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AGRICULTURAL EXTENSION SERVICE, UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA

# Poultry Patter



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## ITEMS OF INTEREST TO MINNESOTA'S EGG INDUSTRY

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### Egg Outlook

This information is taken from the June 28, 1974 Poultry Survey Committee Report. The committee, sponsored by the American Feed Manufacturers Association, includes University economists working with the poultry industry and economists from industry and USDA serving ex officio. Prices in the report are based on USDA statistical series.

New York, USDA, wholesale prices for fancy, large white eggs are expected to average 51 cents a dozen during the 12 months beginning July 1, 1974, 12 cents below 1973 prices. During the 12 months, feed costs will likely average 3 to 4 cents a dozen lower than in the preceding 12 months.

During the July-September quarter of 1974, egg prices are likely to average 50 cents a dozen, about 20 cents a dozen below the same months of the previous year. Feed costs are expected to be about 6 cents a dozen lower than in the third quarter of 1973.

October-December egg prices probably will average 54 cents, 13 cents below the fourth quarter of 1973. Feed costs are expected to be 3 cents a dozen below the same quarter of 1973.

In the first quarter of 1975, egg prices will likely average 54 cents, also 13 cents below the January-March period of 1974. Feed costs during the quarter are expected to be 4 cents below 1973's.

During the second quarter of 1975, egg prices probably will be 46 to 47 cents, slightly high than April-June 1974. Feed costs are expected to be similar to the second quarter of 1974.

Egg production during the 12 months beginning July 1, is expected to average about 1 percent below the previous year. However, in spring 1975, production will be close to 1974 levels.

The egg-type chick hatch in the last half of 1974 will likely be about the same as comparable months of 1973. In the first half of 1975, the hatch probably will be 3 to 4 percent above the same months in 1974.



### Egg Packing Plant Facilities

Improving the layout and operations of a shell egg packing plant can result in improved sanitation, increased efficiency, maintenance of quality, and employee satisfaction. Built-in limitations sometimes restrict improvements that can be made during remodeling or rearrangement of facilities in existing structures. However, improvements in an existing plant can often reduce processing costs and maintain quality by making adjustments to the layout.

Persons interested in further suggestions on improving shell egg packing plants should obtain a copy of a recent USDA publication, Agriculture Information Bulletin 369. Obtain it from Agricultural Marketing Research Institute, Agricultural Research Center, Building 307, Beltsville, Maryland 20705.

### Dehydrated Poultry Wastes

Although the Food and Drug Administration has not yet announced a decision on the use of dehydrated poultry wastes as a feed ingredient, California has announced proposed standards for use. A recent USDA report has concluded processing and feeding of dried layer wastes is economically feasible for operations of 50,000 or more caged layers. Copies of the report, Recycling Poultry Wastes as Feed, AER 254 are available from the Economic Research Service, Division of Information Publications, Room 0054, Building S, Washington, D.C. 20250.

### Egg Marketing Seminar

The sixth annual Minnesota-Iowa Egg Marketing Seminar is set September 26 and 27 at the Kahler Inn Towne Motel in Albert Lea. Many Minnesota egg processors and egg handlers have attended these educational sessions. The program follows previous formats with a Thursday evening session followed by Friday morning and afternoon sessions. There will be a Thursday afternoon golf tournament before the seminar starts. Registration materials and program details will be mailed to the egg marketing and handling segment of the industry in early September. Others interested in the seminar can get program and registration information from the Extension Poultry Specialist, University of Minnesota, St. Paul 55108.

### Egg Day

An Egg Day program for egg industry personnel is scheduled on the University of Minnesota St. Paul campus, September 19 in Peters Hall auditorium from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Program topics and details will be announced in the next issue of Poultry Patter.



### XV World's Poultry Congress

August 11 - 15, 1974 in New Orleans, Louisiana at the Rivergate Exposition Center are the dates and place for the 15th World's Poultry Congress. It is held once every four years as a coordinated effort of the World Poultry Science Association and its host country branch. The United States last hosted a congress in 1939 at Cleveland, Ohio.

Many of the sessions during an extensive educational program will be simultaneously translated into four languages. There will be an array of equipment displays. While many of the scientific sessions will be quite technical in nature, informal sessions will be arranged to discuss up-to-the-minute topics of commercial interest.

Complete information for those wishing to attend can be obtained from the Secretariat, XV World's Poultry Congress, 1629 K Street N.W., Suite 700, Washington, D.C. 20006.

### Egg Industry Meeting

"An In-depth Look at Egg Quality" will be the subject of an egg industry meeting at 7 p.m. at the Rainbow Inn, Grand Rapids, Monday, September 9. It should interest egg producers and allied industry personnel in the north central and northeastern part of Minnesota. Mel Hamre, Extension Poultry Specialist, will discuss egg formation, structure, quality measurement, and factors influencing quality. If you are in the business in this area, contact some of your associates to join you for dinner at 6 p.m. at the Inn prior to the meeting.

### Hot Weather Stress

By now your poultry flock may have already experienced its most severe hot weather stress of the summer. But August and September can still have extremely hot days. Producers must do all they can to reduce hot weather-associated problems such as egg production slumps, egg shell quality problems, reduced egg size, and poorer interior quality.

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In very hot weather the bird's water requirements increase substantially. Failure of intermittent mechanical water systems may cause serious problems. Depriving the birds of adequate water will reduce egg production and failure to provide water to the bird for as much as 24 to 36 hours may cause some birds to go out of production for a long time. Be sure all your birds are getting a sufficient supply of cool, clean water to maintain adequate egg production during warm weather.

The laying hen normally consumes feed to meet her energy requirement so in the summer heat she normally eats less. Be sure your ration is formulated to allow for lesser feed consumption during the hot weather period to insure adequate protein, mineral, and vitamin intake levels appropriate to the flock's production.

Heat stress is best reduced by providing adequate air movement in the house. Heat from the birds is transferred to the environment. Be sure your ventilation system is kept in condition to provide maximum air movement. Keep air intakes and exhausts free from accumulations of dirt and other material that might restrict air movement. Grass and other growth around the house should be kept trimmed so that air movement to the ventilation system is not restricted. A good job of preventive maintenance on fans, motors, louvers, belts, and all moving parts in the ventilation system will help insure continued operation when heat places maximum demands on equipment.

### Preventing Off-Flavors

Eggs pick up odors and flavors from the environment. To prevent these quality problems, egg storage and handling rooms should be used only for eggs. Using the egg room for storage of fruits and vegetables produced on the farm can be a potential source of odor and flavor problems in your eggs. Keeping the egg room in a clean and sanitary condition can be another way of minimizing these problems of egg operation.

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