

Chicken Coop News

Update on the poultry industry
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Age of bird and egg size

In 1978-79 a comparison of records of egg size and age of bird was compiled by computer from the Elk County study by C.M. Skillington, County Extension director, Ridgway.

No jumbo eggs (over 30 ounces/doz) were found in the sample until 41 weeks of age. One percent jumbos were produced at the 42nd-43rd weeks of age. After this, the percent jumbos rose more than 2 percent per month and stabilized at 8 to 12 percent per month the last three months of lay - 11, 12 and 13 months.

At the other size extreme we found 4 percent peewee eggs produced according to the sample the first month then none thereafter.

Sixty-two percent small or pullet eggs were produced the first month - this immediately dropped to 8 percent, 3 percent, and 1.6 percent, respectively, during the next three months. None were produced again until the 12th period when 1/2 of one percent were found in the sample.

One percent large eggs was produced the first month then rose rapidly to 15, 48, and 63 percent, respectively, during the next three months and stabilized between 50 and 60 percent then decreased at the 55th week of age to 44 percent large eggs. It remained between 31 and 43 percent until the 77th week of age.

No extra large eggs were

produced during the first month; however, 2, 7, 7, and 20 were sampled during the next four months at which time the percent grew steadily to 51 percent at the 64th week of age and varied between 42-54 percent until 77 weeks of age.

The last 6 months of lay or from 50 to 77 weeks of age the percent large, extra large and jumbo combined ranged between 69 and 97 percent large or larger in all samples.

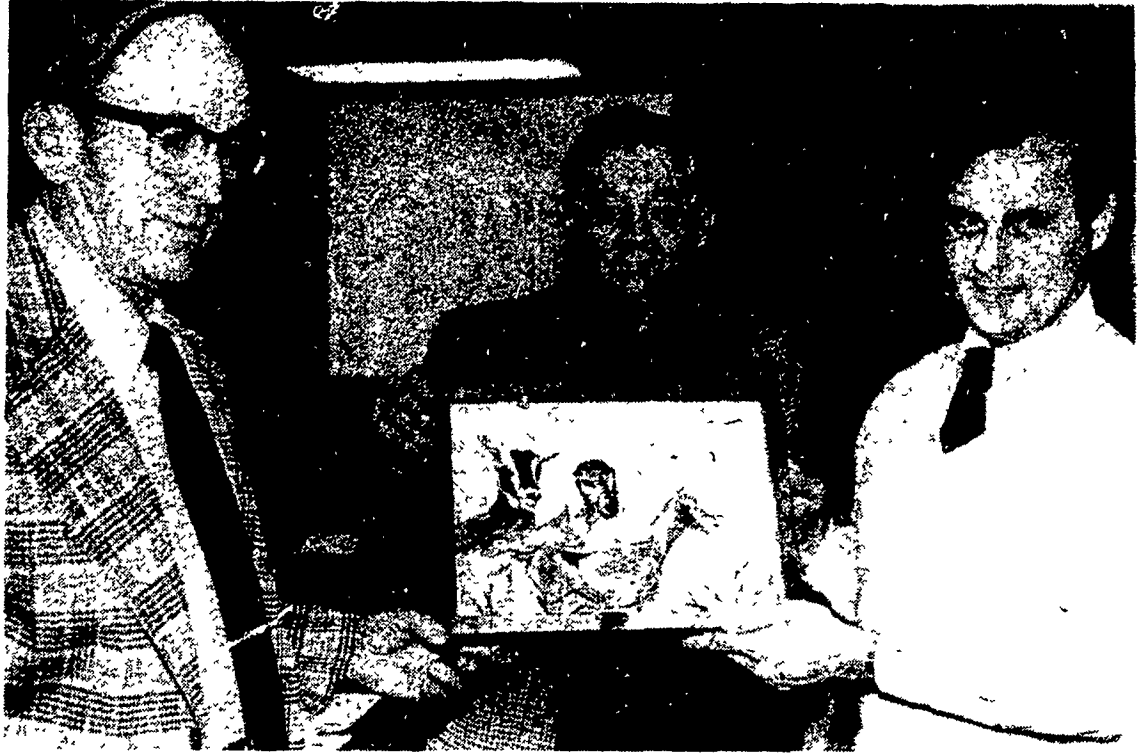
With a 20 cents or more price per dozen difference between all large and larger eggs compared with all sizes medium and smaller, we find a flock record such as this to generate more income than flocks with more medium or smaller eggs produced.

According to some egg marketing firm managers in Pennsylvania, egg size is one of the most important items to keep a constant flow on demand, and continuous purchase of eggs. Some consumers consistently buy a given egg size; if the preferred egg size is not present some will buy no eggs.

The logistics of producing, processing, and marketing the needed size of egg for the right market is essential.

One hour spent each day on market demand or market analysis to predict needed supply of each size egg is usually time well spent. The logistic of getting

Merry Christmas, Glenn!



Lancaster County agent, Glenn Shirk, right, receives an early Christmas gift from members of the Dutch Country Goat Club during their recent December meeting. Treasurer Ivan

Stauffer, left, Ephrata, and President Jacob Fisher, Manheim, center, present Shirk with the painting by local artist, Arlene Stauffer, Ephrata.

the right size egg to the right customer is essential.

Since January 1981, many flocks of layers have been molted. This causes more larger sized eggs to be produced and come to the market. Medium sized eggs become fewer and may be so scarce that egg processors place large eggs in medium cartons to satisfy medium markets. This can cost 14 cents a dozen - at 100 cases a week costing a farm-packer \$420 a week or \$21,840 each year it is continued.

Cattle on feed down

WASHINGTON, D.C. — Cattle and calves on feed December 1 for slaughter market in the 7 States preparing monthly estimates totaled 7.33 million head, down 8 percent from a year ago and 11 percent less than December 1, 1979, according to the Crop Reporting Board.

Marketings of fed cattle during November totaled 1.30 million head, down 4 percent from last year and 10 percent below

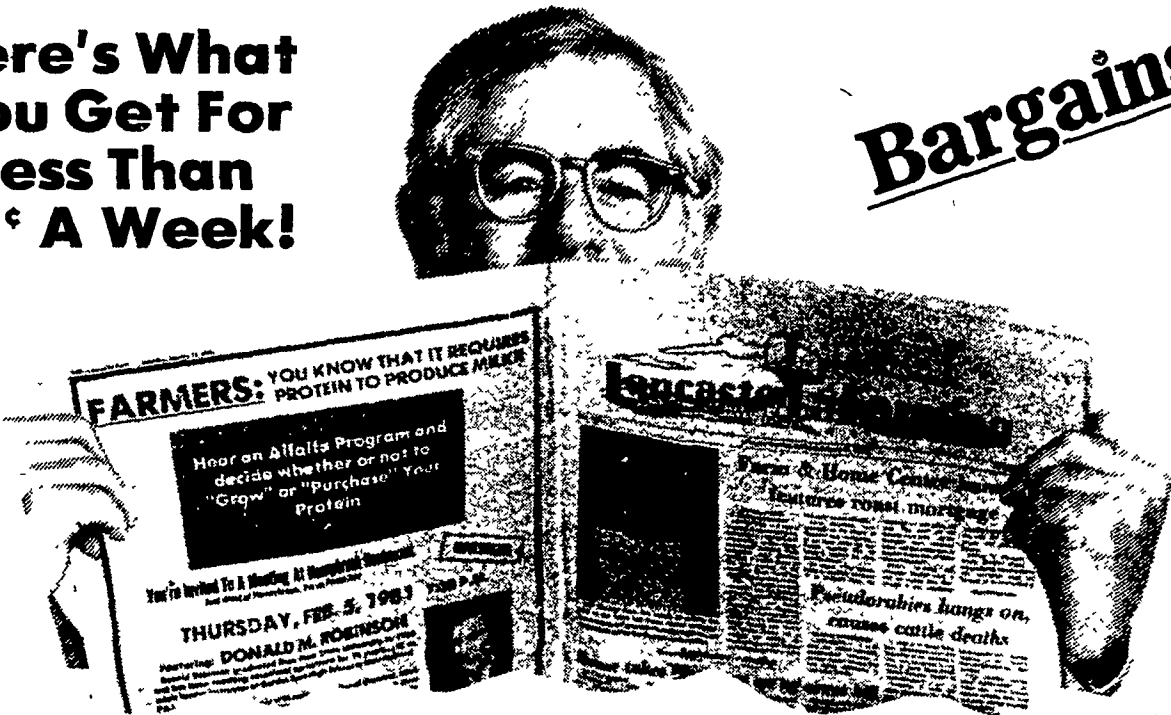
November 1979.

Placements of cattle and calves on feed in the 7 States during November were 1.62 million, off 2 percent from last year and 12 percent below November 1979. This was the smallest number placed during November since 1974.

Net placements of 1.51 million were down 1 percent and 11 percent, respectively, from last year and 2 years ago.

Other disappearance totaled 107 thousand compared with 127 thousand in November 1980 and 158 thousand in 1979.

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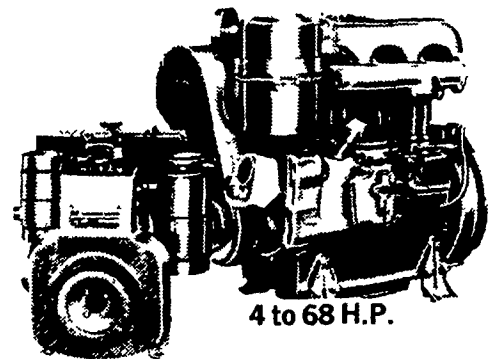
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