

ARIZONA'S FIFTH EGG LAYING CONTEST

Harry Embleton, B.S.

High Pen in the Contest Averages 273.4 Eggs per Bird; Results of the Contest as Applied to Commercial Production

THE fifth Arizona Egg Laying Contest at the University of Arizona ended October 31, 1927, with an average production of 214 eggs per bird. This represents 58.7 per cent production for the entire year, and 2.3 per cent better production than was obtained in last year's contest.

The following table will give at a glance the results in the first five Arizona Egg Laying Contests:

Year	Eggs per bird	Eggs high hen	Average high hen	% over 200	% Mortality
1922-23	196.6	263	247	39	14.0
1923-24	204.9	274	252	42	14.1
1924-25	191.4	291	245.8	36.4	17.9
1925-26	205.8	307	249.9	54.7	16.6
1926-27	213.4	319	273.4	58.5	15.3

The above is an index as to the progress being made in breeding and management of poultry in Arizona. The fact that only state breeders are admitted to the Arizona contest makes the showing more creditable.

One of the outstanding features of the contest just ended was the fact that one of A. C. Wrenn's White Leghorn hens laid 319 eggs. This is the second hen in Arizona to have an official trapnest record at the contest of over 300 eggs in 365 days. The high individual of last year's contest laid 307 eggs.

A. C. Wrenn of Florence, Arizona owned the winning pen which laid 2734 eggs or an average of 273.4 eggs per bird. The highest pen in any of the contests in the United States laid only three eggs per bird better than did this pen. The best pen in any Arizona contest prior to the fifth averaged only 252 eggs. Carl Slater's pen was the next highest in the contest having a record of 2461 eggs or an average production of 246.1 eggs per bird. Lee Apel's pen finished third in the contest with a production of 2447 eggs, or an average of 244.7 eggs per bird. All of the above hens were single comb White Leghorns.

In the heavy class of birds, H. L. Schornick of Tempe, Arizona won honors with his pen of single comb Rhode Island Reds. This pen's production was 2356 eggs or an average of 235.6 eggs per bird, finishing fifth in the entire contest. Second place



The Winner of the Third Egg Laying Contest at the University of Arizona

in the heavy class went to the pen of single comb Rhode Island Reds owned by John K. Moeur also of Tempe, Arizona. This pen laid 2107 eggs or an average of 210.7 eggs per bird. Phil Hershey's pen of single comb Rhode Island Reds came third in the heavy class with a production of 1845 eggs or an average of 18.4 eggs per bird.

The following table gives a list of some of the highest individuals in both classes:

Light Class	
A. C. Wrenn's hen number 186	319 eggs
A. C. Wrenn's hen number G-360	293 eggs
Carl Slater's hen number 211	281 eggs
Carl Slater's hen number 215	281 eggs
Heavy Class	
H. L. Schornick's hen number 19	280 eggs
John K. Moeur's hen number 175	272 eggs
H. L. Schornick's hen number 23	269 eggs
H. L. Schornick's hen number 17	257 eggs
H. L. Schornick's hen number 22	257 eggs

An interesting comparison of how the egg production was distributed throughout the individuals of the contest for the last two years is here-with given.

	1925-26	1926-27
Number laying 300 eggs or over	1	1
Number laying 275-300 eggs	8	5
Number laying 250-275 eggs	21	32
Number laying 225-250 eggs	32	35
Number laying 200-225 eggs	42	46
Number laying 175-200 eggs	30	43
Number laying 150-175 eggs	32	26
Number laying 125-150 eggs	16	17
Number laying 100-125 eggs	5	6
Number laying 75-100 eggs	3	4

Although not having quite as many producers in the 275-300 class as in 1925-26 the contest just ending shows that on the whole the birds have a greater average production as a group, and indicates that the owners have used the records of previous entries in the contest in their breeding pens to advantage.

Besides the aid rendered breeders throughout the state in building up their flocks for high production, the contest has another important purpose and that is the accumulation of experimental data from which

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Delinted seed should be planted at the same depth that linted seed would be planted under the same conditions. If the ground is wet and heavy at the time of planting, or if it is in good tilth but rains are likely, the seed should be placed in a shallow bed. In lighted soils which do not "bake" and with prospects of dry weather the seed should be planted deeper, down to an inch and a half or two inches.

The quantity of seed necessary to secure a good stand varies with the condition of the soil. Under the most favorable conditions seven pounds per acre produced a fine stand. In general fifteen to twenty pounds per acre is the rule. Care must be taken in adjusting the planter, otherwise the delinted seed which is as smooth as coffee "beans" will run through the machine at the rate of sixty to ninety pounds per acre.

J. G. Brown,
Plant Pathologist.

Locate good sources of high grade seed now. Don't wait until nearly planting time.

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valuable information can be derived. Questions of the nature of which is the most economical breed to be kept or the best combinations of breeds can possibly be determined from such information, however, one must remember that determinations of this kind can only be made by a careful study of results obtained over a number of years as there are so many factors entering which may throw one year's results off.

The following table will compare the last two years of the contest, in the amount of feed consumed per bird, and the amount of feed consumed by the different breeds in producing a dozen eggs.

	Feed Consumed Per Bird	
	1925-26	1926-27
White Leghorns	70 lb.	72.7 lb.
Rhode Island Reds	78 lb.	79.7 lb.
Anconas	65 lb.	63.6 lb.
	Feed Necessary to Produce One Dozen Eggs	
	1925-26	1926-27
White Leghorns	3.8 lb.	3.9 lb.
Rhode Island Reds	4.9 lb.	4.8 lb.
Anconas	4.7 lb.	4.2 lb.

The average feed cost per bird for 12 months by breeds is as follows:

	1925-26	1926-27
White Leghorns	\$2.12	\$2.19
Rhode Island Reds	2.34	2.43
Anconas	1.98	1.94

The feed cost to produce one dozen eggs according to breeds is as follows:

	1925-26	1926-27
White Leghorns	\$.115	\$.117
Rhode Island Reds	.148	.144
Anconas	.14	.128

The feed cost per dozen eggs depends upon the amount of production as well as the price of feed per pound. The greater the average production from a given number of hens, the less is the feed cost per dozen.

The price of feed per hundred pounds of mash was \$3.40, and for grain \$2.87 per hundred.

It must be remembered that the stock in this contest is far above the average in production, and too, the fact that there are only thirteen birds to an entry, gives the birds a great advantage over commercial flocks.

The figures herein contained, however, should be an incentive for commercial poultrymen to pay more heed to their foundation stock, and to the smaller details of their business.

FOOD FOR THOUGHT

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production seems to be entirely up to the individual farmers, with the assistance of the boll weevil which, though unknown in the Southwest, assisted materially through its operation in other districts, in enabling cotton farmers of this section to obtain a fair price for their product this last year.

—Southwestern Stockman-Farmer.

A HOME FRUIT VEGETABLE GARDEN

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home orchard is selected.

A great deal of satisfaction can be derived from a good home garden and fruit plantation. If you have not given special thought to this matter before, now is the time to work out a plan and put it into operation this spring.

Until lambs are five or six weeks old all their feed should be coarsely ground or crushed.

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