Housing Survey Summary

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A poultry housing information questionnaire was mailed to 280 poultry producers. One hundred and forty-five of the questionnaires were received for a 52% return. Of these, 25 were no longer in the poultry business thereby providing 120 valid returns.

A preliminary analysis of these data revealed the following points of information. Forty-six of the houses reported upon were built prior to 1960, whereas 74 or 62% were built during the 1960's. Thirty-four or 28% of these houses had a capacity of over 5,000 hens, 27% between 2-5,000 hens, 25% from 1-2,000 hens and only 14% under 1,000 hens. The average capacity was 3,679 hens with the smallest house holding 200 and the largest 12,600 hens. The newer houses built in the 1960's have an average capacity of 4,941.

A wide variety of house types was represented in this survey with 40 or 33% being a cage type house and 26 or 22% being litter type, 16 or 13% being slats and the remainder being various combinations of litter, slats and wire. In the cage houses, the cages averaged 14 inches in width and 16 inches in length with 4.02 birds per cage. Fifty percent of the cages were full stair-step, 27.5% double deck, 12.5% triple deck, and 5% each for single deck and modified stair-step. Sixty-five percent of the birds surveyed were in cages.

Watering systems included 35 houses with open-end troughs, 25 with closed-end troughs and 20 with cups. Only thirty-one percent of these systems were timed.

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Only 8% of the ventilation systems were manually operated. The automated systems had an average of four fans averaging 27 inches and delivering 8 cubic feet of air per minute. There was no consistency in the location of the fans or in the use of nine major brands.

The lighting systems appeared to consist of three lines containing twenty-four 50 watt bulbs.