

# poultry review

Maryland **broiler production** ranked seventh among states in number of broilers produced and ninth among states in the pounds of broilers produced in 2003. Broilers continue to lead Maryland's Agricultural Cash Receipts, bringing in 33 percent of the State's total cash receipts for the year. Average prices rose 13 percent to \$0.36 per pound, increasing cash receipts for broilers to \$495 million. Maryland growers raised 292 million broiler chickens in 2003, down .2 percent from 2002. The average weight of a broiler was 4.7 pounds, no change from last year.

In 2003, 400 million broiler-type chicks were hatched in commercial hatcheries, a 3 percent decrease from the 2002 total of 413 million. Placement of chicks for grow out in the State in 2003 was 307 million, up from 306 million in 2002.

**Egg production** decreased in 2003 to 813 million eggs, down from 921 million in 2002, and the lowest level in the last ten years. The average number of layers during 2003 was 2.96 million, down from the 3.30 million layers in 2002.

**Turkey production** during the 2003 production year totaled 500 thousand birds which were worth \$6.01 million, compared to 480 thousand birds worth \$5.79 million in 2002.

## *Broiler Production and Value*

