

THE Poultry and Egg SITUATION

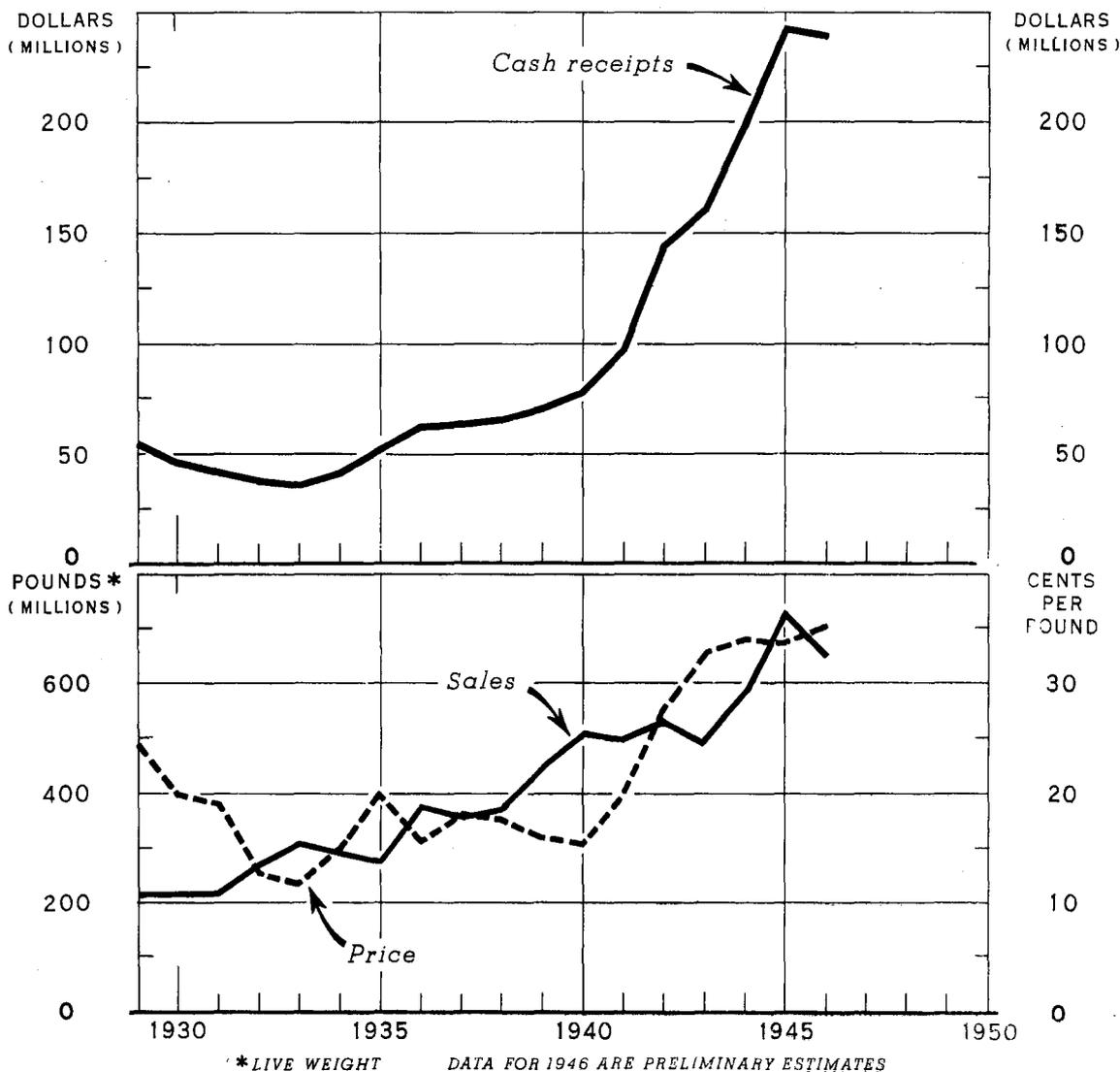
BUREAU OF AGRICULTURAL ECONOMICS
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TURKEYS: CASH RECEIPTS FROM MARKETINGS, SALES, AND PRICE RECEIVED BY FARMERS, UNITED STATES, 1929-46



Farmers' cash receipts from turkey marketings in 1947 are likely to decline from the record highs of 1945 and 1946. Turkey production is expected to be larger in 1947 than in 1946, but lower prices probably will more than offset the increased output. Consumer incomes are expected to be lower and meat supplies larger in the fourth quarter of 1947 than in 1946.

The Poultry and Egg Situation at a Glance

Item	Unit	Month	Average 1935-44	1945	1946	Comments about 1946
<u>Eggs</u>						
Farm production	Mil. doz.	Nov.	171.6	244.7	256.7	Exceeded any previous November.
Average number of layers on farms	Million	"	332.5	386.1	372.4	
Rate of lay per hen	Number	"	6.1	7.6	8.3	The 9 percent rise above last year's record is remarkable.
Apparent civilian per capita disappearance	Number	Oct.	24.2	30.1	31.7	Record rate.
Frozen egg production	Mil. lb.	"	---	5.4	2.2	
Dried egg production	" "	"	---	0.5	3.0	
Prices received by farmers	Ct. per doz.	Nov.	33.6	47.1	47.8	Decreased 3.7 cents per dozen from mid-October largely due to removal of ceilings on meat.
Prices received by farmers as a percentage of parity	Percent	"	81	100	86	
Retail price (BAE)	Ct. per doz.	Oct.	41.4	59.1	68.0	
Egg-feed ratio	Lb. feed	Nov.	17.0	15.9	13.1	Not as favorable for egg production as last year.
Stocks: ^{1/} Shell	1,000 cases	"	1,782	314		December 1 holdings not available.
Frozen	1,000 cases	"	3,130	4,158		Withdrawals during November far ahead of last year.
Dried	Mil. lb.	"	---	25		
Chicks hatched	Million	"	21.1	42.5		Placement of chicks in broiler areas rising and ahead of last year.
Potential layers on farms ^{1/} ...	"	"	^{2/} 477.5	499.7	449.7	
Pullets not of laying age ^{1/} ...	"	"	^{2/} 95.7	98.4	67.3	
Prices paid by farmers for laying mash	Dol. per cwt.	"	2.61	3.66	4.61	Increased 18 cents per cwt. since mid-October.
<u>Poultry</u>						
Prices received by farmers for chickens	Ct. per lb.	Nov.	16.8	23.9	27.5	Drop of 6.9 cents per pound in month was sharpest on record.
Prices received by farmers as a percentage of parity	Percent	"	105	120	114	
Retail price of chickens (BAE)	Ct. per lb.	Oct.	34.1	45.2	66.6	Rose sharply.
Prices received by farmers for turkeys	Ct. per lb.	Nov.	21.5	33.0	37.1	An all-time high for November 15.
Stocks: ^{1/} Poultry, excluding turkeys	Mil. lb.	"	131.7	243.2		December 1 holdings not available. Rate of into-storage was decreasing.
Turkeys	Mil. lb.	"	26.4	77.5		
Chicken-feed ratio	Lb. feed	"	8.5	8.0	7.5	
Turkey-feed ratio	Lb. feed	"	10.7	11.1	10.2	
Receipts of poultry at Central Western Primary Markets, per plant	1,000 lb.	"	32.0	34.0	20.6	Seasonal peak about 2 weeks earlier than last year because of large early hatch.

^{1/} End of month.
^{2/} 1940-44 average.

 THE POULTRY AND EGG SITUATION

Approved by Outlook and Situation Board, December 12, 1946

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SUMMARY

Demand for poultry products is likely to continue strong throughout the first half of 1947 because of high consumer purchasing power and the prospect for near-record prices for meat and other competing products. Despite strong demand, egg prices will decline seasonally, but are likely to remain above those in the winter and spring of 1946. On the other hand, chicken prices probably will increase from present levels.

Supplies of eggs during the first half of 1947 may be about 5 percent less than in the first half of 1946. The number of potential layers on farms December 1, 1946 was 10 percent below a year earlier. The effect of this decrease will be partly offset by possible increases in the rate of lay and larger cold-storage stocks. Even with relatively high egg prices in prospect, consumption of eggs per person during the first half of 1947 is expected to

be nearly as large as in the first half of 1946. If this occurs, there may be 100 million or 150 million dozen shell eggs in excess of what the domestic market will take at levels reflecting 90 percent of parity.

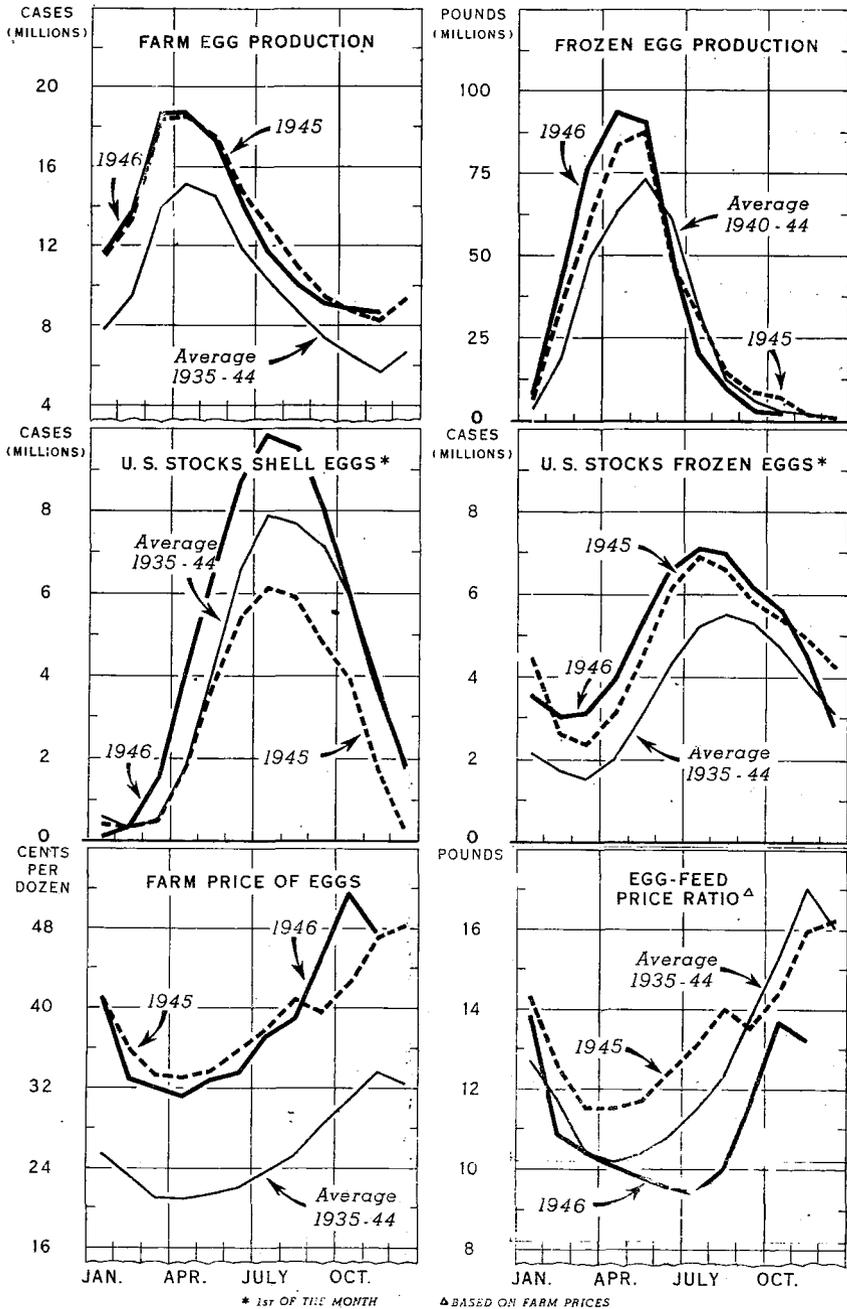
Chicken meat output in the first half of 1947 will be about the same as in the first half of 1946, largely because commercial broiler production is expanding rapidly. Slaughter of chickens from farm flocks will be less because of the 18 percent reduction in the number of chickens raised in 1946 compared with 1945.

The outlook for turkeys in 1947 is for increased production but lower average prices. Ample supplies and better distribution of feeds, plus the favorable returns of the past 5 years, probably will result in an increased output of turkeys. Prospective declines in consumer incomes and larger supplies of red meats in the last quarter of 1947 also will tend to lower the average price.

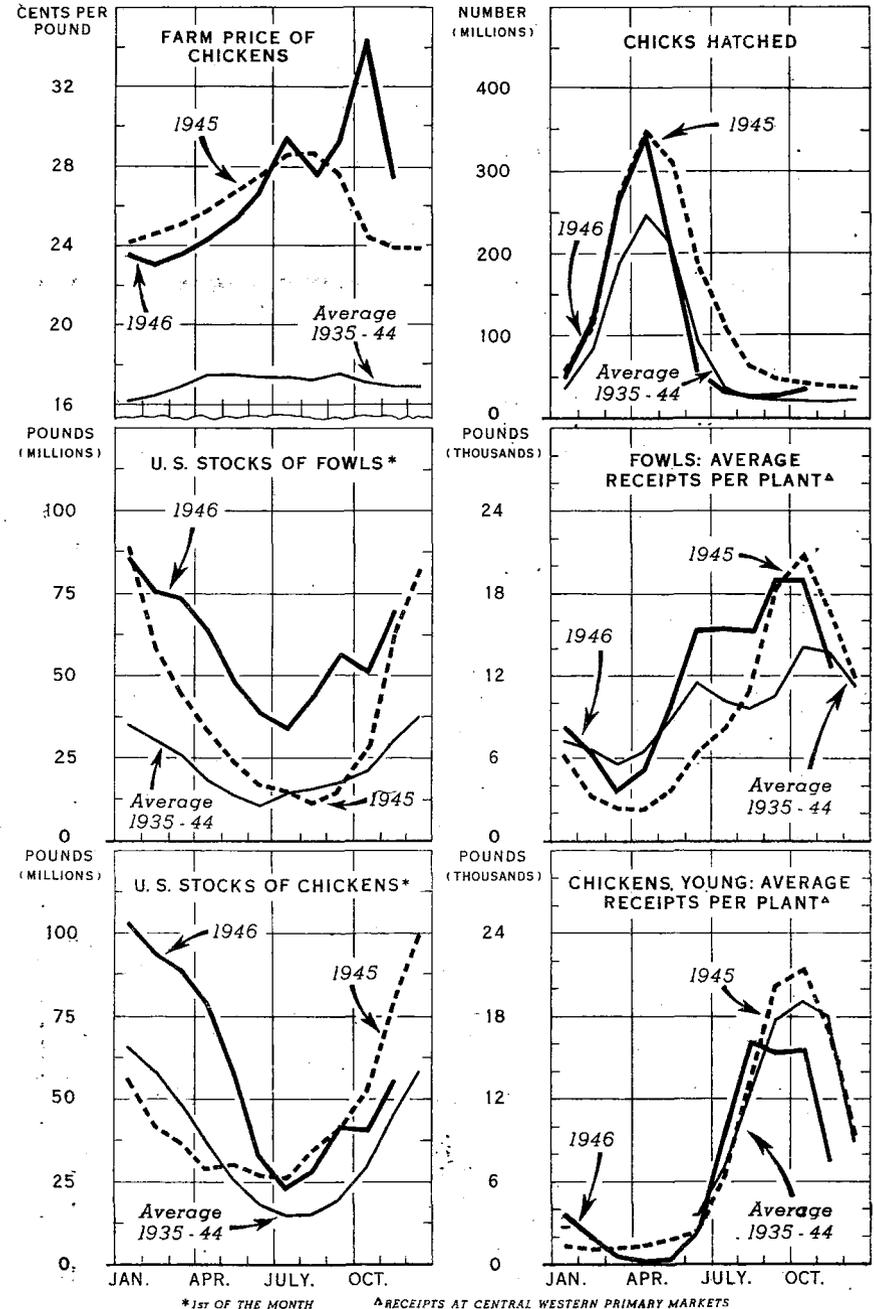
Turkey production has increased sharply for 15 years, and during the past 3 years has averaged about 50 percent above 1935-39, and 165 percent above the low point reached in 1929. This was made possible largely by the discovery of the cause of and methods for combating blackhead and other diseases. Regionally, the most pronounced increases occurred in the States east of the Mississippi, although substantial increases also occurred in western areas.

Turkey growers received record high prices in 1946. During the past 3 years, prices received by farmers for turkeys were almost double those of prewar years, and about 25 percent higher than in the late 1920's. On a regional basis, prices increased most in those areas where production increased the least--in the South Atlantic and South Central States.

THE EGG SITUATION



THE POULTRY SITUATION



OUTLOOK

BACKGROUND.-Demand for farm products continued high in November. The index of prices received by farmers in mid-November was 263 and, except for the mid-October index of 273, was the highest on record. Factors responsible for the strong demand were: the high level of consumer purchasing power, scarcity of durable goods, and large exports of some agricultural commodities.

Changes in prices from mid-October to mid-November varied considerably among groups of commodities. Prices of oil-bearing crops increased sharply. Meats and dairy products remained about unchanged, while sharp declines were recorded for poultry products, cotton, and fruits and vegetables.

Prices received by farmers in the first half of 1946 were relatively stable, the index ranging from 206 to 218. From July through September the index varied between 243 and 249. Consumer expenditures for food have increased sharply since the general removal of price controls, both absolutely and in proportion to disposable income. Unless there are further substantial gains in consumer purchasing power, however, expenditures for food, including poultry products, will tend to decline as purchases of other commodities increase.

Demand for Poultry Products, Although Declining
Continues Fairly Strong

Substantial decreases in prices received by farmers for poultry products were recorded from mid-October to mid-November. The mid-November seasonally adjusted index of prices received for poultry and eggs was 203, 34 points below mid-October, but the highest for November since 1920. With the exception of four months (September-October 1946 and June-July 1945), the seasonally adjusted index was the highest since 1920. Disappearance of eggs in November was larger than in November last year, disappearance of turkeys about as large, and disappearance of chickens moderately less.

The increase in the general price level and continuation of the record level of consumer purchasing power tended to maintain prices of poultry products at relatively high levels even though they declined from the October highs. In addition, the near-record level of meat prices may have resulted in some shift of demand from red meats to poultry products.

Egg Prices Declining Seasonally

The average price received by farmers for eggs in mid-November was 47.8 cents per dozen, 3.7 cents below October 15, but the highest for November since 1921. Farmers were receiving 86 percent of parity in mid-November compared with 102 percent in mid-October.

Farm egg prices usually reach their peak in mid-November. However, because of the scarcity of meat in September and October, the seasonal peak this year occurred in mid-October. Egg prices are expected to remain at or near support levels into the flush production season. If recent increases in the parity index are maintained, 90 percent of parity for eggs will be at least 7 percent higher than actual returns during the 1946 flush production season. Prices received by farmers from March through June 1946 averaged 32.4 cents per dozen, 96 percent of parity.

The erratic movement of wholesale egg prices since the end of June resulted in part from Government actions relating to meat prices. Immediately following temporary decontrol of all foods July 1, egg prices did not show their usual seasonal increases until the end of August when meat prices were recontrolled. Egg prices then rose sharply and by mid-October were 40 percent above late June, a much larger-than-usual seasonal increase. After mid-October prices declined, following removal of Government price regulations on major foods. But with seasonally small supplies, egg prices remained stabilized during the second-half of November. Under pressure of seasonally increasing supplies, prices were declining in early December.

Disappearance of Eggs to Continue Large

Civilian disappearance of eggs from September through November was somewhat larger than in the corresponding period of 1945. This was due in part to shortages in meat in September and early October and to increased meat prices after decontrol in mid-October. Egg production during the 3 months was about the same as in 1945, but the out of storage movement this year was significantly larger.

A high civilian disappearance rate is expected to continue at least during the first half of 1947, and probably will be nearly as large as in the first half of 1946, when about 195 eggs per person were consumed. This was the second highest disappearance for that period, being exceeded only in the first half of 1945. Factors which will account for a high rate of disappearance in the first half of 1947 are (1) continuation of a high level of consumer purchasing power, and (2) prospective high meat prices.

Consumption by civilians in the second half of 1947, however, probably will decline more than seasonally and may be moderately lower than in the second half of 1946. This will be particularly true in the last quarter, when a large crop of spring pigs probably will come to market. In addition, demand for eggs will be weakened if a decline in consumer purchasing power in the latter half of 1947 occurs.

Total supplies of eggs during the first half of 1947 will be only about 5 percent below the first half of 1946, a reduction equivalent to approximately 125 million dozen shell eggs. If civilian disappearance during the first half of 1947 is nearly as large as in the same period of 1946 and the commercial into-storage movement is smaller, about 100 to 150 million dozen eggs will be available for export or Government purchases for price support. During the first half of 1946, almost 200 million dozen eggs were used in dehydrating to fulfill requirements.

Table 1.-Purchases through December 13, 1946 of dried whole eggs by Production and Marketing Administration, by months, scheduled for delivery

Year:	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Total
:	Mil.	Mil.	Mil.	Mil.	Mil.								
:	lb.	lb.	lb.	lb.	lb.								
1941 :						0.7	1.2	2.6	2.6	5.7	8.7	13.9	35.6
1942 :	11.4	12.9	13.1	13.4	18.3	17.5	18.5	19.2	19.2	22.0	25.3	15.8	206.6
1943 :	7.2	20.1	12.6	21.4	17.2	10.9	10.6	19.9	16.1	16.4	20.1	28.1	209.6
1944 :	26.4	27.0	18.3	27.7	27.0	26.1	24.8	31.5	24.2	20.4	12.8	7.6	273.8
1945 :	6.2	5.0	9.8	10.6	3.5	0.6	0.1	0.3	---	---	---	---	36.1
1946 :	---	4.2	15.0	16.8	12.2	13.7	11.3	10.5	5.8	2.0	2.6	3.0	

Production of eggs during the first half of 1947 will be 6 to 8 percent below the first half of 1946 but carry-over of shell and frozen eggs for domestic consumption on January 1, 1947 is expected to be in the neighborhood of 45 million dozen above January 1, 1946. The number of potential layers on farms December 1, 1946 was 10 percent less than on December 1, 1945. However, increases in rate of lay are expected to offset in part the smaller number of layers.

Export of Shell Eggs in 1946 Exceeding 30 Million Dozen

Shell egg exports in 1947 are expected to continue high relative to former years but probably will total less than one percent of total production. Shell egg exports in recent months have been sharply higher than those of preceding years. From January through September 1946, exports of shell eggs totaled 28 million dozen. About half of this quantity was shipped to Switzerland, approximately one-fourth to Mexico, and most of the remainder to nearby islands.

Shell egg exports from 1931 through 1945, with the exception of 1941, averaged less than 10 million dozen. Immediately following passage of the Lend-Lease Act in 1941 about 30 million dozen shell eggs were exported to foreign countries, principally Great Britain. The largest quantity of shell eggs exported from the United States was in 1919 when 39 million dozen were shipped.

Exports of eggs and egg products during the war, except 1941, were chiefly dried eggs. Exports of dried eggs in 1947 are likely to be less than in 1946 when about 110 million pounds were shipped. Of this quantity, 80 to 90 percent went to Great Britain. Foreign demand for dried eggs in 1947 appears to be fairly large.

Table 2.- Eggs and egg products: Exports for selected periods,
United States
(Shell egg equivalent)

Year	Total 1/ <u>1,000 dozen</u>	Shell <u>1,000 dozen</u>
Average 1910-19	20,681	20,681
Average 1920-29	26,614	26,614
Average 1930-39	4,345	4,345
1940	4,571	4,571
1941	147,792	31,016
1942	461,477	5,198
1943	697,092	1,227
1944	730,790	4,095
1945	429,642	6,474
1946:		
Jan.-Mar.	43,919	3,655
Apr.-June	35,032	11,639
July-Sept.	47,824	12,946

1/ From 1922 through 1940 negligible quantities of egg products not reported. Compiled from Foreign Commerce and Navigation of the United States, and official reports of the Bureau of the Census.

Commercial Broiler Output Expands:
Marketings of Farm Chickens Decrease

Prices received by farmers in early 1947 for chickens and commercial broilers are expected to increase from levels prevailing in early December and probably will be moderately higher than in early 1946. Demand is likely to remain fairly strong, partly because of higher meat prices in the spring of 1947 than a year earlier, and a high level of consumer purchasing power will probably continue.

Marketings of chickens from farm flocks are decreasing seasonally. Because of the 18 percent reduction in the number of chickens raised in 1946 compared with 1945, a smaller number of farm chickens will be slaughtered early in 1947 than in 1946. Production of commercial broilers, however, will expand during the next few months and will be substantially higher than in recent months or in early 1946. Total supplies of chicken in the first half of 1947 probably will be about as large as in the first half of 1946.

The relationship of prices received by commercial broiler growers and feed prices appeared favorable for expanding production even after decontrol of red meats October 15. The broiler-feed price ratio in Delaware October 1, before the removal of Government price regulations on most commodities, was 10.1 the highest on record. This decreased to 7.1 by November 1, but was still slightly above that of last year. Placements of baby chicks from selected areas point to an increase in broiler output during the next few months. Placements of chicks in Delaware during October and November were moderately above last year and substantially above summer levels. In Georgia and the Shenandoah Valley, placement of chicks were significantly rising.

Supplies of Feed Ample for Winter Season

Supplies of all feed concentrates for 1946-47, including feed grains, wheat and rye for feed, and byproduct feeds, total 162 million tons, slightly larger than a year earlier, and 10 percent above the 1938-42 average. With a smaller number of grain-consuming livestock on farms, the 1946-47 supply of concentrates per animal unit is estimated at about 6 percent larger than in 1945-46 and the largest on record.

Feed-grain prices during the winter and spring are expected to average moderately higher, and prices of commercial mixed feeds and most byproduct feeds considerably higher, than in the same period of 1945-46. This will result in a less favorable egg-feed price ratio during the 1947 hatching season than in 1946. Usually a decrease in the egg-feed price ratio results in a smaller number of farm chickens raised. But larger feed supplies and better distribution may temper the effects of any less favorable ratio.

Corn prices in early 1947 will be higher than in early 1946, even though there is a record 1946 crop. Loan rates on 1946 corn, announced November 18, average \$1.15 per bushel, 14 cents higher than on 1945 corn. Prices of byproduct feeds have been substantially higher since removal of ceilings.

TURKEYS: REGIONAL DEVELOPMENTS AND OUTLOOK FOR 1947

BACKGROUND. - Turkey growers in 1946 have received record high prices. The average price received by farmers for turkeys October 15 was 40.6 cents per pound and on November 15 it was 37.1 cents per pound. Both prices exceeded, therefore, all previous months. The weighted average price received by growers in 1946 will be around 35 cents per pound. The previous high was 33.9 cents per pound in 1944.

Prices received by turkey producers for hens in October-November were the highest on record. However, the differential between light and heavy birds in the wholesale market has been exceptionally wide, in some instances as much as 20 cents per pound. Hens account for about 50 percent of turkey sales by number and about 40 percent by weight.

Civilian supplies of turkey in 1946 were about as large as the record consumed in 1945, or approximately 4.5 pounds per person. The quantity consumed during the off-season in 1946 (from February through August) was a record level.

Outlook for 1947

During the 1947 marketing season, turkey growers probably will receive lower average prices than in 1946. Prices are expected to decline most in the West North Central States, which is a large surplus-producing area. Demand for turkeys is not likely to be so strong as in 1946, because of possible decreases in consumer incomes and prospective large meat supplies in the last quarter of 1947. Supplies of turkeys probably will be larger in 1947 than in 1946, and may exceed the 1945 record. Large supplies of feed and favorable returns during the past 5 years will tend to bring about a continuation in the upward trend in turkey output. The Western and North Atlantic States probably will increase output sharply in 1947, partly in response to ample supplies and better distribution of feeds. Turkey producers in those two regions were materially affected by short feed supplies in 1946. In the Western States, the number of turkeys raised in 1946 was about 25 percent below 1945. In the North Atlantic States, the decrease amounted to about 7 percent. Other areas during 1946 showed little if any declines.

Civilian consumption during the 1947 off season will exceed the 1946 record since cold-storage stocks on December 1, 1946 were moderately above December 1, 1945 holdings, and about triple prewar. Cold storage holdings of turkey usually reach their peak February 1. On February 1, 1946, stocks totaled 134 million pounds, an all-time high. Most of the off-season turkey consumption will be in restaurants and institutions.

Production Trends

The number of turkeys slaughtered since 1929 has shown a steady upward trend with only a few minor recessions. From 1944 through 1946, the number of turkeys slaughtered averaged 39 million head, 50 percent above 1935-39 and twice the 1929-33 average. Turkey slaughter reached a peak in 1945, but decreased about 10 percent in 1946. (Table 3)

The pronounced increases in turkey production have resulted from a variety of factors. Between 1910 and the late 1920's, turkey production apparently was decreasing. In a large part, this was due to the heavy losses of poults from blackhead disease, so that the expenses involved in producing turkeys were great. Following the discovery of the cause of

blackhead and the development of methods for combating the disease pronounced increases in output occurred. Losses of turkey poults in recent years have been averaging less than 25 percent of the total number hatched. Although exact figures are not available, this is substantially less than in earlier years. The sharp decreases in losses have been aided by the shift to commercial hatching of poults. Another factor which has probably made turkey production more profitable has been a shift to larger units and specialized production.

The largest production increase percentagewise in recent years has occurred in areas east of the Mississippi River. In the North Atlantic States, turkey output in 1944-46 averaged about four times that in the early 1930's. This area accounts for less than one-tenth of the turkeys slaughtered. The East North Central States have increased production about 3-1/2 times.

Substantial increases have also taken place in the chief production regions in the West North Central and Western States. In these two regions, output has increased about three-fold in the past 15 years. Slaughter of turkey in the South Atlantic States has about doubled. In the South Central States, output has changed very little.

In addition to the increases in the number of turkeys slaughtered, there has been a steady upward increase in the average weight of turkeys sold. From 1929 through 1933, the average live weight was 13.6 pounds. In the past 2 years, this has reached 17 pounds, an increase of 25 percent. Improved varieties of the broad-breasted type, better feeds and feed management, and a strong demand for heavy birds during the war years were largely responsible for this trend.

Largest increases in the average weight per bird in the past 15 years occurred in the Western area where it was over 25 percent above the early 1930's. The South Central region showed the smallest increase -- about 15 percent. In other regions, increases in live weight per bird averaged about 20 percent. (Table 4).

Price Trends

Prices received by turkey growers during 1944-46 have averaged almost double those of 1935-39, and are about 25 percent higher than in the late 1920's. The sharpest increase occurred from 1941-42, when a 35 percent increase was recorded. The weighted average price received by turkey growers from 1943 through 1946 was between 32-1/2 and 35 cents per pound compared with 17.4 cents in 1935-39.

Table 3.- Turkey slaughter (number sold and consumed on farms where grown), United States and by regions, 1929-46

Year	North Atlantic	East North Central	West North Central	South Atlantic	South Central	Western	United States
	Thous.	Thous.	Thous.	Thous.	Thous.	Thous.	Thous.
1929	562	849	4,385	1,548	5,715	4,649	17,708
1930	677	974	4,330	1,850	5,550	4,322	17,703
1931	753	1,079	4,234	1,551	5,404	4,274	17,295
1932	915	1,417	5,569	1,899	6,578	4,680	21,058
1933	1,056	1,835	6,922	2,062	6,664	4,817	23,356
1934	1,172	2,051	6,056	2,115	5,780	4,946	22,120
1935	1,273	1,826	5,574	2,053	4,940	4,589	20,255
1936	1,496	2,288	8,590	2,167	6,296	6,378	27,015
1937	1,466	2,075	7,210	2,126	6,473	6,302	25,652
1938	1,543	2,191	8,160	1,943	6,024	6,291	26,152
1939	1,837	2,480	10,395	2,058	6,505	7,843	31,118
1940	1,965	2,936	12,138	2,178	6,838	9,037	35,092
1941	2,005	2,768	11,204	2,132	5,946	8,327	32,382
1942	2,240	2,894	10,911	2,375	5,912	9,246	33,578
1943	2,185	2,883	9,636	2,320	5,393	9,210	31,627
1944	2,522	3,657	10,616	2,567	5,521	11,238	36,107
1945	3,138	4,671	12,396	3,166	6,544	13,004	42,919
1946	2,928	4,671	12,272	3,166	6,287	9,883	39,192
Average							
1929-33	793	1,231	5,088	1,782	5,982	4,548	19,424
1935-39	1,523	2,172	7,946	2,069	6,048	6,281	24,038
1940-44	2,181	3,028	10,901	2,314	5,922	9,412	33,757
	2,221	2,960	10,508	2,319	5,762	9,594	33,364

1/ Preliminary.

Table 4.- Turkeys: Average live weight per head sold, United States, and by regions, 1929-45

Year	North Atlantic	East North Central	West North Central	South Atlantic	South Central	Western	United States
	Lb.	Lb.	Lb.	Lb.	Lb.	Lb.	Lb.
1929	13.3	13.5	12.9	13.2	12.7	14.0	13.2
1930	13.5	13.7	13.1	13.4	12.9	14.2	13.4
1931	13.8	13.9	13.4	13.6	13.1	14.4	13.6
1932	14.0	14.1	13.6	13.8	13.3	14.6	13.8
1933	14.2	14.3	13.8	14.0	13.5	14.8	14.0
1934	14.4	14.5	14.1	14.2	13.3	14.6	14.1
1935	14.6	14.7	14.4	14.4	13.9	15.4	14.5
1936	14.5	15.0	14.5	14.5	14.1	15.5	14.7
1937	14.7	14.9	14.7	14.7	14.2	15.6	14.8
1938	15.1	14.8	14.7	14.7	14.1	16.0	14.9
1939	15.2	14.8	14.6	14.8	14.0	16.0	14.9
1940	15.4	15.1	14.7	14.7	14.1	16.3	15.1
1941	16.0	15.4	15.4	15.1	15.0	17.4	15.9
1942	16.3	15.65	16.0	15.2	14.8	18.0	16.3
1943	15.4	15.5	15.9	15.2	14.9	17.8	16.2
1944	15.9	16.71	16.6	15.6	15.4	18.3	16.8
1945	16.5	16.7	17.2	16.3	16.1	18.8	17.4
1946	16.9	17.3	17.8	16.9	16.0	19.5	17.9
Average							
1929-33	13.8	13.9	13.4	13.6	13.1	14.4	13.6
1935-39	14.8	14.8	14.6	14.6	14.1	15.7	14.8
1940-44	15.8	15.6	15.7	15.2	14.8	17.6	16.1

Table 5.- Turkeys: Weighted annual price received by farmers, per pound, United States and regions, 1924-46

Year	North Atlantic	East North Central	West North Central	South Atlantic	South Central	Western	United States
	Cents	Cents	Cents	Cents	Cents	Cents	Cents
1924	39.8	28.3	22.7	31.5	18.0	24.5	23.2
1925	44.1	30.8	25.6	32.7	24.3	32.1	28.3
1926	42.3	32.3	27.9	34.0	26.7	35.9	30.8
1927	44.0	33.0	27.8	35.5	26.2	35.0	30.6
1928	45.9	34.0	26.9	35.2	26.3	31.3	29.5
1929	42.3	28.9	22.5	30.9	19.8	26.5	24.3
1930	31.9	21.3	18.5	23.6	16.2	22.8	20.0
1931	30.0	19.4	17.5	21.6	15.9	21.8	19.1
1932	22.9	14.1	11.9	15.8	9.5	14.6	12.7
1933	19.8	12.0	10.2	15.2	9.1	13.1	11.6
1934	22.0	15.2	14.1	17.4	13.2	15.7	15.1
1935	26.0	20.3	19.2	21.3	18.2	20.6	20.1
1936	25.1	16.2	14.2	18.8	11.8	17.6	15.6
1937	25.9	19.7	17.4	21.1	14.6	18.8	18.1
1938	25.0	18.4	16.3	20.2	14.7	18.3	17.5
1939	23.8	17.0	14.7	19.2	12.6	15.9	15.7
1940	22.4	16.7	14.6	18.8	12.6	14.8	15.2
1941	26.3	20.4	18.4	23.0	17.4	20.7	19.8
1942	32.7	27.1	26.4	29.2	23.9	28.8	27.4
1943	40.1	33.7	30.2	35.4	30.1	33.5	32.6
1944	40.8	34.4	32.8	36.7	31.2	34.0	33.9
1945	40.5	33.4	31.7	37.9	30.6	34.0	33.6
1946 1/	43.4 46.2	35.0 36.6	33.9 36.2	39.1 40.0	32.5 32.4	34.8 34.2	35.0 36.2
1947	44.4	36.7	35.2	40.5	32.4	35.0	36.5

1/ Preliminary estimates.

Table 6.- Turkeys: Cash receipts, sales, and price, United States, 1929-46 (Data for Cover Chart)

Year	Cash receipts	Sales	Price per pound
	Million dollars	Million pounds	Cents
1929	54	212	24.3
1930	46	214	20.0
1931	42	214	19.1
1932	38	268	12.7
1933	36	304	11.6
1934	42	291	15.1
1935	52	273	20.1
1936	62	375	15.6
1937	63	359	18.1
1938	66	371	17.5
1939	71	445	15.7
1940	78	510	15.2
1941	98	495	19.8
1942	145	529	27.4
1943	160	493	32.6
1944	199	586	33.9
1945	243	724	33.6
1946 1/	240	650	35.0

1/ Preliminary estimates.

Percentagewise the sharpest increases occurred in the South Atlantic and South Central States where production did not increase as much as in other areas. Strong demand from the Armed forces also prevailed in those areas in recent years. Prices received by farmers in the West North Central States also increased sharply, but 1935-39 prices were relatively low in that region. Smallest increases occurred in the North Atlantic region, which has shown the largest increases in production per person. (Table 5).

RECENT DEVELOPMENTS

Rate of Lay Continues a Record

Farm egg production during November totaled 256.7 million dozen and was 5 percent above last year and the highest on record for that month. The average number of layers on farms during the month was 372 million, 4 percent below the previous year. However, increase in the rate of lay compared with November 1945 more than offset the lower number of layers. Total farm egg production from January through November was 43 million dozen, 1 percent below January-November 1945, but about 30 percent above 1935-44.

The record rate of lay during November was due in part to large feed supplies. Favorable weather during the month may also have had some effect. The rate of lay thus far in 1946 has exceeded last year's record. From January through April the average number of eggs per layer exceeded any previous corresponding month. But from May through September when feed supplies were scarce production per layer fell below last year.

Supplies of Chicken Below Last Year

Available information indicates moderately smaller supplies of chickens for civilian consumption during the last quarter of 1946 than a year earlier. This reflects the 18 percent reduction in the number of chickens raised this year compared with last. Supplies of broilers appear to have been about as large in October-December as last year.

The market movement of chickens in 1946 reached its seasonal peak about 2 weeks earlier than in 1945 and possibly earlier than in any previous year. This was due to the relatively large hatch in February and March. Receipts of chickens in the Midwestern Primary Markets were at their seasonal peak about two weeks earlier than in 1945 and also were earlier than in the previous years of record.

Consumption of chickens has been below 1945 during the last quarter of the year. Total market supplies have been smaller and the into-storage movement since October 1 has been about the same.

Domestic Use of Frozen Eggs, Excluding Drying
Exceeds any Previous Year

Utilization of frozen eggs increased sharply in the past 15 years. In the early 1930's, about 125 to 175 million pounds frozen eggs were consumed annually. In the late 1930's about 200 million pounds were used annually. From 1940 through 1944, utilization increased sharply because of the large quantities of frozen eggs used by driers. In 1944 and 1945, total use, including eggs used for drying purposes, was well over 400 million pounds. For use other than drying it is estimated that utilization was 250 to 300 million pounds.

In 1946 it appears that there will be at least 325 million pounds of frozen eggs used for purposes other than drying, exceeding any previous year. This probably reflects increased use of frozen eggs by bakeries which use the largest proportion. On the basis of frozen egg with-drawals from cold storage about 100 million pounds apparently are being utilized during the last quarter this year. This compares with about 80 million pounds during the same quarter in 1945, and an average of about 80 million pounds per quarter for the first three quarters of 1946.