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A Five-Year Summary of Egg Production, Feed Costs and Conversion

Boyd J. Bonzer
South Dakota State University

Phillip E. Plumart

South Dakota State University
Brookings, South Dakota

Department of Animal Science
Poultry-Meats Section

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Boyd J. Bonzer and Phillip E. Plumart[1]

The last 5 years of accumulative monthly reports from the South Dakota State University Flock Record program are summarized in this study. The average number of flocks per year was 55, 62, 55, 49, and 30, respectively, for 1971 through 1975. This amounted to an average of 50 flocks per year, averaging 8,500 birds.

Three figures were selected from the monthly data: feed cost per ton, pounds of feed per dozen eggs, and feed cost per dozen eggs. These were studied to determine what happened to feed cost over the 5-year period. Also, we wanted to know if there was a pattern to feed cost and feed conversion over the 5-year period as well as during each year.

Feed cost hovered around $70 per ton until November, 1972, when it started up. It broke $100 in May of 1973, peaked at $142 in October of 1974, and then settled around $120 during 1975. The average feed cost per ton was 84% higher in 1974 than in 1971. These data are shown in table 1.

There was an annual pattern to the monthly average pounds of feed per dozen eggs. The 5-year monthly average showed the best conversion during the summer months (Aug. - 3.9 lb/doz) and the poorest conversion during the winter months (Dec. - 4.7 lb/doz). It took 0.8 of a pound or 21% more feed to produce a dozen eggs in December as compared to August. These data are given in table 2.

The annual average feed conversion improved with higher priced feed. During 1971 and 1972 a dozen eggs was produced with 4.3 lb of feed when feed cost $70 per ton. When feed went up to $128 and $121 per ton in 1974 and 1975, the conversion dropped to 4.15 lb per dozen.

As indicated in table 3, the feed cost per dozen did not fluctuate consistently with the feed cost per ton. After June, 1973, it over reacted up and down. The high point in feed cost per dozen was in January, 1975, 3 months after the October, 1974, high price per ton. The annual average feed cost of 25.92 cents per dozen during 1974 was 11 cents or 73% above 1971.

The 5-year monthly average feed cost per dozen showed the highest feed cost during December (23.4 cents per doz) and the lowest feed cost during July (19.3 cents per doz). There was a difference of 4.1 cents per dozen or 21% in feed cost between the high and low months with gradual increments between them.

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[1]Extension Poultryman and Associate Professor, respectively.

In summary, feed prices started an upward movement in November of 1972 and peaked at an all-time high in October of 1974. There was a monthly pattern to monthly feed conversion showing the best conversion during the summer months and poorest conversion in the winter time. Feed cost per dozen followed the same pattern.

Table 1. Feed Cost Per Ton (Dollars)

Year	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Avg.
1971	70	71	71	71	72	70	72	70	69	67	67	65	70
1972	67	73	67	68	70	71	68	70	71	69	72	77	70
1973	84	88	91	86	107	129	119	124	115	108	106	115	106
1974	118	120	117	111	111	111	118	138	139	142	140	135	128
1975	133	126	116	121	118	124	120	125	126	119	113	112	121
Avg.	95	96	92	91	96	101	100	105	104	101	99	101	

Table 2. Feed Per Dozen Eggs (Pounds)

Year	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Avg.
1971	4.3	4.3	4.5	4.3	4.1	4.1	4.3	3.9	4.5	4.2	4.4	4.8	4.3
1972	4.7	4.4	4.5	4.2	4.2	4.3	4.0	3.8	4.1	3.9	4.6	4.9	4.3
1973	4.6	4.8	4.4	4.4	4.7	4.1	3.9	4.0	4.2	4.5	4.9	4.4	4.4
1974	4.6	4.7	4.3	4.3	4.1	3.6	3.7	3.9	3.8	4.0	4.2	4.5	4.1
1975	4.7	4.1	4.3	4.4	3.8	3.9	3.7	3.7	3.9	4.2	4.3	4.8	4.1
Avg.	4.5	4.5	4.4	4.3	4.2	4.0	3.9	3.9	4.1	4.2	4.5	4.7	

Table 3. Feed Cost Per Dozen (Cents)

Year	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Avg.
1971	15.0	15.4	15.8	15.4	14.9	14.4	15.5	13.5	15.4	14.1	14.7	15.5	15.0
1972	15.6	15.9	15.1	14.4	14.8	15.4	13.7	13.4	14.6	13.6	16.4	18.8	15.1
1973	19.2	21.3	19.9	19.1	25.2	26.5	23.0	24.8	24.1	24.4	25.9	25.3	23.3
1974	27.0	28.1	25.3	23.6	23.0	20.0	22.1	26.9	26.5	28.8	29.3	30.4	25.9
1975	31.1	25.6	25.1	26.5	22.6	24.3	22.2	23.3	24.5	25.1	24.3	27.2	25.1
Avg.	21.6	21.3	20.3	19.8	20.1	20.1	19.3	20.4	21.0	21.2	22.1	23.4	