

## Poultry outlook

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factor confronting the industry is what it will cost to produce eggs this spring and summer compared with a year earlier. There is no question that costs will increase, but the amount of increase is debatable.

Feed prices lead the list in the amount added to the cost of producing eggs. High interest costs are also pushing costs up. How high feed prices will go this spring and summer perhaps is anyone's guess.

Numerous factors could push prices upward and others tend to push them down. Future prices will depend in part on the farmers' intentions to plant corn this spring, acreage actually planted, date most planting is finished, weather conditions, and harvesting conditions.

Changes in the above factors may have considerable effect on price changes prior to and during the corn growing season, because of the anticipated low carryover of corn supplies from the 1980 crop year. Also, the quantity of livestock fed will have an impact on feed prices.

This includes beef cattle in feed lots, hogs produced, number of layers on farms and broilers produced, as well as other

livestock and poultry. A given percentage change in numbers of broilers produced will not change the quantity of feed grains consumed as much as the same percentage change in the quantity of pork produced.

Differences in feed consumption are due to differences in qualities produced and feed efficiencies.

There will be fewer pullets to house this spring and early summer than a year earlier.

However, part if not all of this reduction could be offset by keeping hens in production for longer intervals. More force molted layers will tend to reduce the number of eggs per layer and help to curtail output.

The egg industry must cut production below a year earlier levels in order for prices to increase sufficiently to cover higher costs and return a reasonable profit to the industry. The amount of reduction is uncertain—perhaps two to three percent. It is not likely that demand will change much.

## Delaware awards soybean grants

FELTON, Del. — The Delaware Soybean Board announced that it will be granting \$34,220 to fund twelve soybean projects during 1981.

The Board's chairman, Joe Hughes, explained that in selecting this year's projects, the Board placed its emphasis upon applied research and market development projects. These are the first projects being funded under Delaware's new penny per bushel, soybean check-off program.

The Board selected this year's projects from nineteen project proposals that had been submitted. Projects funded ranged from Delaware's participation in the nationwide program to develop overseas markets for soybeans to localized variety testing.

Recipients of grants are the American Soybean Association, the Delaware Extension Service, the Delaware Department of Agriculture and the Delaware Agricultural Experiment Station.

A listing of the project proposals accepted and the participants includes:

Analysis of weed control components for conventional, wide-row soybeans in Delaware, David L. Regehr;

The efficient use of nitrogen, phosphorus and potassium on soybeans, Frank Webb and Gary Johnston;

Evaluation of soybean varieties for insect pest resistance, Mark R. Graustein and Joanne Whitehead;

Evaluation of soybean varieties for no-till double cropping, Edward L. Wisk;

Full time agronomy assistant position, Gary Johnston;

Interactions of soybean varieties, row spacings and planting dates, Edward L. Wisk, William H. Mitchell and Robert Uniatowski;

Laboratory germination and vigor of soybean seeds as compared to actual field results, Frank Webb, Richard Goerger and Gary Johnston;

Response of soybean varieties to 2,4-DB, William H. Mitchell, Thompson D. Pizzolato, Robert Uniatowski and Edward L. Wisk;

Soybean marketing - American Soybean Development Foundation, Jerry Kennedy;

Soybean variety performance tests, Edward L. Wisk;

Soybean variety testing for resistance to the soybean cyst nematode, Robert P. Mulrooney and Edward L. Wisk;

Spray Pressure, Volume and Tip Study, Frank Webb and Gary Johnston.



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