

15 Chicken and Eggs

15.1 General

In 2006, chicken and egg questions were removed from the December Crops APS Survey and data were collected in a new survey, independent of the Crops APS program.

As of the 2010 December survey period, the non-EO (short form) questionnaire was eliminated because the sample was re-stratified. One December chicken questionnaire is utilized for the EO group that includes all the existing monthly EO operations (table egg operations with 30,000 and more layers, any size hatchery type flock, or pullet only operations with over 500 birds) plus all contractors and independent growers who own flocks of table egg layers between 20,000 and 30,000 birds.

Table Eggs are infertile eggs for human consumption. The end use may be cartons (like what is purchased in a supermarket) or breakers (for liquid eggs or egg products.) NASS does not ask end use of table (also called market) eggs. NASS asks for inventory, moltings, production and a couple other items having to do with the disposition of the layers at end of life.

Hatchery Supply Eggs are fertile eggs. These come in two varieties: broiler-type and egg-type. Depending on the survey program, additional criteria maybe applied in order to determine if they are counted. For the C&E program, the fact they are produced is enough. We count any layer that is producing fertile eggs no matter what is going to happen to it. The hatchery supply program, the egg needs to be set into setter/hatcher with the intention of hatching.

All chickens owned by the target name operator or operation, regardless of location, should be reported on the December Chickens and Eggs questionnaire. Reporters are requested to break data out by state. For example, if an operation is in Arkansas but has contractees housing the birds in Arkansas, Oklahoma, and Missouri, then a separate survey form should be completed with inventory, production, disposition, and value responses specific to each state. If complete breakdown by state is refused, obtain an inventory percentage by state, and make a note.

NOTE: The EO December Chicken & Egg questionnaire replaces the typical monthly chickens and eggs questionnaire used January-November. The December annual questionnaire asks the same inventory, production, and disposition questions plus additional questions for values and rooster inventory. Chicken inventory and value estimates are published in the annual Chickens and Eggs Summary in February.

In November 2011, two questions were added to the monthly and annual questionnaires. Question 4 asks for replacements (new layers) added to the laying flock over the previous month.

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This question is especially important for those operations which do not report or have pullets. Ask the respondent where they get their replacements (firm name and state) and put the info in a note if they are willing to disclose. Do not jeopardize cooperation on the rest of the form for this question. Question 7b asks for pullets older than 3 days added to the pullet flock. Firms that consistently report pullets (question 6) but never report pullets added 3 days or less (question 7a) should be able to answer this question. It is possible to have values in both 7a and 7b. If 7b is positive, try to get a response for 7b, the supplier. Again, do not jeopardize cooperation on the rest of the form for questions 7a and 7b.