

Rungthip Thipkhosithkun. 2002. *Layer Raising Business in Tambon Banklang, Amphoe Muang, Changwat Nakhon Phanom*. An Independent Study Report for the Master of Science in Agribusiness, Graduate School, Khon Kaen University. [ISBN 974-328-067-7]

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Abstract

The objective of this research is to study the general production condition of laying-hen farming, its cost of production and return, the farm by-product, management of labor; production; marketing; and finance as well as the problems and solutions in running laying-hen farming. A simple random sampling was made on 59 laying hen farmers to get 18 representative samples (30% of total) and the study was conducted using a questionnaire. The results were analyzed in total, percentage, arithmetic mean, maximum and minimum values using Microsoft Excel. The expected out courses of the study will be used in laying – hen business planning and development and will provide the concerning sectors of basic data on laying hen farming.

Results of the study indicated that all of the head of the farming families were male with the average age of 43.11 years. 94.44 percent of them had finished the primary school. The average family member number was 4.55. Laying-hen raising was their main occupation while rice farming was the second alternative. Most of the farmers held the average of 4.83 rai of land in which 1.94 rai was used for laying-hen. The farmers had the average of 6.33 years in laying-hen business. The average total expenditure per household was 656,330.26 THB per year in which 86.46% were spent on the laying-hen raising. The average total income per family was 712,116.78 THB in which 88% was from egg selling and this accounted for the average net profit of 58,786.52 THB per family. The average net profit of raising laying-hens was 110,839.45 per family. Most families had an average of 167,111.11 THB of deficit debt per family.

The general business management skill of the farmers was assessed to be at a medium level ($\bar{X}=11.93$). Their business management in each categories can be verified as followed:-

1) 94.44% of labor management was assessed to be at a medium level ($\bar{X}=1.99$) while 5.56% had no management on labors.

2) The production management was assessed to be at a medium level ($\bar{X}=1.92$) in which 83.33% was assessed as medium, 5.56% as good and 11.11% had no management.

3) The general marketing management was assessed as medium level ($\bar{X}=1.69$) in which 50% was assessed as good and 50% had no management.

4) The financial management was assessed to be at a medium level in which 66.66% was assessed as medium 27.78 THB as good and 5.56% had no management.

The most important problem in laying-hen production was the high cost of chicken-feed and the annual increasing price of the raw material resulting in the high production cost. House flies could be problematic in the rainy season. Marketing problems were mostly relating to the unstable pricing of the eggs and the farmers had no bargaining power.

The total cost in hen-raising per family was 119,239.14 THB or 523.96 THB per hen. The total income from raising a hen was 524.84 THB which gave a net profit of 18.88 THB per hen. The farmers could sell the egg at a price of 1.57 THB per egg and the hen could lay 311 eggs per year. The production cost per egg was 1.51 THB with a net profit of 0.06 THB per egg. This means the farmers would have to produce 851,708.14 eggs and raise the hen for 2.64 years (with the average of 1,043 hens per year) if they want the investment to be cost effective.