

What the Poultry Breeding Contest Means to Arizona

The first year-around poultry breeding contest in Arizona, which was inaugurated by Professor R. B. Thompson at the University Poultry Experiment Farm at Tucson in November, 1922, has recently closed.

compare the production of his hens with those of other flocks over the state. Then, too, the contest provides definite means for a poultryman who does not trapnest of getting a trapnest record on certain

that there are fine opportunities in poultry for the man who will build up his flock and then use modern feeding methods.

The second contest is now in progress. There are twenty pens and the hens have gotten off to a flying start, indicating that records of the first year will be smashed. Poultrymen from all parts of the state have entries and are watching the competition with the keenest interest.



POULTRY RANCH NEAR TUCSON

The contest had nineteen pens with six birds in each pen competing. Hen No. 56, from the pen of W. Griffith of Hayden, laid 263 eggs during the twelve months and won first prize. The Griffith pen won first place with 1,239 eggs for the year, or an average of 247 eggs per bird for five birds in the pen.

Entered in the contest were Leghorns, Anconas, Rhode Island Reds and Minorcas. Careful trapnest and feeding records were kept during the entire contest.

The results of the contest show some very definite facts concerning the possibilities of poultry raising in Arizona. The contest was valuable, not only from the standpoint of definite data on egg production and feed, but also it gave the poultryman who trapnests an opportunity to pullets he might wish to use as next years breeders.

Some of the outstanding facts gained from the contest may be summarized here very briefly:

The average production in the Leghorn variety was 198.4 eggs per bird per year. For Anconas the production was 164, for Minorcas, 160 and for Rhode Island Reds 159.2 eggs per bird.

The average production per year for all breeds in the contest was 185 eggs, a very remarkable record.

The feed cost per bird per year was \$1.87 cents for the Leghorns, \$1.68 for the Anconas, \$2.01 for the Minorcas and \$2.06 for the Reds.

The total feed consumed per bird was 78 pounds for the Leghorns, 70.3 pounds for Anconas, 83 pounds for Minorcas and 86 pounds for the Reds.

The average profit per bird for the contest was \$5.45 above the cost of feed. Surely this would indicate

C. B. Brown, county agricultural agent of Pima county, is making an appeal to the farmers to interest them in the promotion of hatcheries. There is a demand in Arizona in general, as well as in Pima county, for hatcheries. At present Arizona draws on California hatcheries for quite a number of baby chicks.

The next issue will feature poultry and live stock.

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