



# Poultry Patter

Volume 11, Number 12 December 1973

## ITEMS OF INTEREST TO MINNESOTA'S EGG INDUSTRY

Melvin L. Hamre  
Professor and Extension  
Poultry Specialist



### Workmen's Compensation

Many Minnesota farmers and farm workers will be affected by a 1973 change in the state workmen's compensation law. Workmen's compensation coverage becomes effective January 1, 1974 for hired farm workers except those employed on family farms.

The law defines a family farm as "any farm operation which pays or is obligated to pay less than \$2,000 in cash wages, exclusive of machine hire, to farm laborers for services rendered during the preceding calendar year." So the law applies in 1974 to any farmer who paid, or who was obligated to pay, a total of \$2,000 or more in wages to hired farm laborers in 1973. The total amount of cash wages for the year, not the number of employees or the amount paid to each individual worker, determines whether a farm operation is subject to this law.

A farmer who employs farm laborers and whose operation does not qualify as a family farm is required to insure his liability under the workmen's compensation law beginning January 1. Such farmers are also required to report the claimed work-related injuries of their employees to the Department of Labor and Industry.

For more information, consult Agricultural Economics Fact Sheet 12, Workmen's Compensation and Minnesota Farmers, available from your county extension office or the Bulletin Room, University of Minnesota, St. Paul, Minnesota 55101. See your attorney or insurance agent for advice about your liability under the law.

### Water Supply for Hens

Laying hens deprived of drinking water for a relatively short time will not only show a drop in egg production but also higher mortality. This is well demonstrated in two recent Kansas tests where water piped to caged layers was accidentally turned off for an estimated 48-72 hours. Water supply was not affected on the opposite side of the cage row so that a good comparison could be made.

Egg production, from the birds without water, reached a low of about 10 percent the second week following the water shut-off. Within 7-8 weeks daily egg production was back to that of the birds with continuous water supply. Records kept on a second flock suffering from the same water deprivation showed that the birds without water compensated for the low productivity period by laying more during a 21-week post-recovery period than the birds receiving continuous water. Those hens without water laid about 5 eggs per bird less during the 29-week period following the lack of water. Both water-deprived groups suffered higher mortality, the highest mortality occurring the first week after being deprived of water. Mortality during the 8 weeks after water deprivation was 2.8 percent versus 1.2 percent, and 7.6 percent versus 4.4 percent for the two tests, respectively, for the water-deprived and continuously watered groups.

### Midwest Poultry Federation Convention

Upper Midwest Poultrymen will gather at the Minneapolis Auditorium for the annual educational sessions, business meetings, exhibits, and social events on February 6, 7, and 8, 1974. Arrange your schedule to attend.

The following workshops are scheduled for egg industry personnel:

#### EGG PRODUCTION WORKSHOP 2 p.m., Thursday, February 7

"Limit Feeding of Laying Hens," D. C. Snetsinger, Ralston Purina Company

"How Feed Prices Affect Egg Production Costs," Boyd J. Bonzer, South Dakota State University

"Dried Poultry Anaphage as a Feed Ingredient for Poultry Rations," Howard Zindel, Michigan State University

#### EGG MARKETING WORKSHOP 2 p.m., Thursday, February 7

"A New Look in Egg Promotion," Richard L. Kathe, American Egg Board

"Pricing Eggs," George B. Rogers, Economic Research Service-USDA

"The Egg Products Industry of the Future," M. L. Chamberlain, Seymour Foods, Inc

The information given in this publication is for educational purposes only. Reference to commercial products or trade names is made with the understanding that no discrimination is intended and no endorsement by the Minnesota Agricultural Extension Service is implied.

Issued in furtherance of cooperative extension work in agriculture and home economics, acts of May 8 and June 30, 1914, in cooperation with the U.S. Department of Agriculture. Roland H. Abraham, Director of Agricultural Extension Service, University of Minnesota, St. Paul, Minnesota 55101. We offer our programs and facilities to all people without regard to race, creed, color, sex, or national origin.

## POULTRY HEALTH

9:30 a.m., Friday, February 8

"Sanitation and Disease Control," David Halvorson,  
Dekalb Ag Research, Inc.

"Effects of Mold Toxins on Laying Hens," George M.  
Speers, University of Minnesota

"Inclusion Body Hepatitis and Associated Adenovirus  
Infections," R. W. Winterfield, Purdue University

### Tax Management

Farmers are completing one of their most profitable years with net farm incomes at record highs. Some careful planning can keep down the portion of that extra farm income going to state and federal income taxes, says Paul Hasbargen, University of Minnesota Agricultural Economist. Assume a farm had a taxable income in prior years of about \$4,000. Federal taxes on additional income in 1973 could take from 19-50 percent of this increased income. The Minnesota income tax, one of the highest in the nation, will claim another 10 percent of increased earnings. Farmers who are anticipating sharply increased incomes this year should plan strategies with their tax advisers to keep their after-tax income from being sharply reduced if possible.

If your 1973 net income turns out to be at least 20 percent greater than that of the average of 4 previous years, you can elect to use income averaging and calculate your income tax at a lower rate. To benefit from income averaging, a farmer's net income must be at least \$3,000 more than the average of the 4 previous years plus 20 percent of that average, according to Hasbargen.

If a farm operation has sustained a net operating loss in any of the prior 5 years which has not been recovered to date, it can be used to reduce taxable income in 1973. Net operating losses can be used to offset taxable income in the 3 years preceding the loss and up to 5 years in the future. For example, a net operating loss occurring in 1972 may have already been reduced by offsetting taxable income in 1969, 1970, and 1971, but any remaining net operating loss from 1972 that was not recovered could be used to reduce tax against 1972 income.

### Egg Promotion Board

Offices of the Minnesota Egg Promotion Board have been set up at 2950 Metro Drive, Room 211, Minneapolis, Minnesota 55420. This is in Bloomington just off Interstate 494 near the Minneapolis-St. Paul International Airport. The telephone is AC 612-854-0363. Questions pertaining to procedures in operating the check-off provisions of the order or programs of the board should be addressed to General Manager Lloyd Stone.

### Egg Outlook

The following information is from the December 14 Poultry Survey Committee Report. Prices used in the report are based on USDA published statistical series.

Prices for New York, large white, wholesale eggs are expected to average 52 cents a dozen in 1974, 8 cents below the preceding 12 months. Feed costs will average higher in the first three months of 1974 than during the same months of the year earlier. During the rest of the year feed costs will likely be lower than in the last nine months of 1973. For the year as a whole, feed costs are expected to average nearly the same as during 1973.

Egg prices in the first quarter of 1974 will probably average 59 cents a dozen, about 9 cents above a year earlier. In the second quarter, these prices are likely to average 47 cents, 5 cents below the same period of 1973. The third quarter prices are expected to average 51 cents, down 19 cents from that quarter of 1973. In the last quarter of 1974, large egg prices will likely be 52 cents, down 15 cents from the same quarter of a year earlier.

The U. S. laying flock on January 1, 1974 will total about 300 million, nearly the same as a year earlier. Egg production in the first quarter of 1974 is expected to be slightly above the same quarter of 1973. By the second quarter, production is likely to be 2 to 3 percent higher than a year earlier. In the last half of the year, production will be 4 to 5 percent above July-December 1973.

The egg-type chick hatch in the first half of 1974 is expected to be 4 percent higher than during the comparable period of 1973.

HAPPY HOLIDAYS!

Agricultural Extension Service  
Institute of Agriculture  
University of Minnesota  
St. Paul, Minnesota 55101  
Roland H. Abraham, Director  
Cooperative Agricultural Extension Work  
Acts of May 8 and June 30, 1914  
OFFICIAL BUSINESS

POSTAGE AND FEES PAID  
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF  
AGRICULTURE  
AGR 101



2.2M - 12/73

UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA



3 1951 D03 722268 Q