

12,000-layer egg ranch, "That turned out to be the saddest day of my life," said Nelson, who speaks with a Swedish accent. "Those 20 years in the egg business were the happiest days of my life."

"Retiring is all right to look forward to—but not to do," he added.

So now on his property immediately south of the old ranch, he's building new layer houses, the first of which will be 20 sections. Each section will house 1,500 layers. With the occasional help of a neighbor, he's doing the work himself.

"By next year," he said, "I hope to be making so much money I won't be eligible for the social security check."

Nelson, who calls his ranch Valhalla—the Swedish word for heaven—lives about a half mile east of Ramona on the Escondido road, where he has 15 acres.

He's well over six feet, something of a Viking himself. He came to Canada from Sweden when he was 20, worked in lumber camps and sawmills in the Northwest, and finally for the Benson Lumber Co., when it was bringing logs by raft to National City. He left the latter for his poultry ranch 20 years ago, has never had a regret.

"You know, if you want to be happy one day, get drunk, three weeks, get married; all your life, buy a chicken ranch," he says. (He's been happily married for many years.)

Nelson knew nothing about chickens when he set up his plant in Ramona—except, he says, they had two drumsticks.

He used what he regards as the secrets, if any, of success—hard work and be on your toes. Specifically, he listened to the counsel of Robert Adolph, farm adviser for poultry, and the



—Mortimer Kirsling Photo

Carl Nelson, Ramona poultryman, works on first section of layer houses which he hopes will contain 30,000 laying hens. Nelson returns to business after retiring last year.

men of the San Diego County Cooperative Poultry Association, through which he always marketed his eggs. He started with 2,000 layers, added 3,000 turkeys, dropped them, and built his white leghorn flock to 12,000. He built his own bulk feeder, one of the first in

the area, and gradually automated his operation. His new layer houses will have saw tooth roofs, designed to catch every bit of wind for ventilation.

He can hardly wait to get back into the egg business. "I even miss the chick and feed salesmen," he said.

greater than last year and 23 percent greater than the record 1957 crop. The national estimate is 107 million, which is 27 percent greater than last year and 26 percent higher than the previous record of Minnesota is the leading turkey producing state with an estimated 19.1 million and California is second.

#### Irrigation Advised

September and October have been called critical months from the standpoint of avocado irrigation. C. D. Gustafson, a University of California farm adviser, said. He said the first 18 to 20 inches of soil should be kept moist at all times during this period. He recommended a deep irrigation should be applied if it has not been done already. He also recommended once a week irrigation on the lighter textured and shallow soils since these types become dry in a short time.

#### Bulletins Available

Two bulletins — "When To Pick Avocados" and "Harvesting and Marketing Your Avocados" — are available at the Farm Adviser's Office, University of California Agricultural Extension Service, Building 1, 4005 Rosecrans St., San Diego.

C. D. Gustafson, a university farm adviser, said the booklets give advice on determining fruit maturity.

## Farm Wage Surveys To Set Bracero Rate

SACRAMENTO, Sept. 23 (UPI) — The state Employment Department has listed results of seven surveys of wages being paid to domestic farm workers in various harvesting activities throughout the state.

The surveys are used to establish wages which must be paid to Mexican seasonal workers doing the same type of work. The department yesterday said that in two instances, tomato picking in Monterey County and picking up potatoes in San Joaquin County, there were not enough domestic workers to establish a prevailing wage.

The survey findings included San Joaquin County: pickums of the Classified Ads and grade peaches, 42.5 cents per hundred weight; none-

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## Farm Cost Cut Ordered

WASHINGTON, Sept. 23 (AP) — Secretary of Agriculture Orville L. Freeman has ordered from the White House to cut costs of federal farm programs to help balance the budget.

Freeman disclosed this at a news conference in discussing present and future farm programs.

There are only two ways of reducing these costs. One would be for less government participation in agriculture.

The other would be a tightening of farm production controls to reduce surpluses which not only undermine farm prices and income but also cost the government heavily in removing unneeded supplies from markets and storing them.

Freeman stressed, however, that the Kennedy administration intends to pursue the latter course.

He said some progress is being made this year in reducing surpluses.

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