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What Are the Costs for Poultry Research?

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A previous report (Carlson and Mountney, 1976) summarized the scientist-year (SY) and publication costs for poultry in fiscal year 1974. A similar study has now been conducted with reports available for 1975. Data were compiled from the USDA's Inventory of Agricultural Research, Vol. I and II, for 1975 and research reports enumerated from the USDA Current Research Information System's (CRIS) progress reports (Form 421) for 1975. Expenditures for State Agricultural Experiment Stations (SAES) only were tabulated.

On an SY basis, in thousands of dollars, 81 was spent for poultry research, as compared to 108 for beef cattle, 107 for swine, 97 for dairy and 87 for sheep. Similar data for certain crops show corn 73, grain sorghum 65, rice 75, wheat 64, other small grain 60, cotton 72, soybeans 69 and peanuts 70. A total of 254 SY's were involved in poultry research compared to 348 working with beef cattle, 308 with dairy animals, 151 with swine and 79 with sheep.

Poultry research in SAES in 1975 produced 1724 publications of all types. Based on a total research expenditure of \$20,632,568, that amounts to \$11,950 per publication. Similar costs for states publishing over 10 reports ranged from \$4,040 to \$95,380 per publication. Mean costs by region were Northeast \$23,116, South \$15,198, North Central \$9,214 and West \$14,139.

These costs are only for yearly expenses--salaries, operation and maintenance--and do not include expenditures for facilities or capital outlays. Research is expensive. However, in relation to economic value of the product produced, the total expenditures for poultry research were only 0.30% of the cash farm receipts. Many industries spend 2 to 5% of their gross on research.

¹Professor and Leader, Poultry Research and Extension. Compiled while on leave with USDA, Cooperative State Research Service, 1975-76.