

Poultry Production Summary, 1998 *By J. Scott Lemmons*

The combined value of Pennsylvania's poultry production from broilers, eggs and turkeys, plus the value of chicken sales in 1998, was \$662.2 million, a 3 percent decrease over 1997. Of the combined total, 46 percent was from egg production, 40 percent from broiler production, 13 percent from turkey production, and 1 percent was from the sale of other chickens.

Inventory of all chickens, excluding broilers, on December 1, 1998, was 28.5 million. Hens and pullets of laying age numbered 22.7 million, 2 percent below the previous year. Hens and pullets of laying age included 10.4 million hens one year old and over and 12.3 million pullets of laying age. Pullets not of laying age totaled 5.7 million on December 1. Pullets not of laying age included 2.5 million pullets, 3 months old and older, and 3.2 million under 3 months of age. Other chickens numbered 105,000. Total value of chicken inventory on December 1, 1998, was \$48.4 million. Pennsylvania ranked 6th in the United States for all chicken inventory on December 1, 1998.

Pennsylvania laying flocks produced 5.98 billion eggs from December 1, 1997, through November 30, 1998, slightly more than the previous year. Total value of egg production based on an average price received by producers during the year of 61.0 cents per dozen for all eggs was \$304.1 million, down 5 percent from the previous year. An average of 22.0 million hens in Commonwealth flocks laid an average of 271 eggs each during the year. Pennsylvania ranked 3rd in egg production in 1998.

Broiler production from December 1, 1997, through November 30, 1998, was valued at \$266,074,000, up 3

percent from 1997. A total of 135.5 million broilers were produced during the year.

Average live weight of broilers produced was 5.1 pounds per bird, for a total production of 691,100,000 pounds. The average price received per pound for live broilers was 38.5 cents. Pennsylvania ranked 15th in number of broilers produced in 1998.

Turkey producers raised 10.5 million poult during 1998, compared with 11.6 million produced in 1997. Producers received an average of 38.0 cents per pound live weight for turkeys in 1998. Total value of turkey production from December 1, 1997, through November 30, 1998, was \$88.6 million. Pennsylvania ranked 9th in number of turkeys produced in 1998.

Commercial hatcheries hatched nearly 150.8 million broiler-type chicks during 1998, down less than the previous year. Egg-type chicks hatched totaled 64.3 million for 1998, 13 percent more than in 1997. Pennsylvania ranked 2nd in egg-type chickens hatched and 11th in broiler-type chicks hatched.

Data in the following tables result from voluntary responses from Pennsylvania poultry producers and agri-businesses. Primary surveys used for these tables include the Weekly & Monthly Hatchery Reports, Monthly Turkey Hatchery Report, Monthly Chicken & Egg Survey, and Annual Turkeys Raised Inquiry. Additional data are obtained from Quarterly Agriculture Surveys and Acreage & Livestock Surveys conducted throughout 1998.

Pennsylvania: Value of Poultry Production, 1998

