ECONOMIC CONSIDERATIONS

Feeding: A method of estimating the cost of nourishing poultry is by weighing the feed consumed by the birds. It is important to arrive at an approximate cost per dozen eggs.

Cost of feed

1. Layer depreciation cost—cost of pullets at 20 weeks or at laying age; the amount may be reduced by keeping layers in cages.

2. Chick cost—hatcheries usually give 2% extras, if necessary. Use a reputable hatchery.

3. Equipment and house cost—initial cost spread over 3 or 4 years or more; layers on 10 to 20 years or more.

4. Water: Broiler or replacement pullets need 1 quart, half-gallon, or gallon container per 12 birds; layers need one gallon capacity per 12 birds; extra heating may be required.

5. Nest: Layers need 1 nest per 30 birds; heavy breed layers need 3 to 5 nests per 100 birds.

6. Heat: For brooding, feed, collecting, cleaning, and breeding purposes an average of 1 to 2 square feet per bird.

7. Transportation cost of eggs is delivered to a market or to the consumer.

NOTIFICATIONS

Broilers should have a complete feed available at all times. Layer pellets may need to be offered for 1 week, but not before the first molt. Layers can be switched to a layer pellet or chick mash for 1 week. The feed may need to be up to 5 weeks (about 25 pounds of feed per 100 birds) for heavy birds; 4 to 5 weeks for 3 pounds (about 20 pounds per 100 birds) for 2 pounds (about 35 pounds per 100 birds) for 1 pound; or if using community nests, provide an area 1 square foot for 4 to 5 birds.

Light: A good lighting program is essential for maximum egg production. Replacement pullets should be provided with a total of 13 to 14 hours of natural light plus artificial light at 28 weeks of age. Day lengths for laying hens should never be allowed to decrease below 10 or 11 hours; for laying birds less than 12 weeks of age, 13 or 14 hours of light should be provided, or artificial light should be turned off late in the evening. The birds should be kept in a total darkness period of 1 to 2 hours before they are to be lighted.

Manure: Manure under multiple-bird cages does not conefluce litter, however, egg production may be 5 to 10 percent below that of birds kept on litter. Usually it is not profitable to keep dual-purpose birds for both egg and meat production.

Layering stock can be purchased at pullets at 18 to 20 weeks of age. Experience has shown that the best material for egg production, which has already kept its place, is to rear 200 or more birds and sell them when they are laying and have been developed fully, and which, if possible, at a low price, that may be a poultry matter for the future.

Laying hens are more difficult to manage than broilers or predators, so they require about 500 square feet per bird. However, egg production may be 5 to 10 percent lower than that of birds kept on litter. Usually it is not profitable to keep dual-purpose birds for both egg and meat production.

Laycrs have a number of commercial feed stores and distributors available to them. It is best to use one of the major brands of poultry feed. The feed should be of high quality, and it should be stored in a cool, dry place. It should be fed at the rate of 1 to 2 pounds per 100 birds per week. Feed should be fed at least once a day, and it should be fed at a rate of 1 to 2 pounds per 100 birds per week. Feed should be fed at least once a day, at a rate of 1 to 2 pounds per 100 birds per week. Feed should be fed at least once a day, and it should be fed at a rate of 1 to 2 pounds per 100 birds per week. Feed should be fed at least once a day, at a rate of 1 to 2 pounds per 100 birds per week. Feed should be fed at least once a day, and it should be fed at a rate of 1 to 2 pounds per 100 birds per week. Feed should be fed at least once a day, at a rate of 1 to 2 pounds per 100 birds per week. Feed should be fed at least once a day, and it should be fed at a rate of 1 to 2 pounds per 100 birds per week.
ally wetter, and requires more frequent removal to prevent odors and fly breeding. Spray the manure occasionally with an approved larvacide or insecticide to reduce fly populations.

**SPECIALTY PROJECTS**

**Bantams**

Bantams are about one-fourth to one-fifth the size of normal chickens. Adult bantams will consume about 20 to 25 pounds of regular layer feed per year and lay eggs weighing about 11 to 16 ounces per dozen. They start laying at about 6 to 8 months of age. If allowed, they will incubate their own eggs and make excellent mothers. One male can mate with 1 to 15 females. Nests should be about 6 inches wide, 8 inches deep, and 9 inches high. Baby bantams should be given a good starter chick feed.

Although bantams are small, they need 13 to 2 square feet of floor space and should be provided a sun porch or even a range. They need 4 or 5 inches of roost space per bird. Bantams have the same disease problems as normal chickens.

"Rock Cornish Game Hens"

These are simply young broilers 4 to 6 weeks of age with a live weight of 2 to 2½ pounds. Their care is the same as required for young broilers, except that they only need ¾ square foot of floor space.

**Roasters**

Roasters are broilers kept beyond 8 to 9 weeks, often as long as 6 months. They may have a live weight of 9 to 10 pounds. Roasters require considerably more feed per pound of meat produced than do broilers.

Roasters kept after 8 or 9 weeks of age need 2 square feet of floor space to 16 weeks and 3 square feet after 16 weeks. Roasters should be given cracked corn in the afternoon, beginning with a small amount at 8 or 9 weeks of age and gradually increasing this until they are getting equal amounts of grain and broiler finishing feed at 15 weeks of age. Granite grit should be furnished once a week when cracked corn is fed.

Breast blisters may be caused by irritation of the breast on floor, feeders, waterers, etc., and can be a serious problem with roasters. Litter should be at least 4 inches deep, clean, dry, and loose. Wet or caked litter will aggravate the problem. Provision should be made to keep birds from sitting on feeders or other sharp objects which might irritate their breast.

---

**THE POULTRY HOUSE**

Figure 1 shows plans for a basic 8' x 12' poultry house that will hold up to 100-120 broilers, 50 replacement pullets, or 40 Leghorn hens. The sun porch shown in Figure 3 is not desirable for broilers and is optional with replacement pullets and layers.

The walls can be made of conventional drop siding or of exterior or marine grade plywood. The windows shown are from 48 inches above the floor plate up to the roof plate. For broilers or replacement pullets the windows should be covered with an adjustable curtain that can be closed for young chicks and opened as additional ventilation when needed. They may be partially covered in winter for layers. Ventilation is adequate when the relative humidity and ammonia odors do not make the caretaker uncomfortable.

The roof can be sheet metal, wood shingles, or any other type desired. For composition shingles or roll roofing the sheathing should be solid. A door to prevent litter from falling out the door.

**EQUIPPING THE POULTRY HOUSE**

For broilers and replacement pullets necessary equipment includes feeders, waterers, heating units or brooders, and perhaps roosts for replacements.

Layers will need roosts and nests, but will not need heating equipment. A hanging tube feeder is good with this type of house for broilers, replacements, and layers. Waterers can be purchased or homemade. Heating units can be of several types. For a small operation, infrared heating lamps are suitable, or radiant-ray infrared heating units are available in various sizes.

Roosts in the form of a droppings pit will be desirable for replacement pullets and layers. Figure 2 shows an arrangement that can be used for the laying house. The nests would not be needed for replacement pullets. The nestings pit can be made from 12 to 20 inches high in front and may slope to as high as 36 inches in the rear. A pit 30 inches wide, running the length of the solid 12-foot wall, with two 2 x 2' roosts running down the center, 12 to 14 inches apart, will provide ample roosting space for replacement pullets or layers. The pit should be covered with heavy wire netting or welded wire to prevent birds from getting into it.

Installing the pit so that it can be lifted out easily will facilitate cleaning.

Figure 1. A basic home unit poultry house. Roof and walls may be metal, wood, or composition, depending on cost and availability. Resting the building on concrete blocks will prolong life of the structural timbers.

Figure 2. Interior showing one arrangement of equipment. Hanging feeders may be used in place of homemade feeder pictured. Waterer is just inside door on the left.

Figure 3. Exterior of poultry house with optional sun porch added. In mild climates watering device can be placed on sun porch to reduce moisture inside the house.
Figure 1. A basic home unit poultry house. Roof and walls may be metal, wood, or composition, depending on cost and availability. Resting the building on concrete blocks will prolong life of the structural timbers.

Figure 2. Interior showing one arrangement of equipment. Hanging feeders may be used in place of homemade feeder pictured. Waterer is just inside door on the left.

Figure 3. Exterior of poultry house with optional sun porch added. In mild climates watering device can be placed on sun porch to reduce moisture inside the house.