

APRIL 1985

QUALITY STANDARDS PROPOSALS FOR
INCORPORATION TO 5-YEAR PLAN

1. Haugh Units:

Proposal: That a minimum standard of an average of 72 Haugh Units per sample be required for participation in 'A' class premium scheme. The requirement to be introduced from 1st July, 1986.

1. Perception by consumers of egg freshness is directly correlated to high Haugh Unit readings.
2. Haugh Units are accepted internationally and are easily measured.
3. The significant factors which affect Haugh Units are flock age, method of storage of eggs, genetics, feed, flock management and disease.
4. United States Department of Agriculture "Fancy Fresh" Scheme required an average of 74 Haugh Units.
5. Recent tests show that over 80% of all producers and PA's in Victoria have a Haugh Unit reading of better than 72 Haugh units.
6. Methods of sampling will be

iii) Sample size will be 10 eggs where a rolling average over 2 periods is less than 74 HU, provided that not more than one egg in the sample has a HU reading of below 65.

vi) A sample of 5 may be tested when the rolling average is greater than 74 provided that no eggs in the sample reading below 65. In such a case a further 5 eggs shall be tested.

7. Where rolling average falls below 72 -

i) Farm is warned and assisted to identify the problem so that production can be brought back to standard in the following week.

ii) If the next sample maintains under 72 that and future consignments are 'B' classed until a sample of 25 eggs achieves an average of 75 HU.

i) Farms may be eligible for entry into the premium scheme if the first sample of 25 eggs drawn at random averages not less than 75 HU's.

ii) Farms will then be sampled each period.

2. Shell Thickness:

Minimum shell thickness standards will be included in the premium scheme on a two stage basis. Stage I from 1st July, 1986 and Stage II from 1st July, 1987.

It is recognised that:

1. Consumers require a clean strong shell.
2. Minimum thickness standard for the Royal Agriculture Show Egg Quality Competition is 0.34 mm shell thickness with the top entry averaging 0.37 mm.
3. The Standards required will be:
 - by 1/7/86 0.340 mm minimum shell thickness,
 - by 1/7/87 0.345 mm minimum shell thickness.
4. Eggs will be sampled from all producers participating in the premium scheme each fortnight.
5. Sample size will be 5 eggs if minimum shell thickness is 0.358 or better and where the reading is 0.34 to 0.358 a further 5 eggs will be sampled.
6. When the results are below the standard required:
 - i) Farm is warned and visited to assist in identifying the problem.
 - ii) If next sample fails to meet the standard that and future consignments will be 'B' classed until a satisfactory standard is again reached.