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Animal Science Reports

1972

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Phillip E. Plumart
South Dakota State University

Boyd J. Bonzer
South Dakota State University

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Recommended Citation

Plumart, Phillip E. and Bonzer, Boyd J., "Flock Record Summary" (1972). *South Dakota Poultry Field Day Proceedings and Research Reports, 1972*. Paper 4.
http://openprairie.sdstate.edu/sd_poultry_1972/4

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South Dakota State University
Brookings, South Dakota

Department of Animal Science
Poultry Section

A.S. Series 72-10

Flock Record Summary

Phillip E. Plumart¹ and Boyd J. Bonzer²

A computerized flock record keeping system has been developed at South Dakota State University. A report is computed and published monthly from data received from approximately 60 flockowners. The records of those flocks completing their laying cycle during the calendar years of 1968, 1969, 1970, 1971 and through June of 1972 are summarized in table 1.

During this 4½ year period, it may be noted that the average laying cycle increased from 12.96 months in 1968 to 13.87 months in 1970 and then dropped back to 13.05 months in 1972. This indicates a tendency for the flocks to be kept a little longer when egg prices are favorable and to be disposed of earlier with a drop in egg prices.

The figures reported for flocks closed out during the first six months of a year have been remarkably close to the final averages for that year and hence seem to be quite indicative as to what the figures for the full year will be.

The average number of hens housed has almost doubled during this time, increasing from 5,869 to 10,084. The percent depletion has increased from 1.03 to 1.29 per month. The flocks closed so far in 1972 consisted primarily of birds that were not vaccinated against Marek's disease. The current monthly reports indicate that the percent depletion in flocks vaccinated against Marek's disease is about half that of the nonvaccinated flocks. Some of the vaccinated flocks will be completing their cycle during late 1972.

The percent hen-day and hen-housed production has steadily declined from 65.1 to 62.4 and from 60.6 to 57.1, respectively.

The percentage of eggs sold as Grade A large dropped from 68.80 to 61.51 and the total eggs sold as Grade A dropped from 87.05 to 81.12%. This was due to the fact that during the recent low price cycle many more eggs were marketed on a quality graded basis. It appears that about 1% more are small, 2% more are medium and 3% less are large.

Due to a great change in egg prices, the average income per dozen eggs sold rose from 25.49 cents for those flocks closed in 1968 to 34.74 cents for those closing in 1970 and then dropped to 21.41 cents for those closed in 1972. The lowest feed cost per dozen eggs of 13.73 cents was attained by those flocks closed out in 1970 when the egg income was the highest at 34.74 cents per dozen. Unfortunately, the lowest income of 21.41 cents per dozen and the highest feed cost of 15.02 cents per dozen were coupled together for flocks closed out in 1972.

¹ Assistant Professor and Extension Poultryman.

² Extension Poultryman.

The average income per hen housed over feed cost rose from \$2.17 for those flocks closed in 1968 to \$4.21 for those closed in 1970 and then dropped to \$1.19 for those closed in 1972. The average gross egg income similarly rose from \$29,617 per flock closed in 1968 to \$51,797 for those closed in 1970 and dropped to \$40,539 in 1972.

Table 1. South Dakota Laying Flock Record Program Summary, Averages
for Flocks Closed During 1968, 1969, 1970, 1971 and 1972

	25 flocks closed during 1968	40 flocks closed during 1969	45 flocks closed during 1970	47 flocks closed during 1971	25 flocks closed through June 1972
Days from 20 weeks	394	415	422	404	397
Number of hens housed (HH)	5,869	5,990	7,312	7,679	10,084
Percent depletion	13.4	15.3	17.3	15.4	16.8
Percent hen-day production (HD)	65.1	64.4	64.1	63.6	62.4
Eggs per hen (HD)	258.9	268.2	274.6	254.3	246.3
Percent HH production	60.6	59.4	58.6	58.6	57.1
Eggs per hen (HH)	241.6	247.6	250.8	234.7	225.7
Lb. feed per dozen	4.41	4.43	4.21	4.31	4.35

Table 1 Continued

	25 flocks closed during 1968	40 flocks closed during 1969	45 flocks closed during 1970	47 flocks closed during 1971	25 flocks closed through June 1972
Percent Grade A, large	68.80	65.35	63.92	63.84	61.51
Percent Grade A, medium	15.79	18.06	18.54	15.50	16.71
Percent Grade A, small	2.46	3.07	3.17	2.59	2.90
Percent total Grade A	87.05	86.48	85.63	81.92	81.12
Average income per dozen sold (cents)	25.49	30.91	34.74	26.18	21.41
Feed cost per dozen (cents)	14.23	14.14	13.73	14.82	15.02
Income per HH over feed cost (\$)	2.17	3.33	4.21	2.16	1.19
Feed cost per ton (\$)	64.58	63.78	63.80	68.73	69.09
Gross income for period (\$)	29,617	37,493	51,797	38,912	40,539