

Please put your  
name on back

PS 371

Spring 1997

- | (Pts.)        | Question   |
|---------------|--|
| (6)           | 1. Explain the normal yearly variation in feed prices in the United States:  |
| (8)           | 2. Explain the normal yearly variation in the price of large eggs in the United States:  |
| (12)          | 3. When is the price spread between large and medium eggs greatest, and what causes it?  |
| (2 ea<br>= 8) | 4. What physical factors most influence the egg production function? ( <b>Hint:</b> What factors are included in the equation to predict feed consumption or metabolizable energy intake?) |
|               | _____  |
|               | _____  |
| (10)          | 5. Draw the production functions for flocks of hens with two different body sizes (use a line graph and label each axis):  |
| (5)           | 6. What would be the disadvantages if hens could be effectively molted without any weight loss?  |
| (10)          | 7. When must the decision to replace or force molt be made in comparison to the action?  |

The United Egg Producers recommended individual producers: 1) send their birds to market early in May and June, and 2) keep molting flocks out of lay longer. How would this affect the profitability of current flocks?

How and why could it affect the profitability of future flocks? (Be very specific.)

(3 ea) 8. **Define:**

**Forced Molting -**

**National Poultry Improvement Plan -**

**Pelleted Feed -**

**Hen-Housed Egg Production -**

(10) 9. **We noted in class that the real cost of milling feed actually declined from the middle 1970's to the middle 1990's despite an increase in the proportion of feeds pelleted. During the same time the cost of hatching broiler chicks increased several fold. What caused the major difference?**

(10) 10. **Assume that a company normally replaces its flocks at 52 weeks of age: If they expect the value of eggs to be increased in the future (due to increased export demands), how would they maximize output? [Would they tend to replace earlier or later? This is a short-term question considering you can't buy more cages.]**

**And how could they react if they expected the price of feed to increase long-term (perhaps due to a political decision to relax price supports)?**

(5) 11. **On the accompanying printout, how long would you keep the flock if it was not to be replaced (going out of business)?**

\_\_\_\_\_ weeks

(5) **How long would you keep it if it was to be replaced?**

\_\_\_\_\_ weeks