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Eggs - Cost of production

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A

SURVEY OF COMMERCIAL EGG PRODUCTION

IN

DERBYSHIRE, NOTTINGHAMSHIRE AND LINCOLNSHIRE (KESTEVEN).

JANUARY 1961.

by

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Foreword

The figures presented in the following pages have been extracted from the results of research still in progress relating to egg production in the East Midlands. A fuller description of the survey and a report on its findings will be published later.

Introduction

The survey sample included 1,044 producers (1), of which 819 (79 per cent) completed questionnaires and 141 (13 per cent) had either given up keeping poultry or had left the holding selected in the sample. Information about flocks affected by fowl pest during 1960 has been excluded.

All percentages in the following tables are "raised" estimates (i.e. they are representative of all poultry keepers in the three counties).

Throughout, "birds" means "fowls six months and over".

D = Derbyshire, N = Nottinghamshire, K = Kesteven,
B = Batteries, DL = Deep litter, FR = Free range,
PS = Packing Station, R = Retail.
.. = negligible.

1. Percentage distribution of BIRDS at January, 1961.

(a) between counties.

D	N	K
40%	39%	21%

(b) between systems, by county.

(i) including "mixed" systems separately.

	D	N	K	Three counties
	%	%	%	%
B	12	29	3	17
DL	31	30	44	33
FR	30	14	22	22
Mixed(1)	26	25	29	26
Other	1	2	2	2

(1) Holdings with more than one system

(1) 462 in Derbyshire, 337 in Nottinghamshire, 245 in Kesteven.

(ii) birds in "mixed" group have been redistributed to individual systems.

	D %	N %	K %	Three counties %
B	19	36	11	24
DL	42	42	59	45
FR	36	18	26	27
Other	3	4	4	4

(c) between flock size-groups and systems.

(i) including "mixed" systems separately.

Flock size- groups	All systems %	B %	DL %	FR %	Mixed systems %	Other systems %
1- 150	23	..	7	13	3	..
151- 750	43	4	19	8	11	1
751-2000	21	6	6	1	8	1
2000 +	13	7	1	-	4	..
All groups	100	17	33	22	26	2

The chief difference between counties was that Kesteven had a higher proportion of large deep litter flocks and Nottinghamshire a higher proportion of large battery flocks.

(ii) birds in "mixed" group have been redistributed to individual systems

Flock size- groups	All systems %	B %	DL %	FR %	Other systems %
1- 150	23	..	9	14	..
151- 750	43	6	24	11	2
751-2000	21	8	9	2	2
2000 +	13	10	3
All groups	100	24	45	27	4

2. Percentage distribution of FLOCKS at January, 1961.

(a) between counties.

D	N	K
52%	30%	18%

(b) between systems, by county.

	D %	N %	K %	Three counties %
B	2	6	2	3
DL	25	37	33	30
FR	55	45	48	51
Mixed	17	12	16	15
Other	1	..	1	1

(c) between flock size-groups and systems.

Flock size- groups	All systems %	B %	DL %	FR %	Mixed systems %	Other systems %
1- 150	68 ⁽¹⁾	..	17	44	7 ⁽³⁾	..
151- 750	28	2	12	7	7 ⁽⁴⁾	..
751-2000	4	1	1	..	1	1
2000 +	.. ⁽²⁾
All groups	100	3	30	51	15	1

(1) About half of these, i.e. about one third of all producers, had less than 75 birds.

(2) The 41 flocks in this group represented less than one per cent of the total number of flocks in the Province.

(3) 70 per cent of mixed flocks in this size-group were DL/FR, 25 per cent were B/FR flocks.

(4) 56 per cent of mixed flocks in this size-group were DL/FR, 22 per cent were B/DL flocks.

3. Percentage changes in number of birds kept under different systems, January, 1960 to January, 1961.

	%
B	+11
DL	+ 6
FR	- 3
<hr/>	
All systems	+ 5

4. Producers intending to increase flock size.

The proportion of producers intending to have at least 60 per cent more birds in January, 1962 than in January, 1960, in the different flock size-groups and systems within flock size-groups, are given below.

Flock size-groups	System	Percentage of flocks which are likely to be increased
1- 150	DL	22
	FR	8
	Mixed	22(1)
	All systems	13(2)
151- 750	DL	9
	FR	12
	Mixed	27(1)
	All systems	16(3)
751-2000	B	45
	DL	21
	Mixed	17
	All systems	24
2000 +	B	20
	DL	-
	Mixed	27
	All systems	20

- (1) The majority of these were DL/FR flocks; 90 per cent in 1-150 flock size-group and 80 per cent in 151-750 flock size-group.
- (2) 87 per cent of these flocks will have less than 400 birds by January, 1962.
- (3) 41 per cent of these flocks will have less than 400 birds by January, 1962.

5. Percentage of producers intending to change their system of housing during 1961, in the different flock size groups.

<u>Flock size-groups</u>	<u>Percentage of producers</u>
1- 150	5
151- 750	6
751-2000	20
2000 +	26
All groups	6

6. Producers giving up egg production.

Flock size-groups	Percentage of producers in the different flock size-groups who gave up, or intended to give up keeping any poultry between -	
	June, 1959 and January, 1961 ⁽¹⁾ %	January, 1961 and January, 1962 ⁽²⁾ %
1- 100	15	11
101- 200	5	6
201- 500	5	3
501-1000	5	3
1000 +	3	2
All groups	11	8

(1) For reasons other than death or retirement. Flock size group refers to June, 1959.

(2) For reasons which may include retirement. Flock size group refers to January, 1961.

7. Average flock sizes at January, 1961.

	<u>Average number of birds in flock</u>
B	1,120
DL	237
FR	93
Mixed	336
All flocks	214

8. Flock size and acreage of holding.

There was no close association between flock size and acreage of holding; the distribution of birds between holdings of various acreages was similar to that of producers. About a quarter of producers were on holdings of less than 10 acres, and about half on holdings of less than 50 acres.

9. Egg sales during 1960.

(a) Percentage of producers selling eggs through various outlets by flock size-groups.

	Flock size-groups				
	1-150 %	151-750 %	751-2000 %	2000 + %	All groups %
Selling to hatcheries	-	2	8	27	1(1)
Selling to packing stations (% of producer's total egg sales)					
0-30	31	15	12	4	25
31-60	7	16	6	2	10
61-90	15	21	13	13	17
90 +	47	46	61	54	47

(1) Three per cent of all eggs were sold for hatching.

(b) Percentage distribution of eggs (1) sold to packing stations and retail, by county and flock size-group.

Flock size-groups	D		N		K		Three counties	
	PS %	R %	PS %	R %	PS %	R %	PS %	R %
1- 150	61	39	69	31	85	15	67	33
151- 750	64	36	70	30	92	8	72	28
751-2000	67	33	83	17	88	12	80	20
2000 +	88	12	92	8	95	5	91	9
All groups	65	35	78	22	90	10	75	25

(1) Hatching eggs excluded.

(c) Only a minority of producers (two per cent) intended making any change during 1961 in their method of egg disposal.

10. Flock replacements during 1960.

(a) Percentage of producers who :	Flock size-groups		
	1-750 %	750 + %	All groups %
made no flock replacements	13	2	13
hatched own replacements	2	12	2
purchased day-old chicks only	52	75	53
purchased "growers"(1) only	29	6	28
purchased day-old chicks and growers	4	5	4

(1) Includes all birds of more than three weeks old.

(b) 67 per cent of all "growers" were purchased at less than 18 weeks of age.

(c) Six per cent of all producers in Derbyshire and one per cent in Kesteven reared chicks for sale as "growers". (Information on the sale of "growers" was not asked from Nottinghamshire producers)

(d) Date of purchase of day-old pullet chicks.

64 per cent were bought from January to April.

18 per cent were bought from May to September.

18 per cent were bought from October to December.

(e) In the three counties of the survey, a much higher proportion of chicks were purchased in February and March than was the case in England and Wales as a whole :-

Estimates of day-old pullet chicks in 1960	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	Ju.	Jly.	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.
	(each month as per cent of annual total)											
- placed by hatcheries in England and Wales(1)	12	13	15	15	8	4	4	3	4	7	7	8
- purchased in survey counties	12	17	21	14	7	4	3	2	2	5	6	7

(1) Farmers Weekly, June 16th, 1961.

(f) Percentage distribution of producers according to period of purchase of day-old pullet chicks, by flock size-groups.

Percentage of producers purchasing during	Flock size-groups				
	1-150 %	151-750 %	751-2000 %	2000 + %	All groups %
- only one season of year	93	57	18	3	76
- more than one season	7	37	66	42	21
- throughout year	-	6	16	55	3
Percentage of producers who avoid rearing May - Sept.	75	71	67	21	74

11 Food for the laying flock during 1960.

(a) 88 per cent of all producers fed some purchased compound food, and threequarters of these also fed some whole grain. Of these 88 per cent

- 60 per cent fed a nationally advertised compound.
- 40 per cent fed a local merchant's compound.

(b) Five per cent of producers fed only whole grain; these all had flocks of less than 150 birds.

(c) Nine per cent of producers mixed all or some of their poultry food, but proportions varied with flock size :-

- 8 per cent of producers with flocks of less than 750 birds.
- 24 per cent of producers with flocks of 751-2000 birds.
- 44 per cent of producers with flocks of more than 2000 birds.

(Two per cent also fed some purchased compound food).

Similar distributions occurred in each county.

12. Labour.

Percentage of flocks employing different types of labour during 1960, by flock size-group and county.

Type of labour	Flock size-groups											
	1-150			151-750			751-2000			2000 +		
	D %	N %	K %	D %	N %	K %	D %	N %	K %	D %	N %	K %
Family labour only	96	95	89	85	77	76	61	66	33	36	4	-
Family and hired	2	-	11	10	16	6	16	13	42	36	22	11
Hired general workers only	2	5	-	5	7	18	2	8	18	9	17	11
Flocks employing special poultry staff	-	-	-	-	-	-	21	13	7	19	57	78

13. Artificial Light.

Percentage of flocks receiving and not receiving artificial light, by flock size-groups during 1960.

Flock size-groups	Receiving artificial light			Not receiving artificial light		
	FR	Other systems	All systems	FR	Other systems	All systems
1-100	20	21	41	53	6	59
101-200	14	39	53	43	4	47
201-500	17	59	76	21	3	24
All groups with less than 500 birds	18	31	49	46	5	51