

## 2021 December Annual Chicken and Egg Report Information

### General:

Project Code: 158 - Poultry Survey

Questionnaires: Mailed November 19<sup>th</sup>

Release: Chickens and Eggs – Annual Summary, February 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2022

### Terms and Definitions:

**Broiler:** Domestic chickens of meat-type strains raised for meat production

**Hen:** Female chicken usually more than one year old

**Layer:** A female chicken (including those being molted) which have laid a marketable egg

**Molt:** A process during which hens stop laying and shed their feathers. Occurs naturally every 12 months or may be artificially induced

**Pullet:** A female chicken which has not yet laid a marketable egg, intended for a laying flock.

**Rendered:** Birds sent to a rendering plant (protein recovery plant) for conversion into meat meal, used in poultry by-products such as pet food.

**Rooster:** Male chicken usually kept for breeding purposes.

Birds are pullets until they produce a marketable egg – approximately 16-20 weeks old for table egg layers. Hatchery supply birds, especially broiler-type stay pullets significantly longer; up to 26 weeks of age. It is unusual for hatchery supply birds to be molted, especially broiler-type. The length of time layers are in the flock depend on the operation's molting practices. In the current business climate, it is unusual for operations to molt their birds more than once. It can happen but it is exceedingly rare.

Large Table egg flocks will turn over at a rate of approximately 6.5% per month. Hatchery Supply flocks turn over at about 10 per month. Small table egg flocks will turn over approximately 78% per year but farms typically turn over whole barns.

Death losses are variable by layer type: Table egg can be as low as 0.5% while hatchery supply can be 1.5% per month.