

Maryland Ranks In National Top Ten For Poultry

Maryland broiler production ranks number one in the Northeast and sixth nationally according to recently released data from the U.S.D.A. A long history of poultry production in Delmarva has benefited from closeness to Northeastern markets and access to large quantities of corn for energy and soybean meal for protein feed ingredients. The poultry industry in the U.S. is largely concentrated in areas with a stable and relatively low-cost source of labor and managerial inputs.

Traditionally, the beef and hog finishing industries have shifted to

the Southern Great Plains and Western Corn Belt areas where grain sorghum and corn have been plentiful and relatively low in value and price. Beef finishing may require 7 to 8 pounds of concentrate feeds per pound of beef grain in contrast to four pounds per pound of hog gain. In contrast, the broiler industries and firms in Maryland, Delaware, Virginia and Pennsylvania may use only two pounds of concentrate feeds per pound of gain up to a typical four pound broiler marketing weight.

Arkansas continues as the leading broiler producing state with

one-sixth of the national production. Georgia followed in 1986 with 15 percent and Alabama was third with 12.6 percent. North Carolina ranked fourth with 9.7 percent and Mississippi was fifth with 7.6 percent. Maryland production, which was 5.7 percent of the U.S., has increasingly shifted from whole, ready-to-cook production to "further processed" output. Not only has the shift toward selling cut-up broiler parts occurred but an increasing amount of chicken is being marketed in frozen forms such as nuggets, pre-cooked frozen parts, and special packages of

one type of frozen parts. These items are available for household use as well as fast food outlets.

When the value of all poultry including broilers, turkeys and eggs is considered, the rankings shift slightly. Arkansas and Georgia retain the first and second positions, North Carolina moves into third place only slightly behind Georgia with 10.1 percent of national value of sales in 1986. Alabama drops to fourth place followed by California which is a major producer of eggs and turkeys, but less so with broilers. Mississippi and Texas follow in sixth and seventh place. Maryland ranked eighth nationally in total value of poultry production in 1986. Pennsylvania followed Maryland closely in ninth place and Virginia was tenth. Delaware just missed the top ten in production.

U.S. value of poultry production expanded from \$8.9 billion in

1980 to \$12.4 billion in 1986. Broilers in recent years have accounted for over half of U.S. poultry output and an even larger portion of Maryland output. In 1986, broiler output was valued at \$6.8 billion, eggs at \$3.5 billion and turkeys at \$2 billion and non-broiler chickens at \$0.1 billion. In general, consumer preferences revealed in the market place have indicated a shift from egg consumption on a per capita basis to broiler and turkey meat per capita. Chicken meat has benefited from expansion of sales at fast food chains and restaurants as well as becoming more of a convenience food, through further processing, for women working outside the home and for dual spouse income earning families. Also, poultry has fit into many menus emphasizing reduced energy and fat intake during the 1980's. Poultry products have been very price competitive in the marketplace in recent years.

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Karen King, York Springs, (center) receives congratulations from Adams County 4-H Summer Assistant Marie O'Brien and State 4-H Leader Dr. Alan Snider. Karen was named a medal winner at Penn State 4-H Week In the Food and Nutrition category.

