

# Higher poultry production likely in 1981

LITITZ — Total egg production for 1981 may decrease, as producers continue adjusting output to achieve a positive net return. Broiler and turkey production will expand in 1981 in response to higher prices and less competition

from other meats

Poultry prices should be up sharply from this year's second-quarter lows, but record feed costs may hold profits near break-even levels at least through the first half of the year.

Egg production in 1980 will about equal a year earlier, the increase having occurred in the first quarter. Output in the fourth quarter may be near a year earlier, and indications point to a one percent decline in the first half of 1981.

The table egg flock is below year-earlier levels and, until well into 1981, fewer replacement pullets will be available. Because a high percentage of the flock has already been force-molted, producers are expected to increase culling if egg prices do not keep up with rising costs.

Egg prices were down sharply in the second quarter but have since increased - mainly in response to production cuts from a year earlier. Cartoned New York large eggs in July-September averaged 70 cents a dozen, five cents above last year. Prices have increased this fall and will continue strong in early 1981 before declining seasonally in the spring.

Prices may average in the high 70-cent range in the first quarter but then decline to the mid-70's in the spring.

In the second half of 1981, if production is held at this year's level, prices can be expected to average 78 to 82 cents a dozen.

Output of federally inspected broiler meat for 1980 will total a little over 11 billion pounds, ready-to-cook weight, up two percent from last year. Output should continue expanding in 1981, perhaps around six percent.

Production costs will be higher than in 1980, but strong red meat prices will likely keep broiler production profitable, particularly in the second half of the year.

Broiler prices have declined from the high summer levels but remain above last year. The ninety-city wholesale price for the fourth quarter may be about nine cents more than last year's average of 42 cents a pound. Prices may average in the low 50-cent range in the first quarter of 1981 and then rise slightly as demand increases seasonally next spring and summer.

Turkey production for 1980 will be up about 6 percent from 1979, even though average weights have been lower. Producers' returns have improved during the last half of 1980, resulting in increased hatchery activity. Therefore output during the first half of 1981 may exceed 1980 by eight percent.

Production will probably continue to expand in the second half, but the rate of increase will likely drop to near five percent.

Turkey prices increased during the second half of 1980.

Young hen turkeys in New York are expected to

average around 70 cents a pound during the first half of next year, compared with 57 cents this year. Like broiler prices, turkey prices should benefit from reduced supplies of competing meats

and improved economic conditions in the second half of 1981.

Thus, second-half turkey prices may run one to four cents above this year's level, even with expanded output

## Nat'l Charolais Queen hails from Indiana

KANSAS CITY, Mo. — A vivacious and sophisticated nineteen year old freshman at Purdue University, Holly Rookstool, of Warsaw, Indiana, was selected by five judges, as Miss Charolais USA 1981, during special activities in conjunction with the 82nd Annual American Royal Livestock Show, and the AICA Area 6 Roll of Excellence Charolais Show, in Kansas City, Missouri, recently.

Rookstool, the daughter of Everett and Lillie Rookstool, is majoring in agricultural economics. After nine years in 4-H, Holly became the first girl in her local FFA chapter and the first female president. She has been very active in the Indiana and Ohio Valley Junior Charolais Associations, and has attended the last five conferences and shows, in-

cluding the most recent one, this past summer in Missouri.

Lois Smith, Miss Charolais USA 1980, from Sugar Tree Ranch, Allendale, Illinois, crowned the new Miss Charolais USA 1981, who was sponsored by the Indiana Charolais Association and Ohio Valley Charolais Association.

Fifteen girls representing thirteen different states took part in this competition, which is annually sponsored by the Missouri Charolais Breeders Association.

The young ladies were judged on their poise, personality, appearance and knowledge of Charolais cattle. Five judges had the task of meeting with each candidate on an informal basis and, also, in private interviews.

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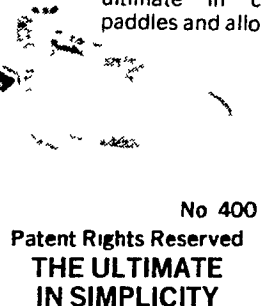
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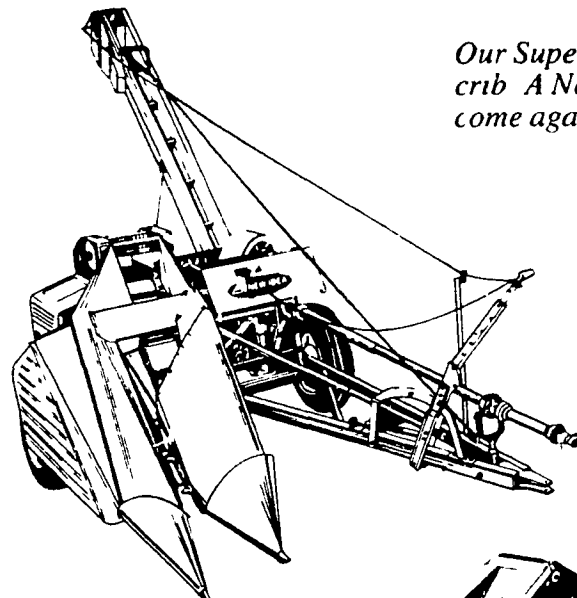
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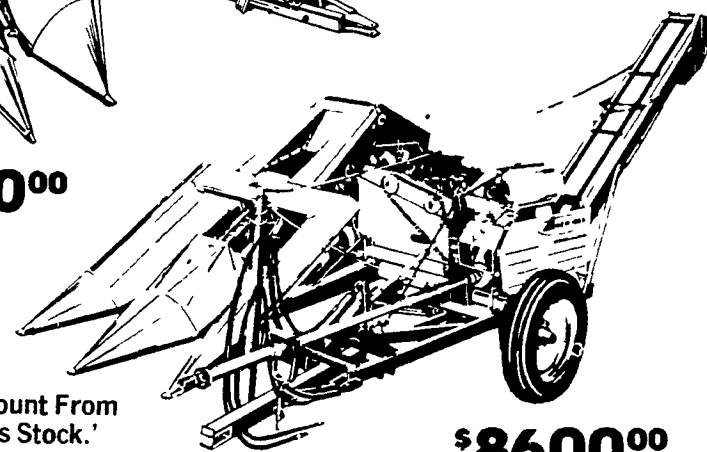
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