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Brookings, South Dakota

Department of Animal Science
Poultry-Meats Section

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Flock Record Summary

Phillip E. Plumart and Boyd J. Bonzer¹

A computerized flock record keeping system has been in use at South Dakota State University since 1965. A report is computed and published monthly from data received from flockowners. We have usually had 50 to 60 flockowners reporting data. However, in the spring of 1975, participation dropped to about 30 flockowners. The records of those flocks completing their laying cycle during the calendar years of 1969, 1970, 1971, 1972, 1973, 1974 and through June of 1975 are summarized in table 1.

In the past, the figures reported for flocks closed out during the first six months of a year have been remarkably close to the final averages for that year and, hence, seem to be quite indicative as to what the figures for the full year will be.

During the last 6½ years the average laying cycle has varied from 13.02 months in 1973 to 14.07 months during 1974. However, 1969 and 1974 were the same with 13.64 months (415 days).

The average number of hens housed has almost doubled during the last 6 years, increasing from 5,990 in 1969 to 9,872 in 1974. The percent depletion has decreased from 1.12 to 0.75% per month. This reduction seems to have been due to flocks now being vaccinated against Marek's disease. The 1974 depletion of 0.75% per month represents a 40% reduction of the 1970 depletion of 1.25% per month.

Percent hen-day production steadily declined for 6 years from 64.4 to 62.8 and then increased to 65.5 for the first half of 1975. Hen-housed production has varied 58.5 to 60.1 over 6 years with a sudden increase of 2.1% to 61.8% in 1975.

Due to widely fluctuating egg prices, the average income per dozen eggs sold rose from 30.91 cents for those flocks closed in 1969 to 34.74 cents for those closing in 1970. It then dropped to 21.26 cents for those closed in 1972 and rose in 2 years to an all-time high of 46.73 cents for those closed during 1974. The lowest feed cost per dozen eggs of 13.73 cents was attained by those flocks closed out in 1970. The lowest income of 21.26 cents per dozen was received for those flocks closed out in 1972.

The average income per hen housed over feed cost has fluctuated from a low of \$1.27 in 1972 to a high of \$4.50 for those closed during 1974. The average gross egg income has similarly fluctuated from a low of \$37,493 per flock closed in 1969 to \$94,884 in 1974.

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Of particular note is the fantastic rise in the feed cost per ton since late 1973. For the flocks closing out during the 4-year period of 1969 through 1972, the feed cost per ton fluctuated between \$63.78 and \$68.73. The average feed cost per ton has increased 86.0%, from \$67.35 for those flocks closing out in 1972 to \$125.25 per ton for those closing out in 1975.

Table 1. South Dakota Laying Flock Record Program Summary, Averages for Flocks Closed During 1969, 1970, 1971, 1972, 1973, 1974 and 1975

	40 flocks closed during 1969	45 flocks closed during 1970	47 flocks closed during 1971	48 flocks closed during 1972	58 flocks closed during 1973	47 flocks closed during 1974	19 flocks closed through June 1975
Days from 20 weeks	415	422	404	396	428	415	409
No. of hens housed (HH)	5,990	7,312	7,679	9,302	9,274	9,872	9,404
Percent depletion	15.3	17.3	15.4	14.7	10.9	10.2	11.2
Percent hen-day production (HD)	64.4	64.1	63.6	63.2	63.7	62.8	65.5
Eggs per hen (HD)	268.2	274.6	254.3	248.9	273.6	261.5	267.3
Percent HH production	59.4	58.6	58.6	58.5	60.1	59.7	61.8
Eggs per hen (HH)	247.6	250.8	234.7	230.6	258.6	248.0	252.4
Lb. feed per dozen	4.43	4.21	4.31	4.38	4.39	4.35	4.20
Percent Grade A large	65.35	63.92	63.84	60.93	69.44	71.85	72.46
Percent Grade A medium	18.06	18.54	15.50	15.69	14.12	14.82	14.44
Percent Grade A small	3.07	3.17	2.59	2.55	2.04	1.86	1.99
Percent total Grade A	86.48	85.63	81.92	79.17	85.60	88.53	88.89
Average income per dozen sold (cents)	30.91	34.74	26.18	21.26	29.55	46.73	41.25
Feed cost per dozen (cents)	14.14	13.73	14.82	14.75	17.49	24.70	26.31
Income per HH over feed cost (\$)	3.33	4.21	2.16	1.27	2.54	4.50	3.02
Feed cost per ton (\$)	63.78	63.80	68.73	67.35	79.61	113.45	125.25
Gross income for period (\$)	37,493	51,797	38,912	38,138	58,541	94,884	80,496