$4,000, a 21 percent increase from 1970. Retail egg prices this year are projected to be up from 6 percent to 14 percent from the 1970 level. Very few retail food items will reflect such a modest gain in the same three-year period, and almost no other food can compare to eggs as a bargain for the housewife, Dr. Masters concluded.

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## Pa. Soil Map Available

Locations and descriptions of 153 soil groups in Pennsylvania are available at an educational, non-profit cost of \$3.00 in the Land Resources Map of the Commonwealth, published by the Agricultural Experiment Station at The Pennsylvania State University.

Presenting land resources in graphic form, the map is unlike anything published previously for Pennsylvania. It brings together factors of soil depth, drainage, available moisture, and productive capacities of soils.

The map has already been used widely by industrial and community planners, Penn State officials report. High school and college teachers find it helpful in studying earth sciences. It was developed by Howard W. Higbee, professor emeritus of soil science, who considers it vital for soil and water resource managers.

Multiple patterns and colors are used to portray the 153 soil groups—coded and symbolized for identification. Each soil unit or group is evaluated by 16 characteristics. The more important characteristics are depth, soil drainage environment, geological source of soil material, available moisture, plant rooting zones, and dominant crop production.

Copies are available for the \$3.00, plus 18 cents state sales tax, from Land Resources Map, Box 6000, University Park, Pa. 16802. Make check or money order payable to The Pennsylvania State University. The map may also be purchased directly in room 232 of the Agricultural Administration Building at University Park. The office is open from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., Monday through Friday.

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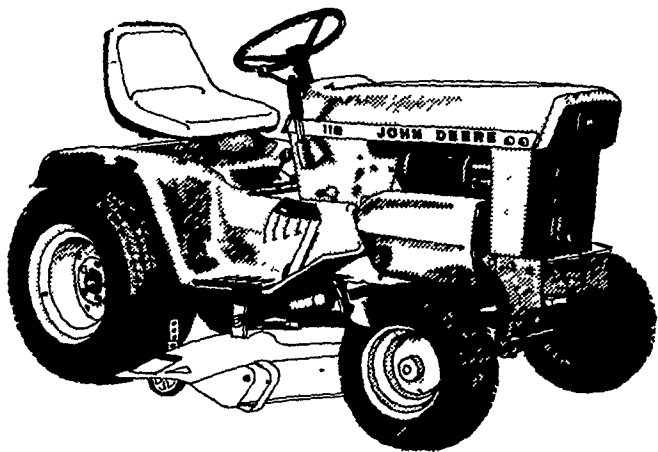
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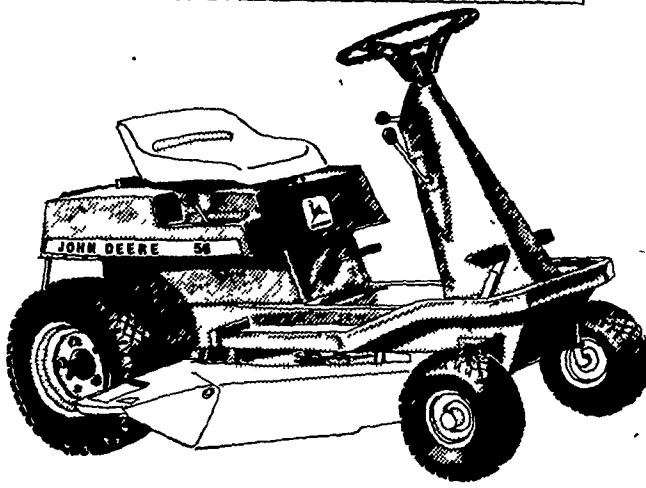
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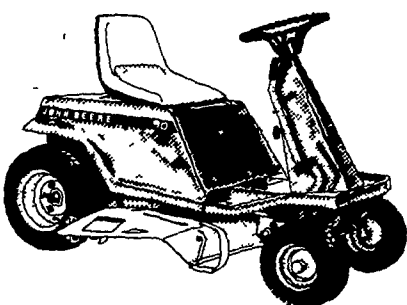
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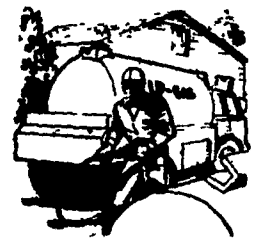


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