

# continue to be strong in poultry

then sold to city chain store retailers. re graded at city points individually before a

light to determine grade and then were handpacked in consumer cartons. Before eggs reached the consumer at the retail store, they had usually undergone five

handlings, with breakage and some quality deterioration occurring at each handling. However, since production was located fairly close to population centers,

eggs usually reached the consumer within 10 days of being laid and quality was generally good.

On the farm, egg production was quite labor intensive. Layers were maintained in pens of a few hundred birds on litter floors in housing that was often drafty and that had to be ventilated by hand. Wet floors were usually a problem, especially in winter, and contributed to the production of heavily soiled eggs that required labor for cleaning. There was as yet no mechanization, and feeding, watering, egg collection, and packing were done by hand labor. Studies of labor requirements during that period indicate that approximately one hour of labor was required to maintain one layer over a production period. Consequently, a one-man, full-time egg enterprise was limited to approximately 3,000 layers.

Conditions in broiler production were quite similar to those in egg production. Broilers were also concentrated mainly in the southeastern corner of the state and were produced by independent operators who bought all their inputs and sold to processors or live poultry dealers on the open market. Pennsylvania had excess poultry processing capacity and there was a ready market for locally grown birds. Production units were usually small, 5,000 to 10,000 birds or less, and were part of a general farm operation that included raising one or two broods of broilers per year. There were few full-time broiler growers operating on a year around basis. Methods of production were labor intensive. Mechanization of feeding, watering, and house ventilation was as yet unknown. Research indicates that it

(Turn to Page 22)



the past 30 years. One of few confidence and opportunity, all three phases

of the industry are in an expansive mood. It is quite likely that the decade of the 1980's will see a larger proportion of this nation's eggs, broilers, and turkeys produced and processed in Pennsylvania.

Table 2. Egg, broiler, and turkey production in Pennsylvania for selected years.

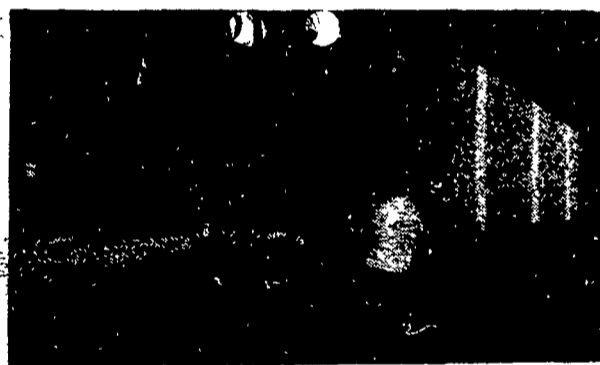
Year	Eggs (millions)	Broilers (thousands)	Turkeys (thousands)
1950	3,175	14,918	1,852
1955	3,654	30,318	2,290
1960	3,488	37,725	1,605
1965	3,392	42,962	1,750
1970	3,220	53,677	2,266
1975	3,299	65,770	2,838
1976	2,943	75,108	3,695
1977	2,960	88,000	3,567
1978	3,357	100,000*	4,000*

\*Estimated

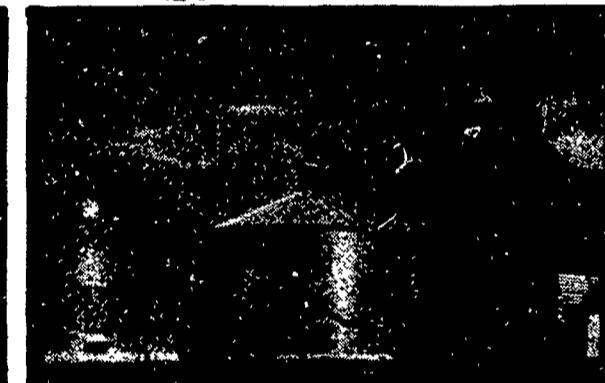
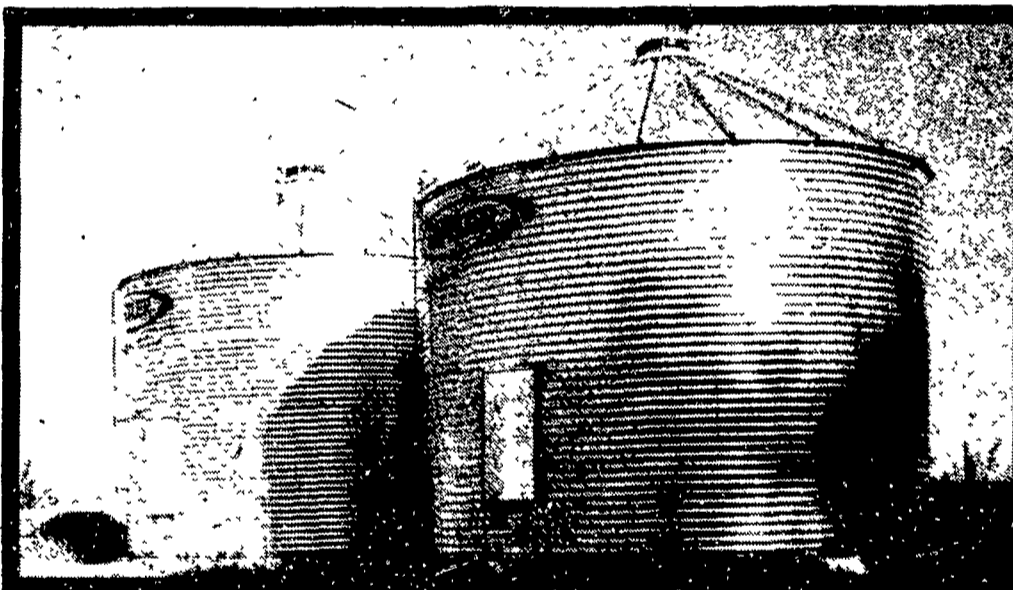
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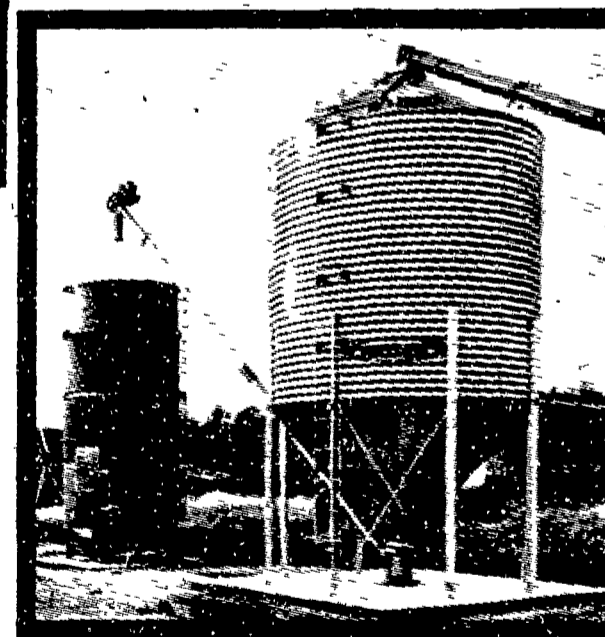
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