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EC1406 Nebraska Increases Yearly Egg Production per Hen

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July
1951

Nebraska

E. C. 1406

COOPERATIVE EXTENSION WORK
IN AGRICULTURE AND HOME ECONOMICS

U. of N. Agr. College & U. S. Dept. of Agr. Cooperating
W. V. Lambert, Director, Lincoln

NEBRASKA INCREASES YEARLY EGG PRODUCTION PER HEN

The increased efficiency in egg production per hen in Nebraska has been due to improved breeding, feeding and management methods.

The system of introducing the blood lines from breeding stock with record of performance ancestry into the key flocks, that produce hatching eggs has gained in popularity. Flock selecting agents have culled the unprofitable type hens from the breeding flocks that furnish the eggs to the progressive hatcheries. The preliminary selection of breeding males for rugged growth and rapid feathering while they are still in the broiler stage has recently been adopted as a means of securing greater uniformity and stamina in the laying flocks. A continuous culling program has been adopted by many flock owners which removes the less persistent winter layers from the pullet flocks before the start of the regular hatching season.

Research workers have made remarkable progress in analyzing the nutritional requirements of growing chicks and laying hens. Industry has been quick to apply the new knowledge. Present day feeds are more uniform and complete than those used ten years ago. The feeding practices which flock owners are now using are quite uniform. This is largely due to the modern procedure in dispensing information.

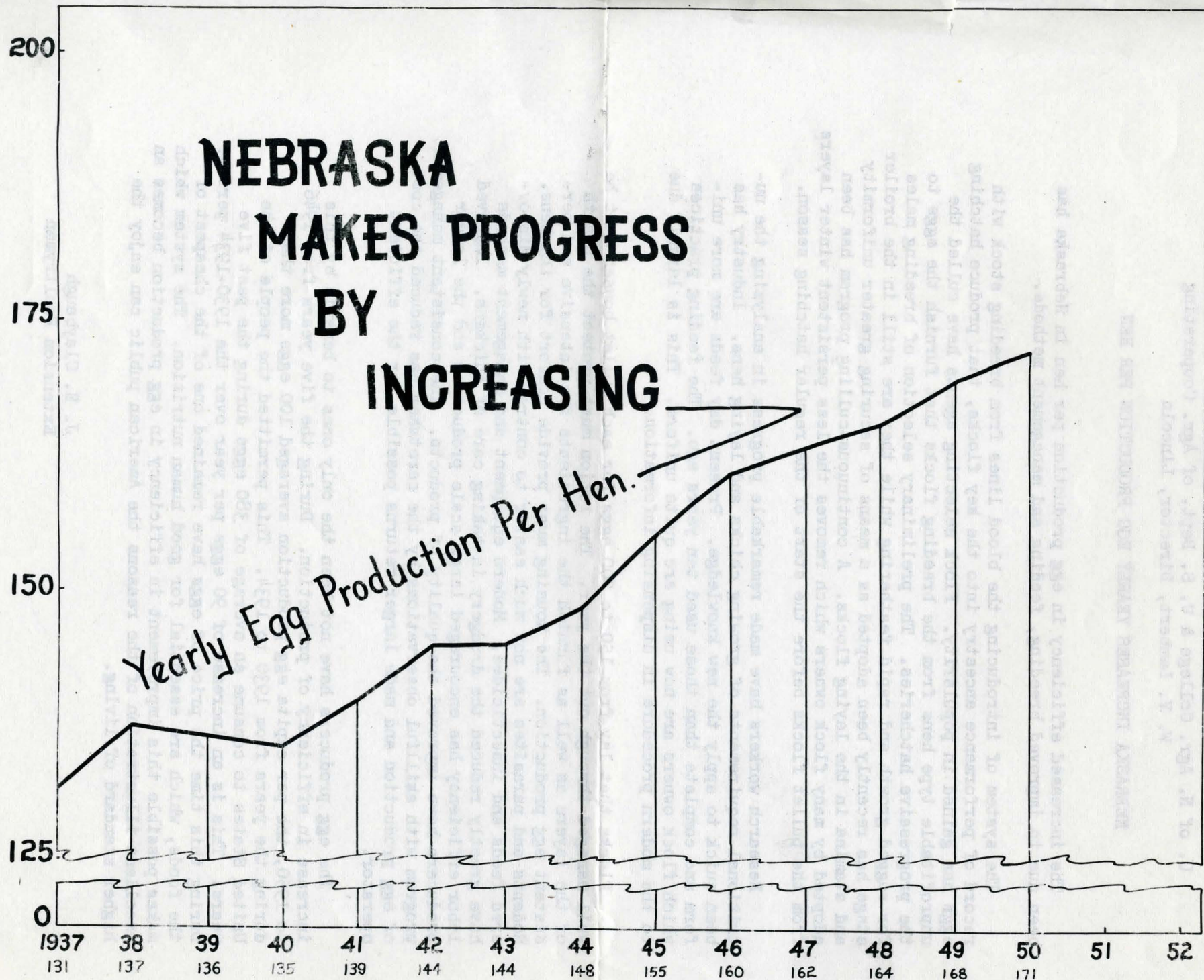
Flocks that lay from 150 to 200 eggs for each pullet housed must be well managed through out the year. The ration must protect the health of the layers as well as furnish the ingredients for intensive and persistent egg production. The housing must provide comfort for the hens. Rodents and parasites are now much easier to control with newly discovered feeds and insecticides. Modern equipment and management methods have greatly reduced the drudgery in taking care of chickens. Improved labor efficiency has encouraged large scale production and the larger producers have improved the quality of products. The consistent management program with skillful observations by the caretaker has reduced the cost of egg production and made larger returns possible for the efficient operator.

The egg producers have not been the only ones to benefit by this increase in efficiency of production. During the five years from 1946 to 1950, the per capita egg production averaged 100 eggs more than during the years from 1930 to 1934. This permitted the people of the United States to consume an average of 380 eggs during the past five years. This is an increase of 90 eggs per year over the 1930-1934 period. During this time the price of eggs have remained one of the cheapest of the foods, which are essential for good human nutrition. The system which makes possible this improvement in efficiency in egg production becomes an excellent illustration of the reasons the American public can enjoy the higher standard of living.

J. H. Claybaugh
Extension Poultryman

NEBRASKA MAKES PROGRESS BY INCREASING

Yearly Egg Production Per Hen.



EGGS PER HEN BASED ON SUM OF MONTHLY AVERAGES—BAE—USDA