

Inter-state blend price dropped by 2 cents/ cwt.

SOUTHAMPTON, Pa. - Area dairy farmers who are members of Inter-State Milk Producers' Cooperative received \$10.04 per hundredweight for milk they produced during January.

This price, known as the weighted average price, is the actual average price all Federal Order 4 dairymen receive for milk containing 3.5 per cent butterfat. It is adjusted accordingly for higher or lower butterfat content.

The January weighted average blend price is equivalent to 22 cents per quart. The January price compares to \$10.06 per hundredweight for the previous month and \$10.80 per hundredweight for a year ago. Quart equivalent prices were 22 cents for the previous month and 23 cents for a year ago.

The farm base milk price for January was \$10.34 per hundredweight while the

excess price was \$8.23 per hundredweight. The butterfat differential was 10.4 cents for each point above or below 3.5 per cent. The base price is up .01 per hundredweight from the previous month and down .68 per hundredweight from a year ago. The excess price is down .11 per hundredweight from the previous month and down .73 per hundredweight from a year ago.

A total of 465 million pounds of Federal Order 4 producer milk was pooled in January of which 62 per cent was sold as Class I, compared to 63 per cent for the previous month and 68 per cent a year ago. A total of 7,979 Order No. 4 producers provided 15 million pounds per day to dealers during January averaging 1,880 pounds per farm per day. Total value of producer milk was set at \$46 million for the month.

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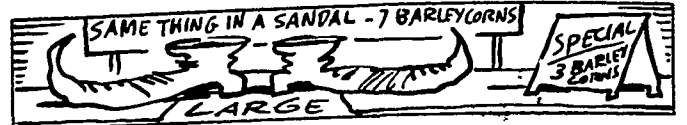
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Egg production down from '76

HARRISBURG, Pa. - Pennsylvania layers produced 260 million eggs during January 1977, up nearly one per cent from the previous month but 10 per cent below a year earlier, according to the Crop Reporting Service.

The January average of 12.8 million layers is unchanged from the previous month but nine per cent below a year earlier. Egg production per 100 layers during January totaled 2034 eggs, up nearly one percent from the previous month but one per cent below a year ago.

The nation's laying flock produced 5.5 billion eggs during January, down one per cent from both the previous month and a year ago. The number of layers during January averaged 279.8 million compared with 280.6 million a year earlier. The average rate of lay during the month was one per cent below January 1976.



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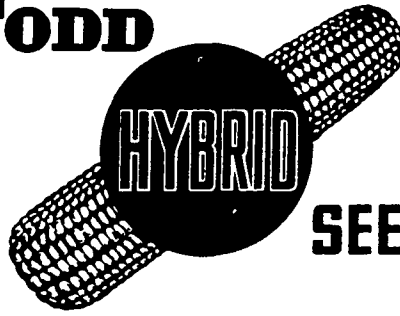
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PROTEIN vs AMINO ACIDS

There always seems to be confusion about the value of specific protein levels in poultry rations. A nutritionist used this analogy recently. Protein in feeding a chicken has about the same value as a dollar bill does in "feeding" a parking meter. The dollar bill has to be broken down into individual coins to feed the meter. Further, not every coin is useful and some give us more "time on the meter" than others.

The same is true for protein in a poultry ration. To be beneficial, it must be broken down into individual amino acids. Some of these amino acids are not very useful while others are required for the specific performance we want to achieve.

In feeding the meter, it wouldn't make any difference whether we had a 5, 10, or 20 dollar bill, it's the individual coins that count. In feeding laying hens, it doesn't make any difference whether we have a 15, 17 or 20 per cent protein ration, it's the individual amino acids that makes the performance difference.

BIO LAYENA INTAKE GUIDES

BIO LAYENA¹

PRE PEAK² (18-28 wks)

POST PEAK² (28 wks. +)

In House Daily

Feed Intake

Maximum Temperature

Lbs/100 Hens/Day

Bio Layena 100

Below 60°F

Over 25.0

Bio Layena 107

60-70°F

23.4 to 25.0

Bio Layena 114

70-80°F

21.7 to 23.3

Bio Layena 121

80-90°F

20.0 to 21.6

Bio Layena 128

Above 90°F

Under 20.0 lbs.

¹ The numbers after the Bio Layena rations indicate the Purina Bio-Rating. Each subsequent ration contains 7 per cent extra amino acid, vitamin and mineral fortification over the previous one. For example, Bio Layena 114 contains 7 per cent more fortification than Bio Layena 107 and 14 per cent more than Bio Layena 100.

² Values are guides only since feed use varies due to wastage, strains, etc. Use local judgment as when to change rations.

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