Small Flock Layer Budget - 100 hens, 2 years production (1)

Item	Unit	Amount	Price	Total
Income				
Dozen eggs produced (2)	Dozen	3200	$ 3.50	$ 11,200.00
Stewing hens		90	10	$ 900.00
Total income				$ 12,100.00
Cash expenses				
Chicks (3)	per chick	100	$ 2.25	$ 225.00
Feed				
Chick starter (4)	50 lb bag	5	$ 15.00	$ 75.00
Early bird grower (4)	50 lb. bag	12	$ 14.00	$ 168.00
Layer feed (4)	50 lb bag	240	$ 13.00	$ 3,120.00
Heat bulb (5)	bulb	1	$ 7.00	$ 7.00
Cartons	carton	3200	$ 0.40	$ 1,280.00
Mileage to slaughter facility (6)	miles	40	$ 0.50	$ 20.00
Slaughter fee (7)	per bird	90	$ 2.50	$ 225.00
Total expenses				$ 5,120.00
Total cash expense per dozen				$ 1.60
Income over cash expenses				$ 6,980.00
Other required resources				
Housing startup costs (8)				$ 1,500.00
Feeder & waterer startup costs (9)				$ 100.00
Labor hours (10)		0.5 hrs/day	730 days	365
Income over cash expenses per hour				$ 19.12
Assumptions				

This budget was developed by Dale Johnson, University of Maryland Extension. It is based on his personal experience and discussions with other small flock producers. Small Flock production is highly variable. Good management is important for efficiency. Some producers will be much less efficient than what is reflected in this budget. Others may be more efficient.

(1)This budget is based on a two year lifespan. Some producers keep hens 3-4 years but but egg production will diminish dramatically.

(2) Out of two years, 180 days are required for raising chicks and molting. Production is calculated as 550 days x 100 hens x 70% yield. A 10% mortality over the life of the flock is factored into the egg yield. This egg yield also assumes supplemental lighting in the winter.

(3) Chick prices are variable among national mail order hatcheries, local hatcheries, and agricultura supply stores. This budget is based on a good layer type breed.

(4) Bagged feed from reputable feed company. The feed conversion is 4 pounds of feed to 1 dozen eggs. The ratio assumes the layers have access to pasture where they get some nutrition. The feed ratio assumes the layers have access to pasture where they get some nutrition.

(5) Heat bulbs generally last one flock. Careful handling may extend life.

(6) Some small flock producers prefer to have birds slaughtered by someone else. If this is your desire, then make sure there is a facility within reasonable distance.

(7) 90 stewing hens based on 10% mortality over life of flock.

(8) Housing expenses are highly variable. This budget includes a chicken coop and poly wire netting electric fence. Coop - $1,000 and fencing - $500 will last several years.

(9) Feeders and waterers at estimated cost of $100 will last several years.

(10) 30 minutes a day for feeding, watering, and collecting, washing, packaging eggs.

Do your own budget to calculate net income and costs

Small Flock Layer Budget (1)

Item	Unit	Amount	Price	Total
Income				
Dozen eggs produced (2)				
Stewing hens				
Total income				
Cash expenses				
Chicks (3)				
Chick starter (4)				
Early bird grower (4)				
Layer feed (4)				
Heat bulb (5)				
Mileage to slaughter facility (6)				
Slaughter fee (7)				
Cartons				
Other expense (8)				
Other expense (9)				
Miscellaneous expenses				
Total expenses				
Total cash expense per dozen				
Income over cash expenses				
Other required resources				
Housing startup costs (10)				
Feeder & waterer startup costs (11)				
Labor hours (12)				
Income over cash expenses per hour				
Assumptions				

(1)
(2)
(3)
(4)
(5)
(6)
(7)
(8)
(9)
(10)
(11)
(12)