A Five-Year Summary of Egg Production, Feed Costs and Conversion

Boyd J. Bonzer
South Dakota State University

Phillip E. Plumart

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A Five-Year Summary of Egg Production, Feed Costs and Conversion

Boyd J. Bonzer and Phillip E. Plumart

The last 5 years of accumulative monthly reports from the South Dakota State University Flock Record program are summarized in this study. The average number of flocks per year was 55, 62, 55, 49, and 30, respectively, for 1971 through 1975. This amounted to an average of 50 flocks per year, averaging 8,500 birds.

Three figures were selected from the monthly data: feed cost per ton, pounds of feed per dozen eggs, and feed cost per dozen eggs. These were studied to determine what happened to feed cost over the 5-year period. Also, we wanted to know if there was a pattern to feed cost and feed conversion over the 5-year period as well as during each year.

Feed cost hovered around $70 per ton until November, 1972, when it started up. It broke $100 in May of 1973, peaked at $142 in October of 1974, and then settled around $120 during 1975. The average feed cost per ton was 84% higher in 1974 than in 1971. These data are shown in table 1.

There was an annual pattern to the monthly average pounds of feed per dozen eggs. The 5-year monthly average showed the best conversion during the summer months (Aug. - 3.9 lb/doz) and the poorest conversion during the winter months (Dec. - 4.7 lb/doz). It took 0.8 of a pound or 21% more feed to produce a dozen eggs in December as compared to August. These data are given in table 2.

The annual average feed conversion improved with higher priced feed. During 1971 and 1972 a dozen eggs was produced with 4.3 lb of feed when feed cost $70 per ton. When feed went up to $128 and $121 per ton in 1974 and 1975, the conversion dropped to 4.15 lb per dozen.

As indicated in table 3, the feed cost per dozen did not fluctuate consistently with the feed cost per ton. After June, 1973, it over reacted up and down. The high point in feed cost per dozen was in January, 1975, 3 months after the October, 1974, high price per ton. The annual average feed cost of 25.92 cents per dozen during 1974 was 11 cents or 73% above 1971.

The 5-year monthly average feed cost per dozen showed the highest feed cost during December (23.4 cents per doz) and the lowest feed cost during July (19.3 cents per doz). There was a difference of 4.1 cents per dozen or 21% in feed cost between the high and low months with gradual increments between them.

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1 Extension Poultryman and Associate Professor, respectively.
In summary, feed prices started an upward movement in November of 1972 and peaked at an all-time high in October of 1974. There was a monthly pattern to monthly feed conversion showing the best conversion during the summer months and poorest conversion in the winter time. Feed cost per dozen followed the same pattern.
### Table 1. Feed Cost Per Ton (Dollars)

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### Table 2. Feed Per Dozen Eggs (Pounds)

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