

ECONOMICS OF EGG PRODUCTION  
IN COAST PROVINCE - KENYA

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by

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ABSTRACT

Egg production is being encouraged in Kenya because of the realization that more sources of protein need to be exploited to feed the increasing population.

The study on the economics of egg production was conducted in the Coast Province of Kenya with the following specific objectives: (i) to estimate the cost of producing an egg (ii) to determine the investment worth of egg production units of different sizes.

A random sample of seventy producers was selected for detailed enquiry after stratifying all the producers in the Province into three size groups namely, (1) those with 0 - 400 layers (2) those with 401 - 800 layers and (3) those with over 800 layers. Each producer in the sample was interviewed personally using designed standard questionnaire schedule.

Using data collected, the cost of producing an egg was estimated for egg production units with 100, 600 and 1,000 layers. Investment worth analysis for the three egg production units was also carried out.

Results of the cost analysis revealed that the cost of producing an egg decreases as the size of production unit increases. Calculations of gross income, gross margin, net income and income per hen housed showed an increasing trend with the size of the production unit. Investment worth analysis carried out for three egg production units with 100, 600 and 1,000 layers showed that it was not worth investing in an egg production unit with 100 layers, while it was worth investing in the other two units with 600 and 1,000 layers. However, a sensitivity test carried out on the unit with 100 layers by reducing fee prizes it was worth investing in the unit.