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Considerations Relating to the Intermediate-Term Outlook
for Eggs, Chickens, and Turkeys in the United States¹²

This report considers some of the major factors that may affect the outlook for eggs, chickens, and turkeys in the period 1950-54, under two levels of national income and employment. The first situation represents a continuation of high employment with disposable income per capita at about 1948 rates despite somewhat lower prices. The second would involve one-fourth less disposable income per capita, and 10 percent less employment. These two levels are assumed to be as high or as low as national levels of economic activity will average annually during the five-year period, although levels within any one year may rise above or fall below those indicated; the average for the five years is assumed to be within the limits of this range. It is anticipated in both situations that total population will be about 4 percent larger than in 1948, and that financing of agricultural exports will have reverted by 1952 to more nearly normal channels.

POULTRY

SUMMARY

In addition to levels of national income and employment, demand for poultry products will be affected by changes in supplies of other foods, particularly red meats and dairy products. Production will be affected by changes in costs of feed and other items, by changes in prices of poultry products in relation to other livestock products, and by advances in the techniques of poultry production.

Demand for poultry products in 1950-54 will average about as large as during 1948 if current levels of income and employment continue. Supplies of other livestock products should increase as supplies of feed are expected to be larger. However, the effects of this competition on the demand for poultry products will be offset at least in part by growth in population.

Demand for food products, including poultry, would be reduced, if incomes and employment decline to the lower level assumed. This would mean lower prices, especially if production is not reduced. Supplies of red meats might average slightly lower than with high level employment, and prices of poultry products probably would not decline as much as those for meats. During the last two years when disposable income increased greatly, prices of poultry products did not go up nearly as much as those for meat animals.

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Production of poultry products has increased relatively more than that of other livestock products since 1935-39 and prices of poultry products have averaged lower in relation to livestock. It appears that technological advances and greater specialization in production have reduced resource requirements for poultry products much more than for other livestock. During the last 25 years, number of eggs per layer has increased 40 percent. Chicken-meat production has become more efficient, especially in the case of commercial broilers. Better control of diseases has greatly reduced death losses in raising turkeys. The lower production costs that have resulted from these and other improvements means that poultry products have been placed in a relatively stronger competitive position for farmers' resources. Lower prices relative to other livestock, of course, mean that poultry products also are placed in stronger competitive position for consumers' dollars.

Production of poultry products in 1950-54 can be expected to average about as large as during the past few years if national income and employment continue at recent levels (table 1). Product-feed price ratios should become more favorable as larger supplies of feed are expected to be available. Production of eggs probably will be about the same as in 1948 but larger than in 1949 when production may decline because of a reduction in number of layers. Chicken meat production will be larger than in 1947 or 1948. Turkey meat production probably will be much larger than in 1948 but only slightly larger than in 1946.

Supplies of poultry products would be slightly lower if incomes and employment decline to the lower level, especially if this lower level continues for several years. Declines in costs of feed and in returns from other livestock enterprises would tend to prevent any very large contraction in poultry production.

Eggs

Long-Term Trends

Production.— Total production of eggs in the last few years has been nearly double that of 30 years ago and about 50 percent above that of 1935-39. Production per capita reached a peak of 463 eggs in 1944, but declined to 412 in 1947 and probably will be about 400 in 1948. However, output still is much above the pre-war high of 357 eggs per capita in 1927. Increase in number of layers was largely responsible for the wartime increase in egg production although improvement in rate of lay also was important. Number of eggs per layer during the year increased from 114 in 1925 to 158 in 1947 or about 40 percent.

Because rate of lay is much higher, fewer layers are required to supply the same quantity of eggs. For example, egg production in 1947 was 14 percent higher than in 1942 and 43 percent higher than in 1928 although number of hens and pullets on hand at the beginning of each year was about the same. The number of chickens raised annually averaged 30 percent higher in 1941-45 than in 1935-39; but in 1946 and 1947 the number was only 12 percent above 1935-39 and in 1948 it probably will be about 4 percent less.

Table 1.- Projections under specified assumptions of series related to poultry for 1950-54 and comparable data for 1935-39, 1941-45, 1946, 1947, and 1948, United States 1/

Item	Unit	1935-39	1941-45	1946	1947	1948 2/	1950-54	
							High	Low
National framework								
Gross national product	Bil. dol.	84.0	181	204	232	246	245	175
Disposable income	do.	66.2	127	158	174	185	170	145
Prices received by farmers	1910-14=100:	107	174	233	278	291	225	175
Prices paid by farmers								
Incl. interest & taxes	do.	128	158	193	231	250	215	195
Eggs								
Average number of layers	Million	279	355	360	351	337	315	295
Eggs per layer	Number	130	146	155	158	159	170	169
Farm production	Mill. doz.	3,632	4,323	4,632	4,608	4,450	4,450	4,240
Per capita consumption	Number	293	344	374	380	380	370	355
Chickens								
Chickens raised	Million	664.0	857.5	745.8	745.4	635.0	725	700
Broilers produced	do.	70.4	263.1	275.6	283.1	325	365	350
Chickens slaughtered 3/	Mill. Lb.	2,327	3,643	3,597	3,458	3,250	3,800	3,600
Per capita consumption	Pound	17.9	26.0	25.5	23.4	22.4	25	24
Turkeys								
Turkeys raised	Million	27.0	35.6	40.7	35.1	31.7	41.9	39.3
Turkeys slaughtered 4/	Mill. Lb.	350	526	687	668	489	735	670
Per capita consumption	Pound	2.6	3.6	4.4	4.5	3.4	4.7	4.3

1/ Data for 1950-54 are approximate estimates with assumptions shown for national framework and with other conditions described in text. They are not forecasts except as assumptions and conditions described are realized.

2/ First quarter data for national framework. Other data are tentative indications.

3/ Dressed weight of farm chickens, nonfarm chickens, and commercial broilers slaughtered during the year.

4/ Dressed weight of turkeys slaughtered.

351
35

316

Production of eggs has nearly doubled in the North Atlantic States since 1925, but is only slightly higher in the Pacific Coast States. Production declined about 15 percent in the West North Central States from 1925 to 1935, but it has doubled since then. Individual States have increased much more. For example, in the last few years, egg production in New Jersey and Minnesota has been about three times as large as in 1925. In Massachusetts production has increased fourfold.

Egg production has become more evenly distributed throughout the year largely as the result of a higher rate of lay in months when production usually is lowest. For example, the average number of eggs per 100 layers in the low months of November and December increased from 4 in 1925 to 8 in 1947. The corresponding increase for the high months of April and May was from 16 to 18.

Eggs are produced on fewer farms, but the average size of production units on the fewer farms has increased. According to the U. S. Census, 15 percent fewer farms were producing eggs in 1944 than in 1934, but the number of farms with 200 or more birds almost doubled. Farms with less than 200 birds produced only about half of all eggs in 1944 compared with 65 percent in 1934.

Disposition.- Per capita consumption of eggs in the last few years has been about one-fourth higher than in 1935-39. Consumption has been at the rate of 380 eggs per capita in 1947 and 1948 compared with 300 in 1935-39 and a pre-war high of 342 in 1927. Consumption has become more evenly distributed throughout the year with the more even seasonal supply. Because of the larger supply of fresh eggs in the fall and winter months, a smaller percentage of all eggs are put into storage than formerly.

Foreign trade in eggs was relatively unimportant in prewar years. However, 17 percent of the total egg supply was used for noncivilian purposes during the years 1941-45. About one-third of this was consumed by U. S. military forces and the remainder was exported. In 1947, exports and military uses took 5 percent of the total egg supply.

Prices.- Prices received by farmers for eggs have averaged much lower in relation to other livestock products than they did in earlier years. In 1943-47, prices of eggs averaged 20 percent lower in relation to meat animals than in 1910-14, and 10 percent lower than in 1935-39. In 1947-48, prices of eggs were about 25 percent lower in relation to meat animals than they were in prewar.

Prices received by farmers for eggs average highest in the Northeast and lowest in the West North Central region. Price differences among regions increased from 1925 to 1935, but in 1945 they were less than in either of the two previous years.

Seasonal variation in prices has become smaller with the more even distribution of production and consumption throughout the year. For example, in 1925 the price in the low month of April was only half of the high month of December, but in 1947 the price in the low month was 70 percent of the high month.

Demand Factors

Domestic demand for eggs has changed in the past as the result of several factors. Among these, the most important are: (1) Growth of population, (2) changes in disposable income per capita, and (3) changes in supplies of other foods, particularly meats and dairy products. In addition, large purchases of eggs for export and military uses during the war increased total demand, but they have declined from 17 percent of total production in 1941-45 to about 2 percent in 1948, and they are expected to decline further by 1950-54.

Growth of population has been much more rapid in some regions than in others, and this has changed the geographic structure of demand and prices. For example, prices of eggs now average higher in the Pacific region in relation to the national average than they did before the war because over the past two decades this region has shifted from a surplus to a deficit basis.

Most of the eggs purchased for export as dried egg in the last few years were from surplus producing areas of the Central States. With disappearance of this demand, prices in this region may average lower relative to the national average than they did during the war.

Prices received by farmers differ among regions because of differences in distance to markets, quality of eggs marketed, availability and adequacy of marketing facilities, and seasonality of production. However, these differences may diminish in the future with improved marketing methods and more even seasonal production in the surplus-producing areas.

Changes in the demand for eggs have been correlated with changes in disposable income in the past. Since 1935-39, retail prices of eggs have not increased as much as incomes, but consumption is on a much higher level than before the war. As a result, the percentage increase in expenditures for eggs is higher than that for disposable income.

Demand for eggs has been affected by change in supplies of competing foods. The lower farm price of eggs in relation to other livestock products in the last few years than before the war has resulted in part because per capita supplies of other livestock products have been smaller relative to eggs.

Supply Factors

Technological advance in the production of eggs has been more rapid than in the case of most livestock products during the last 20 years. This is indicated partly by the fact that egg production increased much more than did meat animals or dairy products although prices of eggs did not increase as much. It means that with farm prices for eggs as favorable as before the war in relation to feed and livestock products, output of eggs can be expected to be relatively greater.

Physical efficiency in use of feed, buildings, and labor has increased as the result of several factors:

- (1) Better strains of chickens on farms have resulted with the shift from farm to commercial hatching. In 1934 less than half of the chicks raised were from commercial hatcheries, but in 1947 over 90 percent were. Participation of commercial hatcheries in the National Poultry Improvement Plan has helped to improve the egg laying capacity of laying flocks. In 1947, over half of the chicks sold were from hatcheries participating in this plan.
- (2) Feeding practices have improved. New discoveries in poultry nutrition have led to better balanced rations. Substitution of vegetable for a large part of the animal protein previously thought necessary for a balanced ration has helped to reduce feed costs.
- (3) Other practices that raise rate of lay such as lighting of laying houses in the fall and winter months and better culling and sanitation measures have been followed more widely.
- (4) A shift to a larger proportion of pullets in laying flocks, from 60 to nearly 70 percent since 1925, has caused rate of lay to increase and apparently has meant more efficient production.
- (5) The trend toward fewer and larger flocks probably has meant more efficient size of production units.

The extent to which physical efficiency of egg production has been increased cannot be estimated very exactly from available data. But the gain during the last 20 years probably has been at least 20 percent. Feed consumption per layer increased after 1925 although much less than the 40 percent increase in rate of lay. Experimental studies show that with high quality layers and balanced rations only a 5 percent increase in feed consumption is required to raise production per layer from 120 to 160 eggs per year. According to preliminary estimates in an unpublished study by the BAE, feed fed per layer increased about 10 percent from 1925 to 1940, but feed fed per dozen of eggs produced was reduced 20 percent. It appears that feed fed per dozen of eggs produced has not declined much since 1940. This probably is because layers have obtained a smaller part of the total feed they consumed from grazing around farmsteads and because of an apparent shift to heavier breeds in many areas. The gain in efficiency in use of labor and the capital invested in egg production is much greater than for feed. It probably is nearly as much as the 40 percent increase in rate of lay.

Further improvement in the efficiency of egg production can be expected in the future although the rate of progress may be lower than in recent years. There is much opportunity for improving efficiency in small farm flocks, especially in the South where rate of lay has been lowest. Besides further adoption of already developed improvements, new advances may take place. An example, still in the experimental stage, is the hybrid chicken which may greatly increase egg laying capacity of birds.

Outlook Estimates

High Level Employment.- If disposable income per capita averages as high in 1950-54 as in 1948, total expenditures for food products may increase about 4 percent or the same as expected population growth. Expenditures for eggs would also depend upon changes in supplies of other foods, particularly meats. If the supply of red meats averages around 150 pounds per capita compared with 145 pounds in 1948, it is likely that about 370 eggs per capita would be consumed at prices about the same as in 1948 (table 1). Exports excluding military consumption in 1948 are estimated to be less than 2 percent of the eggs produced. Foreign demand for U.S. eggs is expected to decline to prewar levels when imports were about equal to exports. But this decline and a slight decline in consumption per person will be more than offset by the expected population growth. Therefore total demand for eggs in 1950-54 would be about the same as in 1948.

Production of eggs will depend upon costs of feed and prices of competing products, particularly meat animals. However, larger supplies of feed than in 1948 probably will be available, and the egg-feed ratio probably will be more favorable. With a continued high level of national income, livestock prices can be expected to average higher in relation to eggs than in prewar. This would tend to limit egg production. With these conditions, farm output of eggs can be expected to remain at the 1948 level of 4.4 billion dozens. This output could be sold at prices about the same as in 1948 if demand continues high as estimated above.

Low Level Employment.- From 1945 to 1948 when national income increased greatly, expenditures for eggs and other poultry products did not expand nearly as much as did those for other livestock products. If disposable income per capita declines 25 percent by 1950-54, expenditures for eggs would be reduced although apparently not as much as for other livestock products. Prices of eggs would average higher in relation to meats than they have in the last two years. Production and consumption of eggs would be larger relative to other livestock products than it was in 1948.

The farm price of eggs would decline substantially with a reduction in disposable income per capita. However, the egg-feed price ratio probably would not change much because feed prices also would decline. Total production of eggs probably would be about 5 percent less than in 1948 (table 1). Consumption would average about 355 eggs per capita.

Chickens

Long-time Trends

Production.- Total production of chicken meat in the peak years of 1943 and 1945 was 30 percent above the 1935-39 average. Farm chicken production increased greatly during the war years, but estimates for 1947 and 1948 are about the same as in 1941. However, production of commercial broilers has

continued to increase. The percentage of all chicken meat supplied by broilers increased from 4 percent in 1934 to over 20 percent in the years since 1944. Although production of farm chickens has not increased nearly as much as eggs, the expansion in broilers has been great enough to keep total output of chicken meat on about the same level as that of eggs.

There has been an upward trend in weight of broilers and farm chickens. But because a larger proportion are broilers, average weight of all chickens in 1947-48 has been about 10 percent lower than in 1934. The increase in average weight of farm chickens probably has resulted from a shift to heavier breeds.

Regional distribution of chicken meat production has changed during the last 20 years. Expansion has been greatest in the South Atlantic region where increase in broilers has been greatest. Farm chicken production has increased most in the North Atlantic and West North Central regions where expansion in egg production also has been largest.

Production of chicken meat has become more evenly distributed among seasons as the result of the larger broiler output which is continuous throughout the year. Seasonal distribution of the farm chicken slaughter has not changed much.

Disposition.- With a higher level of production than before the war, per capita consumption of chicken meat has increased. Per capita consumption varied from 17 to 20 pounds between 1910 and 1940, but in 1941-45 it averaged slightly over 26 pounds. It is estimated to average about 23 pounds in 1948. Consumption has become more evenly distributed throughout the year with the more even seasonal supply.

Foreign trade has not been very important in the case of chicken meat. In prewar years exports were about equal to imports. Exports increased during the war years, but only in 1946 were net exports more than 1 percent of total production.

Prices.- Prices of farm chickens and broilers have been lower compared with meat animals than they were before the war. In 1943-47, prices of farm chickens averaged about 15 percent lower in relation to meat animals than in 1935-39. In 1947-48, they were 40 percent lower in relation to meat animals than in prewar. Prices of broilers have been about 10 percent lower in relation to farm chickens in recent years than they were before the war. Prices of chicken meat have become more stable throughout the year with more even production.

Chicken-feed price ratios also have been relatively low in recent years. Pounds of poultry ration equal in value to a pound of chicken liveweight averaged 9 in 1924-33 compared with 8.2 in 1934-43 and 7.7 in 1944-48.

Demand Factors

Demand for chicken meat in the future will depend upon growth of population and changes in disposable income or purchasing power. Per capita expenditures for chicken meat have increased together with changes in disposable income per capita. Since 1935-39, expenditures increased by a higher percentage than did disposable income. However, retail prices of chicken meat did not increase as much as did prices of red meats, and consumption per capita increased more than in the case of red meats.

Supplies of substitute foods, particularly red meats, also will affect the demand for chicken meat. The lower prices received by farmers for chickens in relation to meat animals in the last few years compared with pre-war was due in part to smaller increases in per capita supplies of red meats than of chickens.

The shift to more broilers in the total chicken meat supply means that the nature of the product has changed. A larger part of the total supply consists of young and more tender birds. However, the larger supply of broilers has made it more difficult to market birds from Midwest egg-producing flocks which are mainly box packed and frequently are stored for extended periods.

Supply Factors

Production of chicken meat, especially broilers, probably will continue to be larger in relation to other livestock products than before the war if price relationships between chicken meat, feed, and livestock products average about the same as in 1935-39. This is indicated by the trend towards increased production of chicken meat in relation to livestock. Production of farm chickens will depend upon factors affecting egg production, but production of broilers will be more directly affected by prices and feed costs. Production of broilers responds rapidly to changes in current relationships between costs and selling prices. As a result, there are frequent market gluts or deficits.

Physical efficiency in chicken meat production has improved during the last 10 years although probably not as much as it has in eggs. Feed consumption per pound of all chicken meat produced has declined with the shift to more broilers. Broilers raised to 3 pounds consume about 20 percent less feed per pound of meat produced than do chickens raised to full maturity. This factor alone probably has caused average feed consumption per pound of all chicken meat produced to be reduced at least 5 percent since 1934.

Death losses of chicks raised for farm flock replacements and for broilers have been reduced although the extent cannot be estimated from available data. As death losses are less in the commercial broiler industry than in farm flocks, the shift to more broilers also has resulted in a smaller loss of all young chickens.

The shift to a larger proportion of heavier breeds in farm flocks in the last few years probably has meant more efficient chicken meat production. Improved breeds and better feeding practices also have been important.

Efficiency in use of feed, labor, and capital investments in the production of commercial broilers has improved with growth of the industry. Feed consumption per pound of broilers produced has been reduced as the result of better feeding and management practices. The average length of time required to raise a broiler to market weight has been reduced from 15 or 16 weeks to about 13 since the early 1930's. As a result, labor and capital costs per unit of output have been reduced.

Further reduction in physical costs of chicken meat production can be expected in the future, especially if the trend toward increased production of broilers is continued. The development of better types of birds such as those resulting from the "chicken-of-tomorrow" contests should make chicken meat production more efficient.

Outlook Estimates

High Level Employment.-- With no change in disposable income per capita and a 3 percent increase in population, demand for chicken meat may be slightly larger in 1950-54 than in 1948. If supplies of red meats are increased enough to maintain consumption at around 150 pounds per capita and prices of chickens do not change substantially in relation to meat animals, consumption will average about 25 pounds per capita at prices about the same as in 1948 (table 1).

Production of chicken meat probably will average about 15 percent larger than in 1948 but only slightly larger than in 1946 and 1947. The increased production compared with 1946-47 would consist mainly of broilers. As pointed out earlier, egg production probably will not be increased from the 1948 level. However, the number of chickens raised for farm flock replacements would be much larger than in 1948 but slightly less than in 1946 or 1947.

Low Level Employment.-- Despite a sharp increase in disposable income from 1946 to 1948, the quantity consumed of chicken meat per capita and prices paid per pound remained about the same. Expenditures for chicken meat, therefore, may not decline greatly with the assumed reduction in disposable income. It appears probable that about 24 pounds of chicken meat would be consumed per capita. Production would be nearly as great as estimated with high level employment. Production of farm chickens would be about the same as under the higher level because egg production is not expected to change much. Output of broilers would be about the same as in 1948, slightly less than under the higher level.

Turkeys

Long-term Trends

Production.- Number of turkeys raised and average weight per bird have increased greatly since 1929. Total production of turkey meat in 1945 and 1946 was over three times as large as in 1929. However, the number raised was reduced in the last three years, and in 1948 it is expected to be about 32 million or less than in any year since 1938. But if weight per bird averages the same as last year, total production will still be 15 percent larger than in 1939 and double that of 1929.

The regional distribution of turkey production has changed greatly in the last two decades. In recent years the North Atlantic and East North Central States have accounted for 20 percent of total output compared with 10 percent in the early 1930's. In the last few years, the South Central region has raised only 15 percent of all turkeys compared with 30 percent in the early 1930's. Other regions have maintained approximately their previous percentages of the national total.

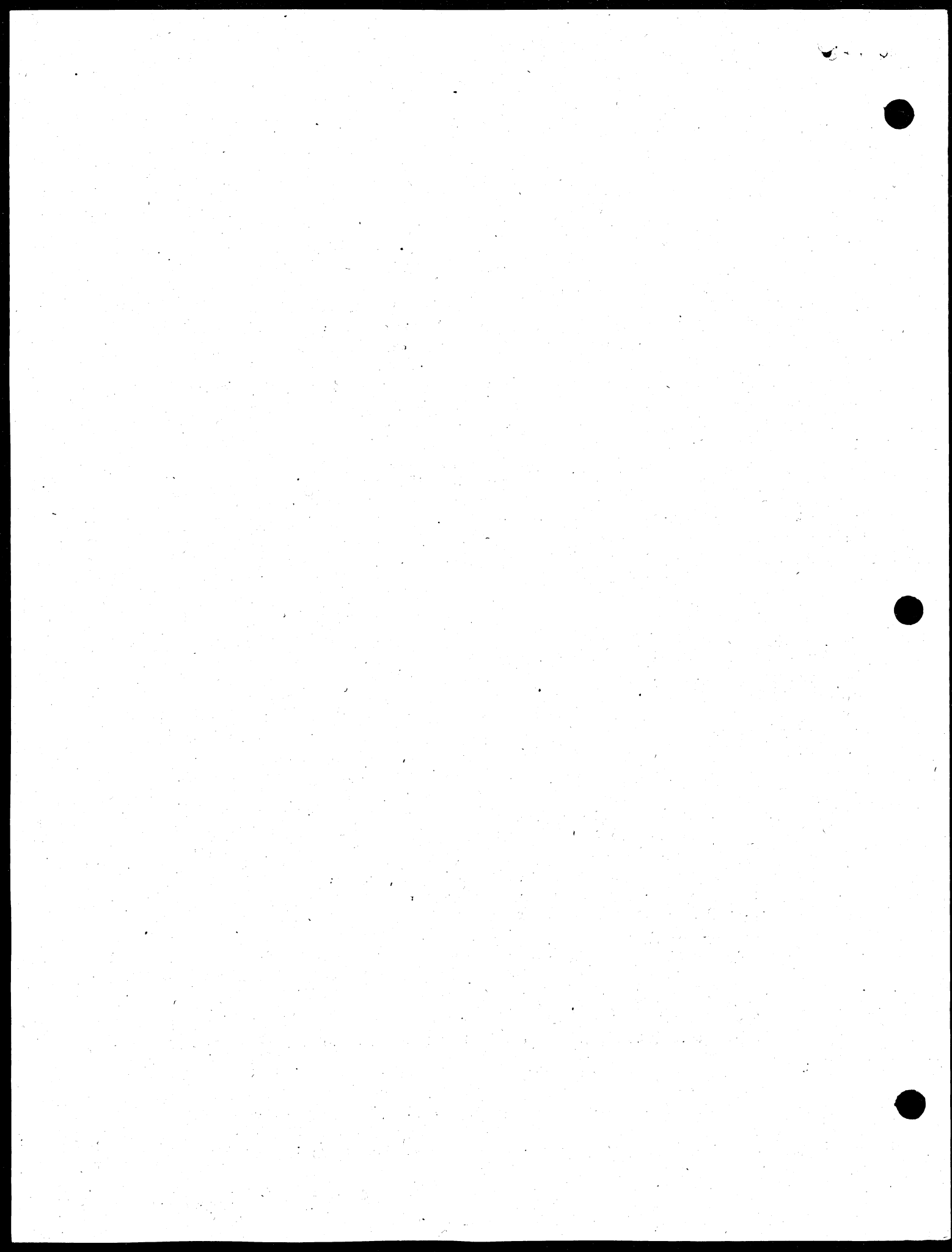
Turkeys are produced on fewer farms but in larger numbers per farm than was the case 20 years ago. According to data from the U. S. Census, turkeys were produced on only one-third as many farms in 1944 as in 1929, but the average number produced per farm was increased fivefold. A large part of total production is on large specialized turkey farms.

Disposition.- Per capita consumption of turkey meat reached a peak of 4.5 pounds in 1946 compared with 1.8 pounds in 1929. Because production is expected to decline in 1948, per capita consumption probably will average 3.4 pounds or about the same as in 1939.

Consumption of turkey meat has become more even throughout the year. Marketing of turkeys during November and December from 1941 to 1943 accounted for 75 to 80 percent of the yearly total. But since then, the percentage marketed in the two holiday months has been less than 70 percent. In recent years, a larger part of total marketings has been put into storage for consumption in months when marketings are smallest.

Prices.- Prices received by farmers for turkeys were closely correlated with prices of chickens and meat animals from prewar until 1947. However, in 1947 prices of turkeys were relatively about 25 percent lower than that of meat animals compared with prewar relationships. Because supplies are smaller in 1948 than in 1947, prices of turkeys are expected to average at least 20 percent higher.

Regional differences in prices have been much less in recent years than they were earlier. For example, prices received per pound by farmers in 1929 averaged 22 cents higher in the North Atlantic region than in the South Central,



but in 1947 the difference was only 12 cents although the U. S. price averaged 20 percent higher than in 1925. Price increases since before the war have been smallest in the North Atlantic and East North Central regions where percentage increases in production were largest.

The turkey-feed price ratio was above average during the war years. Pounds of feed equal in value to a pound of turkey averaged over 11 in 1943-45 compared with 9.2 in 1934-43. The ratio declined to 9.7 in 1946 and 7.7 in 1947.

Demand Factors

The large percentage increase in consumption since 1929 apparently has been due in part to higher preferences of consumers for turkey meat. Consumption doubled from 1929 to 1939 when disposable income per capita declined much more than did prices. Consumption per capita and prices paid for turkeys have increased since 1939 as the result of the increase in buying power of consumers and the expansion in production.

As in the case of other products, demand for turkey meat will be affected by changes in population and disposable income per capita. New developments in marketing such as eviscerated turkey may help to expand the market in the future, especially if marketing costs can be reduced.

Supply Factors

Because of lower unit costs that have resulted from technological improvements and greater specialization in production, total output of turkey meat can be expected to continue to average much larger than in 1935-39. The wartime expansion was encouraged by a favorable turkey-feed price ratio. The reduction since 1945 apparently has resulted because feed prices have increased greatly in relation to turkeys and because other alternatives became more profitable, particularly on general farms. Number of turkeys raised is estimated to be about 10 percent less in 1948 than in 1947, but it would have been profitable for farmers to have produced at least as many this year as last.

Increased production since the late 1920's has been made possible by a reduction in death losses of young turkeys and breeding hens. Loss of all poults hatched declined from 28 percent in 1941 to 20 percent in 1947. Breeder hen losses declined from 10 to 8 percent. Death losses from black head and other diseases have been reduced.

Another important development is an increase in number of turkeys raised per breeder hen, particularly in the West North Central region. A shift from farm to commercial hatching of poults is partly responsible for these developments although improved practices also are important. Better management probably has resulted with the trend towards fewer and larger sized production units. Feed and other costs per unit of output measured in constant prices, undoubtedly have been reduced.



Outlook Estimates

High Level Employment.- Total demand for turkey meat may be slightly higher than in 1948 with no change in current levels of employment and income per capita and a 4 percent increase in population. But because of lower unit costs of production and lower prices of turkey meat in relation to other livestock products, both production and consumption per capita may average slightly higher than in the peak years of 1946 and 1947. It seems probable that about 4.7 pounds of turkey meat will be consumed per capita and that production will average about 15 percent larger than in 1947 although only about 4 percent larger than in 1946. Prices received by farmers are likely to average lower than in 1948 but at least as high as in 1946 or 1947.

Low Level Employment.- A reduction of 25 percent in disposable income per capita would mean a substantial reduction in demand for turkey meat. However, this would be reflected mainly in lower prices and not in much lower rates of consumption. Production of turkeys probably would not be much less than with the higher level of income and employment because feed prices could be expected to be lower. It appears probable that production would be about 10 percent larger than in 1947 and that consumption would average about 4.3 per capita or slightly lower than in 1946 or 1947. Prices received by farmers for turkeys probably would average slightly below those in 1946 and 1947.

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