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DIVISION OF ANIMAL INDUSTRY

Report of the First Texas National Egg-Laying Contest

B. YOUNGBLOOD, DIRECTOR
COLLEGE STATION, BRAZOS COUNTY, TEXAS

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†As of July 1, 1919.
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PARTIAL VIEW OF TEXAS ANNUAL EGG-LAYING CONTEST PLANT

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Bulletin No. 246 June, 1919

REPORT OF THE FIRST TEXAS NATIONAL EGG-LAYING CONTEST

By F. W. Kazmeier, Director of Contest*

The Texas National Egg-Laying Contest is a cooperative project of the Texas Agricultural Experiment Station and the Extension Service of the A. and M. College of Texas. The Extension Service has undertaken the responsibility of issuing monthly reports of the contest to all persons sufficiently interested to request them. These reports entail an extra effort on the part of the mailing department, and it is only through the efforts of T. O. Walton, Director of the Extension Service, and C. M. Evans, Chief of the Animal Iudustry Division of the Extension Service, that it has been possible to give the contest reports proper publicity.

ORIGIN OF THE CONTEST

The first Texas National Egg-Laying Contest was encouraged and fostered by the Texas Poultry Raisers' Association, an organization composed of the leading poultry breeders of Texas.

At the annual meeting in July, 1917, of this organization a special conference was called to consider the possibilities of holding a Texas egg-laying contest. The conference included such men as T. A. Bowden, Palestine; George Gray, Boerne; D. C. Moore, Houston; R. W. Welch, Houston; Mrs. M. Sanford, Rockdale; G. W. Good, El Campo; R. N. Harvey, College Station; T. J. Conway, College Station; F. W. Kazmeier, College Station, and many others. The consensus of opinion was that no efforts should be spared to make the contest possible.

The association elected the following as the egg-laying contest committee: F. W. Kazmeier, College Station, Texas, chairman; George Gray, Boerne; Mrs. Sanford, Rockdale; Walter Burton, Arlington; Lilian Hazle, College Station; R. N. Harvey, College Station.

This committee, in a conference with B. Youngblood, Director of the Texas Agricultural Experiment Station, found that the latter was very much in favor of the contest, and that he would, through the Station, provide the houses, yards, and labor to carry on the contest. This information made it possible for the committee to report back to the association that the contest was assured.

The association then elected R. N. Harvey as superintendent of the contest and F. W. Kazmeier as director.

POPULARITY OF CONTEST

There is no question that the contest is filling a long-felt need. Over one thousand personal requests for entry in the second contest are on file. This clearly indicates that Texas poultry breeders want the contest continued.

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*Mr. Kazmeier is Poultry Husbandman for the Extension Service, A. and M. College of Texas.

PURPOSE

At a recent meeting of the National War Emergency Poultry Federation at Chicago one of the most important facts brought out was that during and after the war the general conditions in the business world will necessitate greater efficiency in poultry husbandry. It was clearly demonstrated that the average egg production per hen in the United

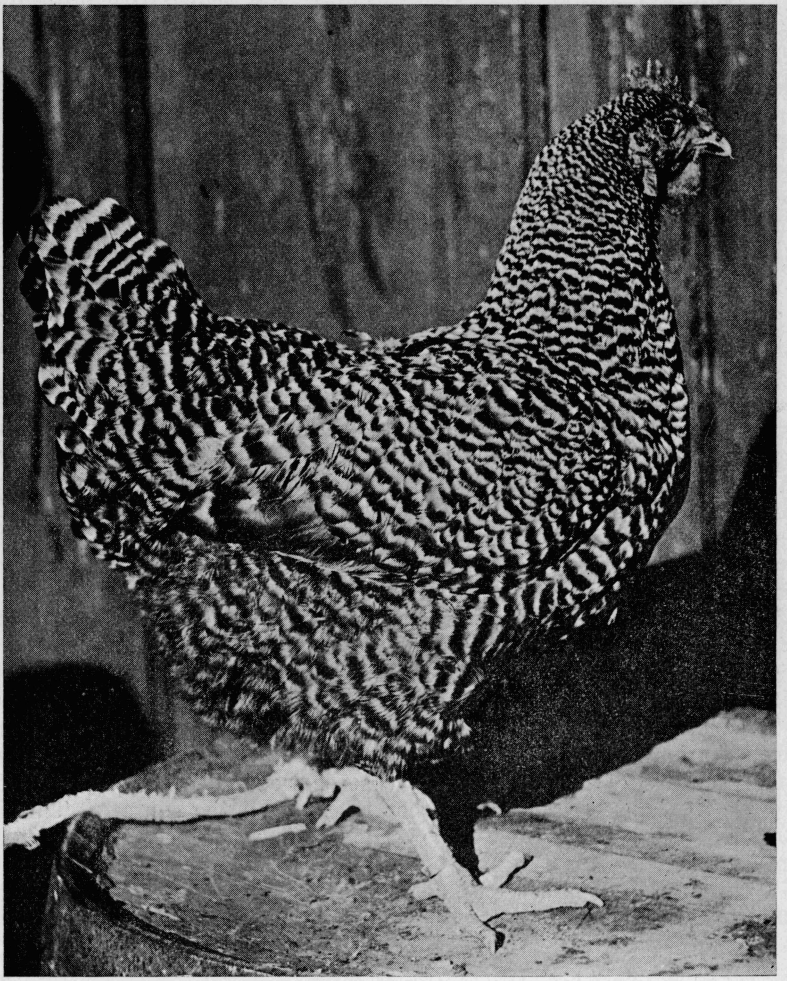

FIGURE 1—BARRED PLYMOUTH ROCK NO. 176, 207 EGGS

States was entirely too low, and that the poultry breeders should be encouraged to increase the productiveness of flocks and individuals. In Texas the average production per hen is not more than sixty eggs.

Officially conducted egg-laying contests are absolutely necessary to furnish official trap nest records of the performance of fowls. Records

from private sources do not carry the confidence and reliability of official records. Poultry breeders may send their best individuals to these contests, have them trap-nested for a year and returned to them. The individuals making good records may then be used as foundation stock for the breeding flock.

FIRST YEAR'S CONTEST

The first Texas National Egg-Laying Contest was not large. The war, drouth, and many other conditions operated against a large entry. Housing space was limited. Labor was exceedingly hard to get. It

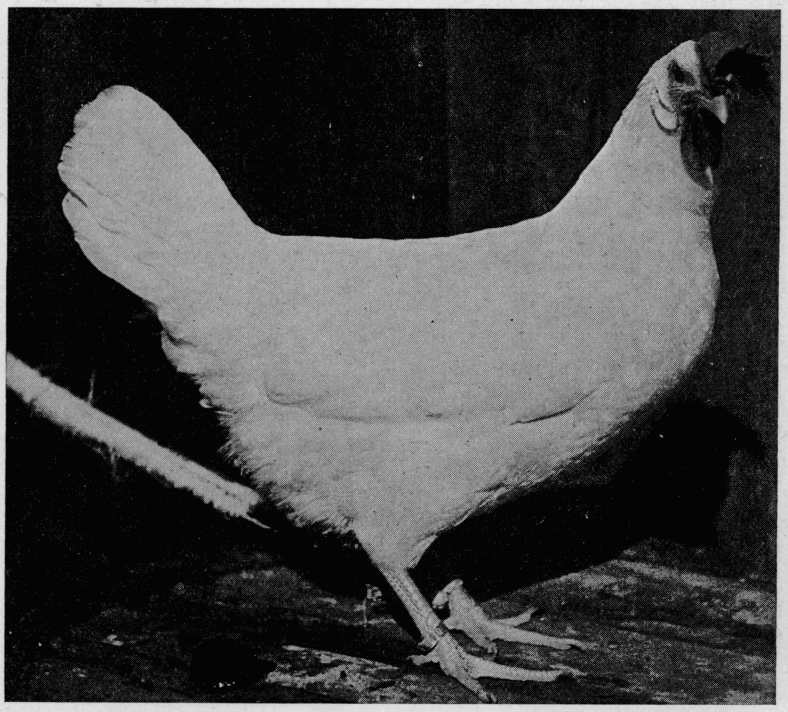

FIGURE 2—S. C. WHITE LEGHORN NO. 40, 201 EGGS

is felt, however, that, by successfully overcoming the many difficulties in the way, a start in the right direction has been made.

HOUSING

The first Texas National Egg-Laying Contest birds were housed in four houses, each house 14 feet by 14 feet, with double yards 28 feet by 150 feet. This necessitated housing different varieties together. It was possible, however, to house them according to size of birds. Birds of a similar disposition were housed together. As far as possible all of each variety were housed together. One house was full of S. C. White Leghorns, and one house of S. C. Rhode Island Reds. In one house were Reds, Rocks, Wyandottes, Rhode Island Whites, and Orpingtons. In

another house were S. C. White Leghorns, S. C. Buff Leghorns and Sicilian Buttercups.

It will be noted from the foregoing that several varieties and even several breeds were housed together. Some people may consider this a disadvantage. The fact remains, however, that under these conditions the many varieties are subjected to a better comparative test than if each variety or entry were housed by itself.

The results of this contest may in all fairness be compared to those obtained with flocks kept under general farm conditions, because no special efforts were made to force for an abnormal egg production.

The open front type of houses, with wooden shutters on east, west,

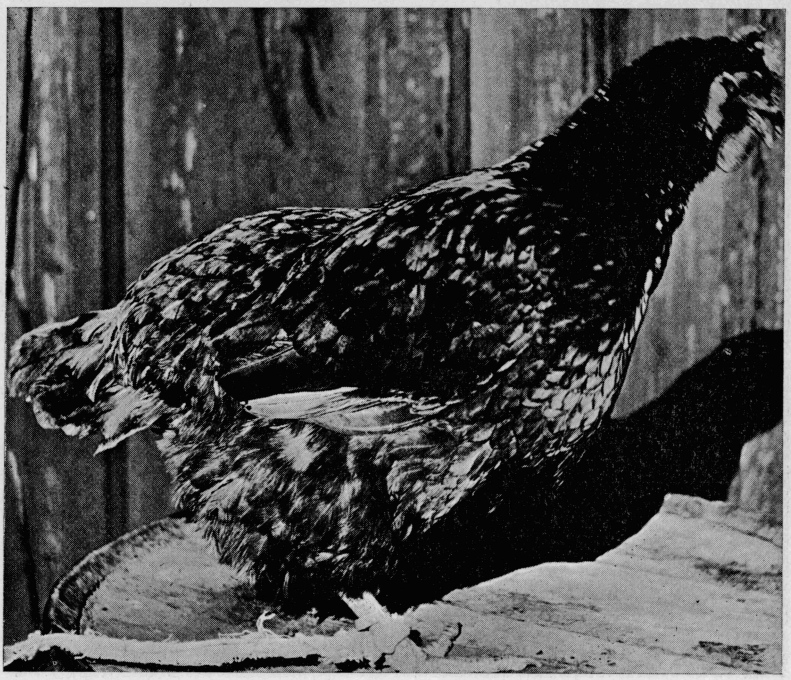

FIGURE 3—S. C. RHODE ISLAND RED NO. 162, 200 EGGS

and north was used. The houses had concrete floors and foundations. The shed roof type of structure is used. The fixtures included roost platforms, suspended perches, trap nests, water dishes, dry mash hoppers, and feed cans. The houses were cleaned and disinfected regularly. The birds were kept free from lice and mites.

MORTALITY

A total of twenty-three birds died during the year. Two died because of vent gleet. Four died of egg troubles. One was accidentally killed. Seven were smothered to death in the trap nests during a very hot period in June. It will also be noticed that nine deaths, or almost fifty per cent. of the yearly mortality, occurred in June, during the

hottest period of the year. The mortality of 8.25 per cent. for the year is lower than in many other contests, and would have been considerably lower had it not been for the heavy loss in June, due to extreme heat and too close nests. Considering the fact that these birds were gathered up from all sections of the State and housed together, the mortality was low.

There is no question but that chickens can stand less heat than cold, hence the houses should be built accordingly.

RATIONS

At the beginning of the contest the following ration was fed:

Scratch grain—
200 pounds wheat

Dry mash mixture—
25 pounds beef scraps
10 pounds cottonseed meal
25 pounds bran
25 pounds shorts
5 pounds corn meal
½ pound salt

A special effort was made to get the fowls to consume about the same amount of dry mash mixture as of scratch grain.

Later in the contest, on account of the food administration's ruling on wheat, corn was substituted, and the corn meal in the dry mash mixture eliminated. The feed situation at times was very acute, and some of the ingredients were impossible to get at any price. Under more favorable conditions it is quite probable that all of the birds would have made better records. It ought not be necessary to state here that all pens in the contest were fed the same ration and handled in the same general way.

SHOW ROOM SCORES

All birds in the contest were judged on the basis of the American Standard of Perfection. The Hale explanatory score card was used, because it is considered of more value to the owner of the birds, to whom all score cards are mailed. F. W. Kazmeier did the judging. Some of the birds were not in show condition. None was prepared for exhibition purposes. All of this should be considered when studying the score. Time did not permit weighing the birds.

Scoring was not done for the purpose of making comparisons between the egg production of high scoring and low scoring birds. The birds were scored primarily for the purpose of giving the owner an idea as to the exhibition qualities of the birds. All indications are that standard-shaped birds also are the best layers. There seems to be certain color requirements in the "Standard" that are not conducive to the best egg production. There are some disqualifications that do not appear serious enough to be so designated. These things, no doubt, will be arranged properly in time. Indications are that every effort is being made leading to a combination of utility and fancy qualities.

UNIDENTIFIED EGGS

By unidentified eggs is meant eggs laid outside of the trap nests. They result from lack of attention, or improper working of trap nests due to the fact that some of the hens were unaccustomed to laying in such contrivances. Frequently eggs are laid during the night, many of them being broken. It is also of interest that some hens develop the habit of trying to get into and out of the trap nests without springing them. They occasionally are able to do this. Some hens refuse to use the trap nests, and prefer to lay on the floor. The unidentified eggs are counted in figuring the cost of egg production, the value of the eggs produced by each flock, and other data.

LITTER

Common straw was used as litter. At times it was exceedingly hard to get a good quality. Extreme care was used not to use moldy or musty litter of any kind. Frequently the litter was disinfected to guard against any possible trouble. Special effort was made to keep the litter loose, dry, and clean. To do this, the houses were kept open as much as possible.

Following are tabulations compiled from contest data:

Table 1.—Best and poorest individual records.

S. C. White Leghorn No. 40, 201 eggs.

November	3 eggs	May	24 eggs
December	22 eggs	June	23 eggs
January	21 eggs	July	16 eggs
February	16 eggs	August	13 eggs
March	23 eggs	September	2 eggs
April	25 eggs	October	13 eggs

This hen laid in fall and winter.

S. C. White Leghorn No. 99, 26 eggs.

November	1 egg	May	12 eggs
December	0 eggs	June	3 eggs
January	0 eggs	July	5 eggs
February	1 egg	August	0 eggs
March	0 eggs	September	0 eggs
April	4 eggs	October	0 eggs

This hen laid in the spring.

S. C. Rhode Island Red, No. 162, 200 eggs.

November	9 eggs	May	23 eggs
December	21 eggs	June	10 eggs
January	24 eggs	July	16 eggs
February	23 eggs	August	6 eggs
March	25 eggs	September	4 eggs
April	22 eggs	October	17 eggs

This hen laid $4.25 worth of eggs during the months of November, December, January, February and March.

S. C. Rhode Island Red, No. 156, 29 eggs.

November	0 eggs	May	7 eggs
December	0 eggs	June	5 eggs
January	0 eggs	July	2 eggs
February	0 eggs	August	3 eggs
March	0 eggs	September	0 eggs
April	12 eggs	October	0 eggs

This hen did not lay any eggs during the winter months when eggs brought a good price.

Table 2.—Total number and value of eggs produced by contest.

Month	No. of doz. eggs laid in trap nests.	No. of doz. eggs laid in trap nests by Alt.	No. of doz. of unidentified eggs	Total (dozens) produced in each month	Price per dozen	Total value
1917						
November	81 8/12	9 7/12	8 10/12	100 1/12	$ 0.42	$ 42.035
December	91 5/12	9 3/12	7 3/12	107 11/12	.52	56.113
1918						
January	104 8/12	10 2/12	7 10/12	122 8/12	.58	71.150
February	172 5/12	25 4/12	14 4/12	212 1/12	.50	106.042
March	257	35 9/12	15	307 9/12	.43	132.32
April	224 2/12	31 6/12	13 6/12	269 2/12	.34	91.517
May	232 11/12	29 1/12	9 9/12	271 9/12	.32	86.96
June	156	17 3/12	11 8/12	184 11/12	.33	61.023
July	120 9/12	9	11 4/12	141 1/12	.36	50.79
August	80 5/12	7 3/12	12 11/12	100 7/12	.39	39.228
September	28	2 3/12	11 6/12	41 9/12	.42	17.535
October	49 5/12	5 7/12	2	57	.45	25.65
Total				1916 9/12	Av. $0.4215	$ 780.375

An average of 190 birds in the contest for the year 1917-1918.

Table 3.—Monthly production of the ten best birds in the contest.

No. of hen	Nov.	Dec.	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	April	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Total
22	4	16	18	13	22	23	26	21	20	18	0	0	181
31	21	16	12	20	29	28	16	16	4	7	3	15	187
40	3	22	21	16	23	25	24	23	16	13	2	13	201
162	9	21	24	23	25	22	23	10	16	6	4	17	200
165	20	19	9	18	24	21	6	6	15	16	9	22	185
129	19	19	18	15	13	16	22	15	18	13	15	9	182
176	2	25	18	24	25	24	22	1	19	13	14	20	207
175	5	13	20	18	15	27	19	16	18	13	19	18	203
201	11	2	0	19	23	23	18	17	18	21	19	10	181
249	3	11	15	17	22	22	19	14	20	15	14	10	182
Total, 10	97	164	155	183	221	231	195	139	164	135	99	134	1909

Table 4.—Monthly production of the ten poorest hens in the contest.

No. of hen.	No.	Dec.	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	April	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Total
16	0	0	1	9	14	3	4	3	0	0	0	0	34
20	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
41	10	17	0	11	6	1	2	1	1	0	0	0	49
58	0	0	2	8	4	4	5	0	0	0	0	0	35
156	0	0	0	0	0	12	7	5	2	3	0	0	29
158	8	20	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	28
199	0	9	0	9	11	2	1	0	0	0	0	0	26
99	1	0	0	1	0	4	12	3	5	0	0	0	32
72	2	0	0	1	6	7	7	11	10	1	0	0	45
86	0	0	1	1	6	9	8	2	0	0	0	0	27
Total	21	46	4	40	55	42	45	30	18	4	0	0	305
Average	2.10	4.60	.40	4.0	5.5	4.2	4.5	3.0	1.8	.4	.0	.0	30.5

Table 5.—Total amount and value of feed consumed, average of 190 birds in the contest.

Month	Wheat	Corn	Alfalfa	Milk	Dry mash	Straw	Total No. lbs.	Average price per lb.	Total cost of feed
1917									
November	757.00	.....	.....	32.00	279.00	333.00	1036.00	$ 0.035	$ 36.26
December	825.00	.....	.....	24.00	369.00	.....	1194.00	.035	41.79
1918									
January	395.00	397.20	61.50	.....	372.00	276.00	1225.70	.035	42.89
February	661.50	.....	.....	.....	413.00	226.00	1071.50	.035	37 60
March	155.25	557.00	.....	.....	837.00	358.00	1549.25	.035	54.22
April	.....	666.00	.....	.....	500 00	182.00	1166.00	.032	37.31
May	.....	654.00	.....	.....	450 00	320.00	1104.00	.032	35.33
June	.....	545.00	.....	.....	233 00	.....	778.00	.032	24.89
July	.....	434.00	.....	.....	325.00	.....	759.00	.032	24.29
August	.....	331.00	.....	.....	415.00	460.00	746.00	.032	23.87
September	.....	403.00	.....	.....	355.00	.....	758.00	.032	24.26
October	.....	424.00	.....	.....	201.75	.....	625.75	.032	20.02
Total	2793.75	4411.20	61.50	56.00	4751.00	2155.00	12017.55	.....	$ 401.73

Straw used for litter.

Table 6.—Monthly value of feed consumed and value of eggs produced, average of 190 birds in contest.

Month	Value of eggs	Cost of feed	Over cost of feed. Profit
1917			
November	$42.035	$36.26	$ 5.77
December	56.113	41.79	14.32
1918			
January	71.150	42.89	28.26
February	106.042	37.60	68.44
March	132.332	54.22	78 11
April	91.517	37.31	54.20
May	86 96	35 33	51.63
June	61.023	24 89	36.13
July	50.790	24 29	26 50
August	39.228	23.87	15.35
September	17.535	24.26	Loss 6.73
October	25.65	20.02	5.63
Total	780.375	401.73	$378.64

Table 7.—Total score, judged according to standard requirements.

Band Number	Cut for shape. Total.	Cut for color. Total.	Score	Variety	Total eggs produced	Weight
31	5	7¼	87¾	S. C. W. Leghorns	187	4
32	5½	6	87½	" "	130	4¼
33	4¾	4 3/8	90 7/8	" "	116	4½
34	5¼	5¼	89½	" "	168	4
35	5½	4	90½	" "	105	3¾
36	5	6¼	88¾	" "	152	4
37	3½	6¼	90¼	" "	123	4
38	4½	7	88½	" "	169	4½
39—Disqualified side aprig	.....	.....	.....	.....	169	4¼
40	4¾	5½	89¾	" "	201	3¾
41	4¼	5½	90¼	" "	49	4
42—Died in June	5½	5½	89	" "	120	4¼
145—Died in June	4¾	8	87¼	S. C. R. I. Reds	81	5
250	.....	.....	.....	" "	154	5¼
147	3¾	7¼	89	" "	136	5 1/8
148	2½	9	88½	" "	156	5 3/16
149—Died in June	4¾	5	90¼	" "	126	6
151—Died in February	5	8¼	86¾	" "	1	5¾
152	4¼	6¾	89	" "	81	6
153	3¼	6¼	90½	" "	146	5 1/8
154	4¼	6	89¾	" "	127	6
155	3¾	5¾	90½	" "	97	4 3/16
156	4¼	6½	89 1/8	" "	29	5 1/8

Table 7.—Total score, judged according to standard requirements.

Band Number	Cut for shape. Total.	Cut for color. Total.	Score	Variety	Total eggs produced	Weight
79	4½	2¾	92¾	S. C. W. Leghorns	80	5
80	3½	3¾	92¾	" "	131	4½
81	4	4	92	" "	120	5¼
82	3¼	4	92¾	" "	75	5
83	4	4½	91½	" "	167	4
84	4¾	4½	90¾	" "	136	4½
85	5	4¼	90¾	" "	133	5
86—Disqualified				" "	27	4
87	3½	4½	92	" "	175	4
88	3½	3½	93	" "	104	4
89	6¾	4¼	89	" "	161	4½
90	4	3¾	92¼	" "	185	4
91	4½	4¾	90¾	" "	144	4
92—Died in June	5	5	90	" "	103	5
93	3¼	4½	92¼	" "	91	5
94	3¼	2¾	94	" "	148	3¾
95	4¼	5¾	90	" "	143	4
96	3¼	4½	92¼	" "	113	4½
97	3½	4¾	91¾	" "	81	4
98	4¾	5¾	89½	" "	93	4½
99				" "	26	4½
100	5	5	90	" "	94	5
101	4½	5¼	90¼	" "	73	4½
102	4½	7½	88	" "	88	4
157—Disqualified—stubs				S. C. R. I. Reds	169	6
158	4¼	9½	86¼	" "	28	7
159	6¾	5	88½	" "	101	7¼
160	3	7¼	89¾	" "	81	6¾
161	5¾	10	84¼	" "	106	6
162	6½	13	81½	" "	200	6½
139	4¾	5¼	90	" "	74	6½
140	1½	8¾	89¾	" "	101	6½
141	4½	4¼	91¼	" "	70	6¼
142	4	8	88	" "	131	5¾
143				" "	101	5½
144—Died in June	5	5½	89½	" "	78	6
187	5¼	7	87¾	" "	152	6
188	5	7¾	87¼	" "	158	6½
189	5	9	86	" "	143	7
190	2¾	9¾	87½	" "	137	6
191	2	12	86	" "	145	6
192	4½	6	89½	" "	105	6½
163	6	9	85	" "	131	6½
164	6¾	8½	84¾	" "	176	6
165	5½	5½	89	" "	185	6½
166	4¾	7	88¼	" "	108	6
167	3½	7	89½	" "	144	7
168	4¼	10¾	85	" "	71	7
127	4¼	7¾	88	Barred Rocks	179	7½
128				" "	147	7
129	2¾	5¾	91¾	" "	182	6
130—Died in August	4¾	7	88¼	" "	81	6½
131—Disqualified				" "	157	6
132	3½	5¾	90¾	" "	119	7¾
175	4	7½	88½	" "	203	7
176	5¼	8¾	86	" "	207	6
177—Disqualified				" "	152	7¾
178—Died in January	4¼	8¾	87	" "	0	7
179	4¼	8½	87¼	" "	123	7
180	6½	10	83½	" "	137	8
181—Disqualified				" "	86	6
182	6	7	87	" "	54	7
183	5½	10¾	83¾	" "	78	7½
184	5½	10¼	84¼	" "	96	5½
185	6	7½	86½	" "	71	6
186	5	9½	85½	" "	120	5½
121—Disqualified				S. C. W. Leghorns	104	3½
122	7	4½	88½	" "	119	3½
123	6	6½	87½	" "	62	3½
124	4¾	4¼	91	" "	118	4
125	5¼	5½	89¼	" "	89	3½
126—Disqualified				" "	105	4
73	4	6	90	" "	99	5½
74	3	6	91	" "	116	4½
75—Disqualified				" "	64	4¼
76	4¾	6	89¼	" "	159	4
77	3½	5½	91	" "	95	4½
78	4½	6¼	89½	" "	125	4

Table 7.—Total score, judged according to standard requirements.

Band Number	Cut for shape. Total.	Cut for color. Total.	Score	Variety	Total eggs produced	Weight
1—Died in November	5¼	5½	89¼	" "	3	3½
2—Disqualified for down betwe	en toes.			" "	178	3½
3	4½	5	90½	" "	137	3½
4	5¼	5½	89¼	" "	109	3¼
5	7¾	4¼	88	" "	132	3½
6—Disqualified, stubs on toes				" "	135	3¾
8—Died in August	5	5½	89½	" "	77	3½
9	6¼	5½	88¼	" "	128	3½
10	6½	4¾	88¾	" "	119	3¼
47	5½	4	90½	" "	99	3½
12	3½	4	92½	" "	134	3¼
11—Score card lost				" "	107	3¼
55	3¼	4½	92¼	" "	160	3¾
56	5	4¼	90¾	" "	107	3¼
57	3¼	5¾	91	" "	115	3½
58	2	5¼	92¾	" "	35	4
59	3½	5	91½	" "	100	4¼
60—Disqualified, down between	toes; died i	n May		" "	108	
13	5¼	5¾	89	" "	113	4
14	4¾	5½	89¾	" "	152	3½
15	5¼	6	88¼	" "	125	3¾
16	4¾	6¼	89	" "	34	4
17—Died in December	5¾	5½	88¾	" "	17	4
18	5¾	5	89¼	" "	148	4
169	4¾	5¾	89½	S. C. R. I. Whites	173	5
170	5¾	3½	90¾	" "	102	6
171—Died in July	4¼	4¾	91½	" "	86	7½
172—Died in June	4¾	4	89¼	" "	95	6
173	5¾	6	90¼	" "	72	4
174	5¼	4½	90	" "	150	6½
25	5	4	91	S. C. W. Leghorns	143	3¾
26	5½	4½	90	" "	146	4
27—Disqualified				" "	163	4¼
28—Died in June	3¼	4¼	92½	" "	112	3¾
29	4½	5½	90	" "	173	3½
30	6¼	5½	88¼	" "	163	3¾
61	3¾	6½	89¾	" "	129	3¾
62	3¼	3¾	93	" "	109	4
63	3½	5½	91	" "	72	4
64	6	6¼	87¾	" "	158	4¼
65	5	4½	90½	" "	72	4½
66	3¾	4¾	91½	" "	159	3¾
133—Died in December	5½	4¼	90¼	S. C. W. Orpingtons		5
134	5¼	4¼	90½	" "	50	6½
135	5¼	3	91¾	" "	98	7
137	6¼	5¾	88	" "	61	7
138—Died in April	5¾	6	88¼	" "	63	6
19	4½	4½	91	S. C. W. Leghorns	137	2¾
20—Never laid an egg	3½	3¾	92¾	" "	0	3½
21	5	4¼	90¾	" "	129	3¼
22	3¾	4½	92	" "	181	3¼
23	5¼	5	98¾	" "	98	3¼
24				" "	72	3¾
45	4½	6	89½	S. C. Buff Leghorn	149	4½
50	2¾	8¼	89	" "	142	4
51	4¼	6¾	89	" "	123	4½
44	4¼	6½	89¼	" "	93	4
43	3¾	8½	87¾	" "	83	4¼
54	3¾	7¾	88½	" "	111	5
109	4	5½	90½	S. C. W. Leghorns	123	4
110—Disqualified, died in Oct				" "	139	4¼
111	4	6		" "	176	4½
112	4¾	2¾	92½	" "	132	4
113—Disqualified				" "	103	4
114	5½	4¼	90¼	" "	85	4½
103—Died in May	3¾	4½	89¾	" "	101	4
104	5½	5¾	88¾	" "	167	4¼
105	3¾	4	92¼	" "	142	3¾
106	4¾	5¾	89½	" "	151	3½
					138	
108	2¾	4¼	93	S. C. W. Leghorns	96	4
115	5¼	5¼	90½	" "	74	4
116—Disqualified, down between	toes.			" "	137	5
117				" "	75	5
118—Died in June	4¾	3¾	91½	" "	109	4
119	4½	4¾	90¾	" "	76	3½
120	5¼	6¼	88½	" "	74	5½
199	5½	3¾	90¾	White Wyandottes	32	6

Table 7.—Total score, judgde according tostandard require ents.

Band Number	Cut for shape. Total.	Cut for color. Total.	Score	Variety	Total eggs produced	Weight
249				" " ...	182	5
201	6	5¼	88¾	" " ...	181	6
202	5½	5¾	88¾	" " ...	145	5
203—Died in March	6¾	5¼	88	" " ...	48	5
204—Died in June	5¼	4½	90¼	" " ...	94	4¾
67—Not in the standard				Sicilian Buttercups...	62	3¾
68—Not in the standard—Died	in Sept.			" " ...	25	4
69—Not in the standard				" " ...	57	4¾
70—Not in the standard				" " ...	50	3
71—Not in the standard				" " ...	67	3¾
72—Not in the standard				" " ...	45	3½

Table 8.—Annual egg-production.

Single Comb Rhode Island Reds.

Owner	Address	Leg-band No.	Individual yearly production.	Pen total
L. C. Gibbon	Ardmore, Okla.	139-140-141-142-143	74-101- 70-131-101	477
C. M. Evans	Bryan, Texas	250-148-150-230-231	154-156-100- 0- 0	669
C. M. Evans	Bryan, Texas	152-153-154-155-156	81-140-127- 97- 29	474
S. C. Richardson	Bryan, Texas	157-158-159-161-162	169- 35-102-106-200	612
R. L. Penick	Stamford, Texas	163-164-165-166-167	131-176-185-108-144	744
R. L. Pou	Bryan, Texas	187-188-189-190-191	152-158-143-137-145	735
Barred Plymouth Rocks.				
F. W. Clark	Van Horn, Texas	127-128-129-131-132	178-145-192-157-119	753
M. A. Lee	Seadrift, Texas	175-176-177-179-180	203-207-152-123-136	822
M. W. Coll	Bryan, Texas	181-183-184-185-186	86- 78- 96- 71-120	451
S. C. R. I. Whites.				
H. E. Caldwell	Canutillo, Texas	169-170-173-174-171	173-102- 85-141- 86	584
White Orpingtons.				
J. S. Hubbard	Fort Worth, Texas	134-135-136-137-138	50- 98- 84- 61- 72	356
White Wyandottes.				
Homan's Farm	Ysleta, Texas	199-201-202-249-204	32-181-145-182- 94	588
S. C. Buff Leghorns.				
Laura Terry	Copperas Cove, Texas...	45- 50- 51- 54- 44	151-142-123-111- 93	618
Sicillian Buttercups.				
I. Freeman	Stephenville, Texas	67- 69- 70- 71- 72	60- 57- 50- 67- 43	261
S. C. White Leghorns.				
Geo. Gray	Boerne, Texas	2- 3- 4- 5- 6	178-137-109-132-135	691
J. A. Baker	Boerne, Texas	9- 10- 11- 12- 47	128-119-107-134- 99	565
R. E. Sharp	Cameron, Texas	13- 14- 15- 16- 18	112-152-125- 34-148	572
C. T. Knudson	Norse, Texas	19- 20- 21- 22- 23	137- 0-129-181- 98	545
A. F. Egger	Paris, Texas	25- 26- 30- 29- 27	143-146-163-173-163	788
C. M. Evans	Bryan, Texas	31- 32- 33- 34- 35	187-130-116-168-105	706
C. M. Evans	Bryan, Texas	37- 38- 39- 40- 41	123-159-169-201- 49	711
D. C. Moore	Houston, Texas	55- 56- 57- 58- 59	160-107-115- 35-100	517
M. Johnson	Bowie, Texas	61- 62- 63- 64- 65	129-109- 72-158- 62	550
Glenview Farm	Bryan, Texas	104-105-106-107-108	167-142-151-135- 96	691
J. Lawler	Bryan, Texas	80- 81- 83- 87- 89	131-120-167-175-161	754
J. Lawler	Bryan, Texas	79- 82- 84- 85- 88	80- 75-136-133-104	528
J. Lawler	Bryan, Texas	91- 92- 93- 94- 95	144-103- 91-148-143	629
J. Lawler	Bryan, Texas	97- 98- 99-100-101	81- 93- 26- 94- 73	367
Eldridge Farm	San Antonio, Texas	109-110-111-112-113	123-139-176-132-103	663
Homan's Farm	Ysleta, Texas	115-116-118-119-120	74-137-100- 75- 74	470
Dr. Hunnicutt	Bryan, Texas	121-122-123-124-125	101-119- 62-118- 89	492
C. H. Williams	Denton, Texas	73- 74- 76- 77- 78	99-116-159- 95-125	594

Table 9.—Pen awards, entire contest.

Awards	Owner	Address	Variety	No. eggs per year
First	M. A. Lee	Seadrift, Texas	Barred Rocks	822
Second	A. F. Egger	Paris, Texas	S. C. W. Leghorns	788
Third	Jordan Lawler	Bryan, Texas	S. C. W. Leghorns	754
Fourth	F. W. Clark	Van Horn, Texas	Barred Rocks	753
Fifth	R. L. Penick	Stamford, Texas	S. C. R. I. Reds	744
Sixth	R. L. Pou	Bryan, Texas	S. C. R. I. Reds	735
Seventh	C. M. Evans	Bryan, Texas	S. C. W. Leghorns	711
Eighth	C. M. Evans	Bryan, Texas	S. C. W. Leghorns	706

Table 10.—Individual awards, entire contest.

First	M. A. Lee	Seadrift, Texas	Barred Rocks	207
Second	M. A. Lee	Seadrift, Texas	Barred Rocks	203
Third	C. M. Evans	Bryan, Texas	S. C. W. Leghorns	201
Fourth	S. C. Richardson	Bryan, Texas	S. C. R. I. Reds	200
Fifth	C. M. Evans	Bryan, Texas	S. C. W. Leghorns	187
Sixth	R. L. Penick	Stamford	S. C. R. I. Reds	185
Seventh	Jordan Lawler	Bryan, Texas	S. C. W. Leghorns	185
Eighth	F. W. Clark	Van Horn, Texas	Barred Rocks	182
Ninth	Homan's Farm	Ysleta, Texas	White Wyandotte	181
Tenth	C. T. Knudson	Norse, Texas	S. C. W. Leghorns	181

Table 11.—Pen awards, entire year, American class.

First	M. A. Lee	Seadrift, Texas	Barred Rocks	822
Second	F. W. Clark	Van Horn, Texas	Barred Rocks	763
Third	R. L. Penick	Stamford, Texas	S. C. R. I. Reds	744
Fourth	R. L. Pou	Bryan, Texas	S. C. R. I. Reds	735

Table 12.—Pen awards, entire year, S. C. R. I. Reds.

First	R. L. Penick	Stamford, Texas	S. C. R. I. Reds	744
Second	R. L. Pou	Bryan, Texas	S. C. R. I. Reds	735
Third	C. M. Evans	Bryan, Texas	S. C. R. I. Reds	669

Table 13.—Pen awards, entire year, Barred Rocks.

First	M. A. Lee	Seadrift, Texas	Barred Rocks	822
Second	F. W. Clark	Van Horn, Texas	Barred Rocks	753

Table 14.—Pen awards, entire year, Mediterranean class.

First	A. F. Egger	Paris, Texas	S. C. W. Leghorns	788
Second	Jordon Lawler	Bryan, Texas	S. C. W. Leghorns	754
Third	C. M. Evans	Bryan, Texas	S. C. W. Leghorns	711
Fourth	C. M. Evans	Bryan, Texas	S. C. W. Leghorns	706
Fifth	Geo. Gray	Boerne, Texas	S. C. W. Leghorns	691
Sixth	Glenview Farm	Bryan, Texas	S. C. W. Leghorns	691
Seventh	Eldridge Farm	San Antonio, Texas	S. C. W. Leghorns	663

Table 15.—Pen awards, entire year, Leghorns.

(Same places as in awards for Mediterranean class.)

Table 16.—Individual awards, entire year, Mediterranean class.

First	C. M. Evans	Bryan, Texas	S. C. W. Leghorns	201
Second	C. M. Evans	Bryan, Texas	S. C. W. Leghorns	187
Third	Jordan Lawler	Bryan, Texas	S. C. W. Leghorns	185
Fourth	C. T. Kundson	Norse, Texas	S. C. W. Leghorns	181
Fifth	Geo. Gray	Boerne, Texas	S. C. W. Leghorns	178
Sixth	Eldridge Farm	San Antonio, Texas	S. C. W. Leghorns	176

Table 17.—Individual awards, entire year, Leghorns.

(Same places as in awards for entire year in Mediterranean class.)

Table 18.—Individual awards, entire year, American class.

First	M. A. Lee	Seadrift, Texas	Barred Rocks	207
Second	M. A. Lee	Seadrift, Texas	Barred Rocks	203
Third	S. C. Richardson	Bryan, Texas	S. C. R. I. Reds	200
Fourth	R. L. Penick	Stamford, Texas	S. C. R. I. Reds	183
Fifth	F. W. Clark	Van Horn, Texas	Barred Rocks	182

Table 19.—Individual awards, entire year, S. C. R. I. Reds.

Awards	Owner.	Address	Variety	No. eggs per year
First	S. C. Richardson	Bryan, Texas	S. C. R. I. Reds	200
Second	R. L. Penick	Stamford, Texas	S. C. R. I. Reds	185
Third	R. L. Penick	Stamford, Texas	S. C. R. I. Reds	176

Table 20.—Individual awards, entire year, Barred Rocks.

First	M. A. Lee	Seadrift, Texas	Barred Rocks	207
Second	M. A. Lee	Seadrift, Texas	Barred Rocks	203
Third	F. W. Clark	Van Horn, Texas	Barred Rocks	182

CORRELATION OF FEED CONSUMPTION AND EGG PRODUCTION

Tables 5 and 6 clearly show the correlation of the feed consumption with the egg production. During the month of March the birds consumed the most feed and produced the greatest number of eggs. It took approximately 150 pounds of feed to produce thirty dozen, or one case of eggs. In April it took about 130 pounds of feed to produce thirty dozen eggs. In May it took 122 pounds of feed to produce thirty dozen eggs.

In June, July, August, September, and October the birds consumed the smallest amount of feed and also produced the least number of eggs. In February, March, April, and May the birds consumed the greatest amount of feed and produced the largest number of eggs.

From this it may safely be concluded that during the period of heaviest feed consumption there is also the greatest egg production.

PERIOD OF PRODUCTION

Figure 6 shows that there were approximately 16⅛ eggs produced per hen in March, 14 in April, 11 in February, 14⅛ in May, 9½ in June, 7⅛ in July, 5¾ in August, 2⅕ in September, 3 in October, 5⅘ in November, 5¾ in December, and 6½ in January.

MARKETING THE PRODUCT

The eggs were marketed in Bryan for whatever was the current price. In many places, near some of the larger cities, a higher price could have been obtained. For this reason, the profit over cost of feed, as shown in a foregoing table, is no more than can be expected from the average farm flock when given intelligent care and systematic management.

BROODINESS

It was found that the S. C. Rhode Island Reds showed the highest number of broody birds. The Barred Plymouth Rocks came next. The Leghorns seldom become broody.

DISQUALIFIED BIRDS

There were sixteen birds disqualified out of a total of 192. By far the greatest number of disqualifications were because of down, feathers,

or stubs on shanks, toes or between toes. A few were disqualified on account of side sprigs on the comb.

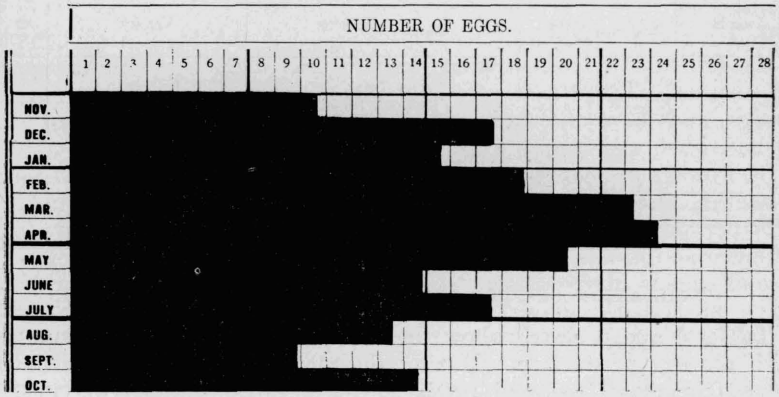

FIGURE 4—MONTHLY PRODUCTION OF TEN BEST PULLETS

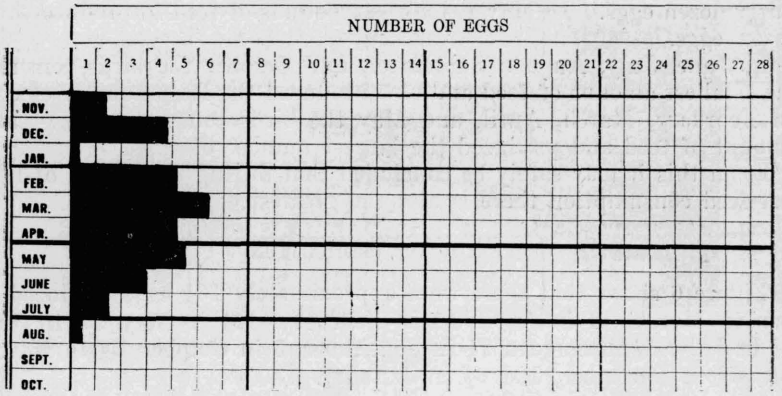

FIGURE 5—AVERAGE MONTHLY PRODUCTION OF TEN POOREST PULLETS

It is clearly evident that it is possible to breed for both egg production and exhibition purposes. To advocate anything else would be the greatest mistake. It is also clear that egg production may be bred into any breed or variety, and that it is not confined to any particular breed.

The primary benefit of the egg-laying contest is the encouragement it gives to the breeding of poultry for increased egg production. No doubt the time is not far away when one may expect to see many such contests in the various parts of the State. In fact, it is not unreasonable to expect that egg-laying competitions will be held in connection with many of the county poultry shows. Schools teaching agriculture will find them interesting.

BREED FOR WINTER EGG PRODUCTION

Studying the yearly egg records shows that the high producers lay in the fall and winter, when eggs are worth more than in the spring and summer. The good layers have two advantages: the larger number of eggs, and the increased value of the eggs, due to the fact that they are laid when they are worth the most.

The average price of eggs for the six fall and winter months—October, November, December, January, February, and March—was forty-eight cents per dozen. The average price of eggs for the six spring and summer months was thirty-six cents per dozen. This year (1919) the price of eggs is much higher than foregoing quotations.

The ten best hens in the contest averaged ninety-five eggs during the six fall and winter months, an amount worth $3.80. The ten poorest

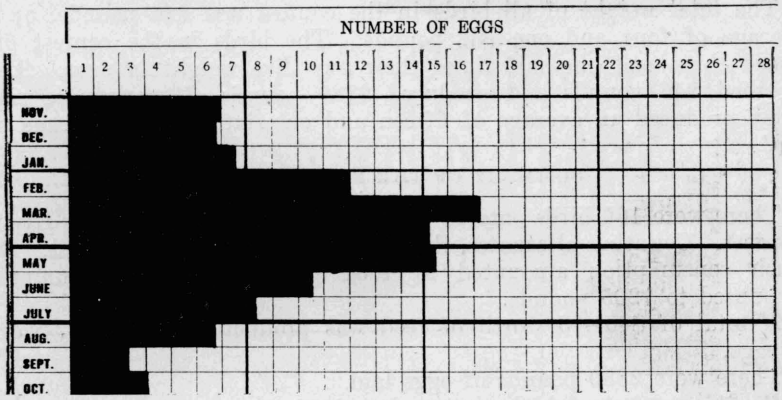

FIGURE 6—AVERAGE MONTHLY PRODUCTION OF EGGS FOR ENTIRE CONTEST

hens in the contest averaged sixteen and one-half eggs during the six fall and winter months, an amount worth sixty-six cents.

The ten best hens averaged ninety-six eggs during the six spring and summer months, an amount worth $2.88. The ten poorest hens averaged fourteen eggs during the six spring and summer months, an amount worth forty-two cents.

From the foregoing it may be learned that the ten best hens averaged about as many eggs in the winter as in the summer months, but their winter egg production was worth $1.00 more per bird, on account of the increased price.

The good producers layed in October and November. The average October monthly production for the ten best birds was 13.4 eggs per bird. The average October monthly production for the ten poorest hens was 0. Practically all of the good layers commenced their productiveness in November.

The average production per hen per year for the entire contest was 121 eggs. This is not a particularly good record, but when one con-

siders that this was the first contest ever held in Texas and that at times it was impossible to get feed at any price, the records are about as good as could be expected. There is no question that the average yearly production, under more favorable conditions, would have been increased at least twenty eggs per bird.

COST OF PRODUCING EGGS

The feed consumption averaged 5⅓ pounds in every dozen eggs. It cost an average price of twenty-two cents for feed to produce this number of eggs. The eggs sold for an average price of forty-two cents. The feed consumption averaged three and one-half pounds for the production of every pound of eggs.

WEIGHT OF THE BIRDS

The total weight of all birds in the contest was 846 pounds, or an average of four and one-half pounds. The birds in the contest produced three and one-half times their own live weight in eggs. They weighed 846 pounds and produced 2880 pounds of marketable eggs. They produced an average of fifteen and one-sixth pounds of eggs per bird.

SUMMARY OF THE FIRST CONTEST

There were 160 birds entered in the first Texas National Egg-Laying Contest. Counting alternates, there were 192 birds in the contest. Dry mash consumption amounted to 4751 pounds. Grain consumption amounted to 7205 pounds.

A total of $401.73 worth of feed was productive of $780.37 worth of eggs.

There were 2880 pounds of eggs laid.

Profit over cost of feed amounted to $378.64.

ANNOUNCEMENT OF A SECOND CONTEST

At the annual meeting of the Texas Poultry Raisers' Association at College Station, July, 1918, the members expressed hearty approval of the success of the first contest, and were unanimously in favor of a second contest.

The following contest committee was elected for a term of one year: F. W. Kazmeier, chairman; D. C. Moore, Houston: R. E. Caldwell, Canutillo; George Gray, Boerne; Lilian Hazle, College Station. The association re-elected F. W. Kazmeier as director.

One new house has been built for use of the second contest. This brief review brings the history of the Texas National Egg-Laying Contest up to date.