

poultry review

Maryland **broiler production** ranked eighth among states in number of broilers produced and ninth among states in the pounds of broilers produced in 2004. Broilers continue to lead Maryland's Agricultural Cash Receipts, bringing in 36 percent of the State's total cash receipts for the year. Average prices rose 28 percent to \$0.46 per pound, increasing cash receipts for broilers to \$628 million. Maryland growers raised 285 million broiler chickens in 2004, down 3 percent from 2003. The average weight of a broiler was 4.8 pounds, a 2 percent increase from 2003.

In 2004, 374 million broiler-type chicks were hatched in commercial hatcheries, a 6 percent decrease from the 2003 total of 400 million. Placement of chicks for grow out in the State in 2004 was 298 million, down from 307 million in 2003.

Egg production increased in 2004 to 843 million eggs, up from 811 million in 2003. The average number of layers during 2004 was 3.12 million, up from the 2.95 million layers in 2003.

Turkey production during the 2004 production year totaled 750 thousand birds which were worth \$5.71 million, compared to 500 thousand birds worth \$6.01 million in 2003.

Broiler Production and Value

