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*Catrina Berits  
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OCCASIONAL PAPERS NO. 5

# A RECORD OF AGRICULTURAL POLICY

1956—1958

by

EDITH H. WHETHAM

and

JEAN I. CURRIE

*Issued by the*

FARM ECONOMICS BRANCH  
SCHOOL OF AGRICULTURE  
CAMBRIDGE UNIVERSITY

December, 1958

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## **Foreword**

This "Occasional Papers No. 5" continues for a further two years the record of British agricultural policy contained in the earlier papers in this series. Part I contains an analysis of recent changes in the aggregate agricultural income compared with the national income, and in the net income accruing to farms of varying types and sizes.

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PART I

## Economic Background

The general level of import prices, which had been rising through 1955, altered little in 1956 and 1957, but tended to fall in the early months of 1958; the closing of the Suez Canal in the autumn of 1956 brought a sharp rise in the landed prices of mineral fuels and in shipping freights, but these were later partly offset by falling prices in many of the international commodity markets. Although the volume of United Kingdom production has been very stable over the past two years, the money value of the national income has continued to rise, together with the aggregate expenditure by consumers and the general level of retail prices:—

	January 1956 = 100		1956		1957		1958	
	Jan.	July	Jan.	July	Jan.	July	Jan.	July
Weekly wage rates .. .. .	100	106	107	111	112	114		
Retail Prices .. .. .	100	102	104	107	108	108½		
			Quarters					
£ million .. .. .	1st	3rd	1st.	3rd.	1st.			
Personal expenditure on consumer goods and services	3132	3427	3229	3613	3461			

Unemployment showed only a slight rise in total, but was significantly higher in certain industries. The growing volume of imports and the rising trend in money incomes led to expectations of an adverse balance of trade and marked speculation developed against sterling in the autumn of 1957. After a severe loss of exchange reserves, the Bank rate was raised from 5 to 7 per cent on September 19, 1957; it was reduced to 6 per cent in March, to 5½ per cent in May and 4½ per cent in August. Ministers emphasised the need for further increases in wage rates to be met by other economies within the industries granting them, rather than by a rise in their final prices.

### Comparison of Incomes

For almost twenty years, prices, costs and aggregate incomes have risen in the United Kingdom: The rate of rise has varied but the trend has always been upward. The fact that farmers' aggregate income, as defined by the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food, is now six times the pre-war level has therefore little significance, until comparison is made with other incomes over the same period. In Chart I, the annual estimates of the gross national income at factor cost are adjusted to harvest years (June/May), for comparison with farmers' aggregate net income which rose sharply in the early years of war and again during the expansion programme launched in the autumn of 1947. These two periods of rapidly rising incomes gave farmers a lead over the much slower rise in the national income, which only doubled between 1937/8 and 1948/9 and trebled up to 1954/5; the farm income was some five times the pre-war level by 1948/9 and in subsequent years maintained most of its lead.

But the pre-war year used in this comparison (because statistics were available for it) was in a period when agricultural incomes as a whole might be regarded as unduly low; farmers were slowly emerging from acute depression and £56 millions divided between some 330,000 farmers indicates a level of personal incomes considerably below what most farmers would regard as normal. The statistics have therefore been reworked with the years 1946/7 and 1947/8 as a base,

a moderately good year for weather followed by a poor one. The result indicates that farm income rose more sharply than the national income in the first years of the expansion programme, and that this trend was reversed about 1953/4; but if the provisional figure for aggregate farm income of £360 millions proves correct for 1957/8, much of this difference in trend will be eliminated. These post-war trends conform to the generally accepted thesis that a rise in prices (and therefore in incomes) encourages a rise in output; and that when output is to be stabilised or reduced, profit margins should be narrowed. As the general level of prices and incomes was rising over these years, a divergence from trend for one occupation shows itself as a faster rise or as a period of stability.

These general trends do, however, obscure the substantial variations in the fortunes of different types and sizes of farms during these years. The Farm Management Survey provides statistics which can be used, with caution, to illustrate this point. The caution is required since the groups of farms are not identical over this period and there have been minor changes in classification but significant differences emerge clearly in Chart II. It was arable farming that obtained the greatest increase in income after 1947; and these farms also showed a second period of rising profitability from 1953 or 1954. On the other hand, profits from dairy and upland stock farms increased much more slowly in these two periods; the earlier peak in 1948 was not much exceeded by that shown in 1953, since when the trend has been downwards.

The last decade brought three significant developments for arable farming. There was firstly the general rise in prices, particularly cereal prices, from 1948 onwards. Secondly, there was a continuing rise in crop yields, caused partly by the new varieties of cereals but also by the better control of weeds and the greater use of fertilisers. Thirdly, the doubling of farm wages which occurred over this period was partially countered by mechanisation and by hire of machinery on the fen and light land farms; the heavy land arable farms could however do little to reduce the amount of labour employed but by adding more machinery they used their labour more effectively to produce a larger output:—

Farm Costs £ per Farm

	Labour	Machinery Fuel Contract	Total Power	Total Costs	
				Actual	% of 1946
<i>Arable:</i>					
(1) Heavy soil	1,322	650	1,972	3,320	
1946					
1956	2,257	1,975	4,232	8,714	260
(2) Light soil	1,263	637	1,900	3,481	
1946					
1956	2,083	1,447	3,530	7,467	215
(3) Fen	1,134	396	1,530	2,811	
1946					
1956	1,816	1,025	2,841	5,391	192
<i>Dairying:</i>					
1946	606	314	920	2,006	
(4) 1955	946	688	1,634	4,161	208
<i>Scottish Hill</i>					
1947	913			2,679	
(5) <i>Sheep</i> 1955	836			2,848	106

\*Excluding labour of farmer and wife.

Sources: (1)–(3) Reports of the Farm Economics Branch, School of Agriculture, Cambridge.  
(4) Farm Management Survey, England and Wales.  
(5) Scottish Agricultural Economics, Vols. I–VIII.



Chart I. Relative Growth of U.K. National and Agricultural Incomes

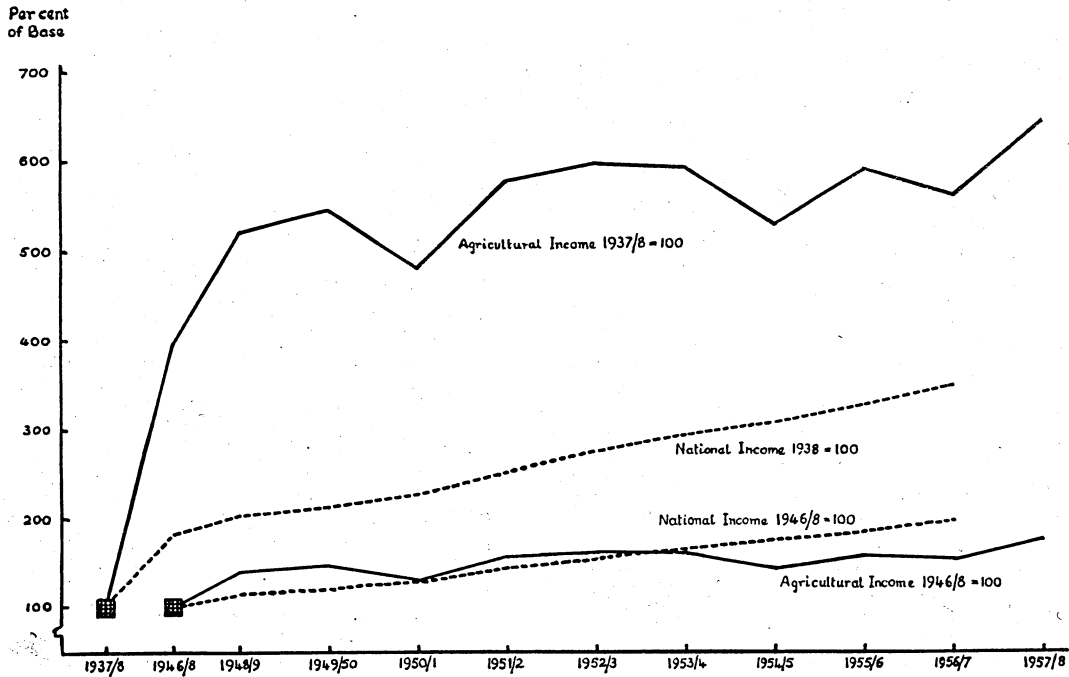


Chart II. Farm Income by Type of Farm: Great Britain

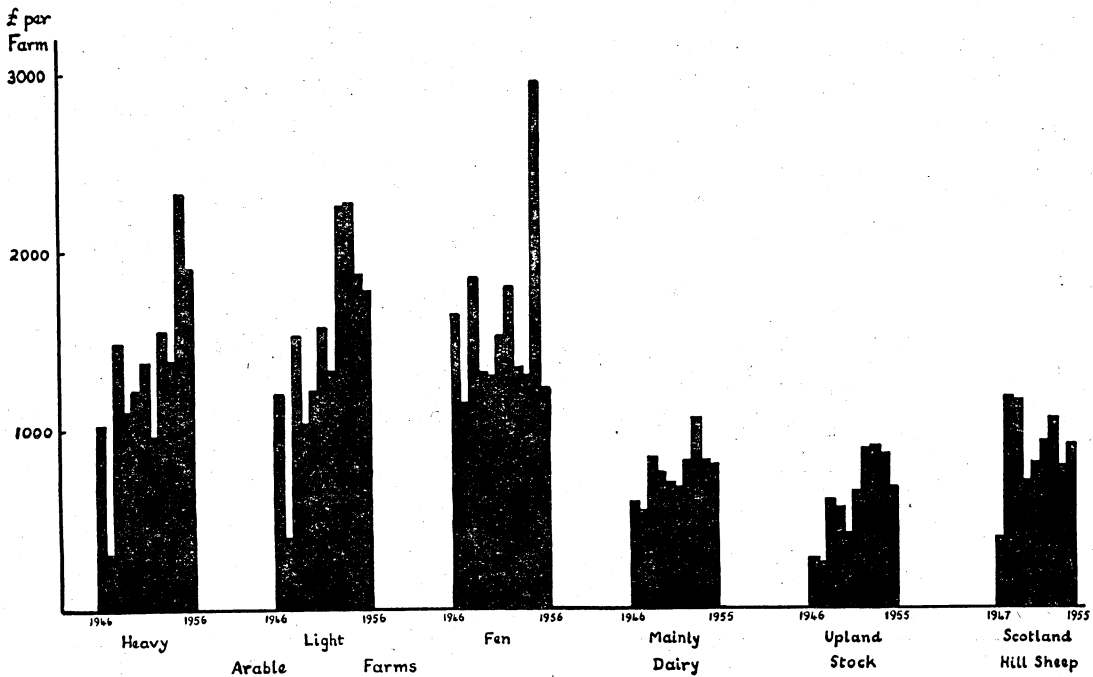


Chart III. Farm Income by Size of Farm: England and Wales

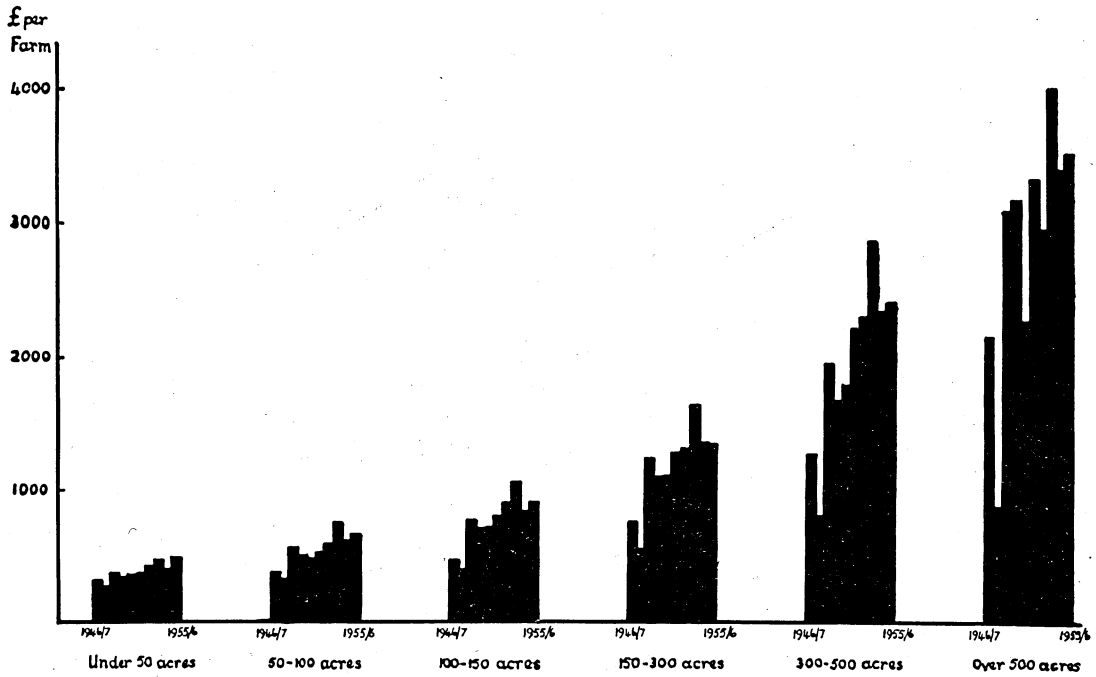
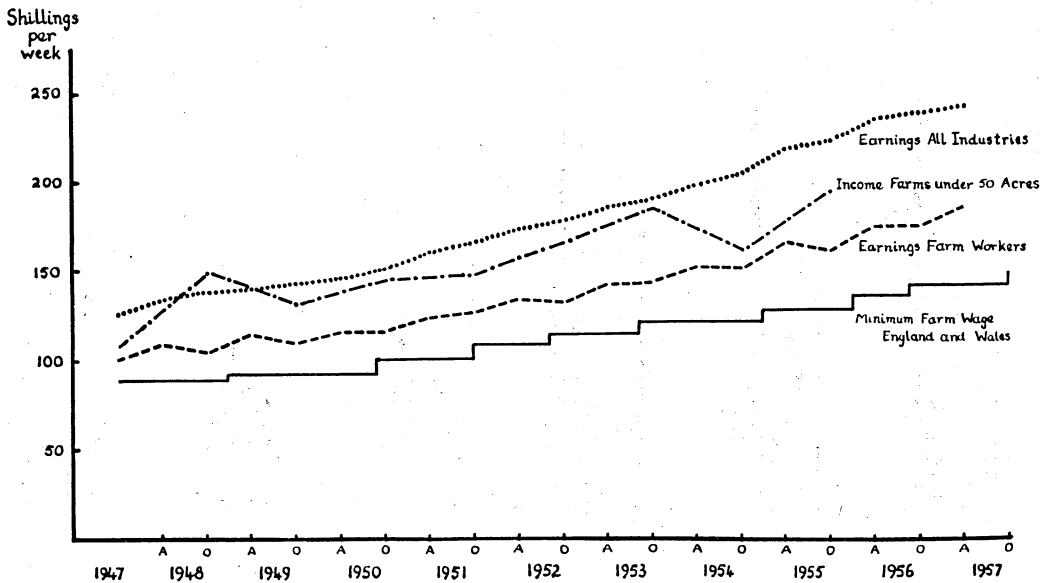


Chart IV. Farm and Industrial Weekly Earnings



The dairy farms were also successful in keeping down the amount of paid labour employed as its price rose; they spent progressively more on feedingstuffs as supplies became available and they presumably made better use of their unpaid family labour. The Scottish hill sheep farms seem to have carried furthest this economy in hired labour to the point of spending less on wages recently than in the post-war years.

These changes in expenditure reflect not only the changes in the prices of the inputs but also the effects of rapid technical progress which has altered the relative profitability of using different inputs; and the whole process has occurred during a period of expanding output. It is estimated that the net output of agriculture in the United Kingdom rose by about 23 per cent between 1936/8 and 1947 and in 1957/9 was about 60 per cent above the pre-war level; the total quantity of labour employed is now probably smaller and inputs of imported feedingstuffs and store stock are also smaller, but farmers use far more fuel and fertilisers and machinery<sup>1</sup>. The dissimilar trends in incomes thus partly reflect the ability of some farmers to substitute cheaper factors for dearer ones, and the inability of other farmers to adapt a comparatively rigid combination of resources.

An analysis of income trends by size of farms reveals much the same pattern, for the small farms concentrate mainly on dairying, pigs and poultry with a large input of purchased feeds, while the larger farms in the lowlands draw a far higher proportion of their income from the sale of crops. As is shown in Chart III, the farms in the two largest size groups have, over the past decade, trebled or quadrupled their 1947 income, a year admittedly unfavourable for cropping; but the farms under 50 acres in size have raised their income by barely two-thirds of their previous low level; and those from 50-100 acres in size have about doubled their 1947 incomes. Hence arises the present concern with the problems of the smaller farms<sup>2</sup>.

In the last two price reviews, the guaranteed prices for milk, pigs and eggs—the basic products of the smaller farms—have been either reduced or raised by less than the calculated rise in costs. For the market prices of the last two have been consistently below the guaranteed prices, requiring heavy payments from the Exchequer to make good the deficiency; the supplies of milk now exceed the consumption in the liquid market by about one third, and the disposal of the surplus as butter has contributed to the sharp fall in butter prices and brought strong complaints from the New Zealand dairy farmers. A fall in the profit margins on these three products will, it is hoped, encourage some farmers to switch their resources to other types of production and thus reduce the pressure on these markets. But such diversion is unlikely to occur on small farms, because the production of beef, fat lambs or crops on small acreages is even less profitable than the existing pattern of production at the new and lower margins. And few farmers on these small farms have the capital or the margin of income to embark on radical changes in buildings, breeding stock or machinery. Their main defence is a continued reduction in costs, wherever possible; and better management of their existing resources in order to obtain greater output, thereby adding more to their receipts than to their expenses.

Although these numerous small farms depend heavily on the output of milk, pigs and eggs, their total output even of these products is probably less important than that of the fewer but larger units<sup>3</sup>. Hence, the greater part of the payments made by taxpayers under the guaranteed price schemes probably accrues to those farmers whose incomes are already well above the average and whose farm structure is sufficiently flexible to take advantage of changes in relative profit margins. Because these farmers sell more, they obtain more of the payments made on

<sup>1</sup> Scottish Agricultural Economics, Vol. IV, p.9; Vol. VIII, p.12.

<sup>2</sup> Farm Economics Branch, School of Agriculture, Cambridge, The Family Farm. Occasional Papers No.4. 1956. Hendry and Beilby, The Small Farm in Scotland. Scottish Agricultural Economics. Vol. VIII, p.28-42.

<sup>3</sup> Lloyd, E. M. H., The Times July 21, 1955; Kirk, J. H., Journal of Agricultural Economics, 1958.

guaranteed prices. In an attempt to remedy this inequality which results from the inequality of output, the last three price reviews have combined lower profit margins on some of the basic commodities with higher grants in aid of production.

These grants are now running at some £80-£90 millions each year. There are grants for specific products before they reach the point of sale—for calf rearing, for ewes and cows on hill land; there are grants in aid of land fertility—for liming, fertilisers, bracken clearing; there are grants on approved equipment—field drains, water supplies, fences, silage pits, farm buildings, yards and roads. This policy points logically to falling costs and rising output in future years, as soil fertility is built up and hindrances to production removed from many small holdings and upland farms; the taxpayers invest in improvements which become the property of the owner of the farm and presumably draw their reward in the form of lower prices for a larger output at lower costs. As a short term policy, these grants can be used to stimulate output, and therefore incomes, on the smaller farms; but they do not seem to be a permanent solution to the social problems which arise when so many families determine to farm, but feel aggrieved because from their small areas of land they may not make as much cash income as many cowmen on larger farms.

In Chart IV, a comparison is made between the average income on the smallest farms—those under 50 acres in size; the average earnings obtained by men working in industry, building and public services; the average earnings obtained by male agricultural workers over 20 years old; and the minimum wage for adult male farm workers in England and Wales. It must be recognised that only rough comparisons are possible between these groups, whose conditions of work vary as widely as degrees of responsibility and social status. But the annual income of this group of farmers, when expressed as a weekly wage, kept pace fairly well with the average of industrial earnings from 1947 until 1953 but since then has lagged in the race against inflation. The margin between industrial and farm earnings has also widened over the last four years; and there has also been a greater margin between these average earnings of farm workers and their minimum wage. This may partly be due to the shorter hours to which the minimum wage now relates, so that the same length of working week attracts more overtime pay, but it may also reflect the higher wage required to keep in farming the better men. Scottish evidence shows that almost all shepherds, cowmen and stockmen obtain a contract wage substantially more than the minimum for their class, while such opportunities are more restricted for the field workers<sup>1</sup>. The number of men regularly employed in agriculture has been falling steadily since 1949; the 526,000 recorded for Great Britain in June 1957 were slightly fewer than those employed in 1939, but they and some 330,000 farmers produced an output 60 per cent greater.

<sup>1</sup> Mackenzie, A. M., Variations in Earnings of Scottish Farm Workers. Scottish Agricultural Economics, Vol. VII, p.33; Vol. VIII, p.60.

## PART II

# Agricultural Legislation

### HILL FARMING ACT, 1956

This act extended for seven years the period in which schemes for the improvement of stock rearing land might be submitted, and made available an additional £5 million for grants. It also extended for the same period the powers of Ministers to pay subsidies on hill sheep and cattle.

### AGRICULTURE ACT, 1957

This act abolished the forward minimum prices introduced by the Agriculture Act, 1947. Instead, it specified that the guaranteed individual price for each of the scheduled commodities should never fall below 96 per cent of the guaranteed price of the previous year; in addition, the total value of all guaranteed prices in any one year should not fall below 97½ per cent of the previous year's total, when adjusted for ascertained changes in aggregate costs of production. The Act also made provision for farm improvement grants and set up a Pig Industry Development Authority which is to carry out certain functions of research and improvement for the pig industry.

### AGRICULTURE ACT, 1958

The act repeals the provisions under Part II of the Agriculture Act 1947 for the supervision, direction and dispossession of farmers and land owners. Modifications were also made to the wording of clauses dealing with arbitration over rents, the hearing by Land Tribunals of claims for the termination of tenancies, and the compulsory control over weeds of arable land.

## PART III

**Agricultural Output, Incomes and Grants**

During the last two years, the net agricultural output in the United Kingdom has continued to rise slowly. A downward trend in the area of tillage has been combined with a rising trend in crop yields and a marked rise in the output of milk and eggs:—

Table I. United Kingdom Agricultural Statistics 1954-1957

Million acres	1939	1954	1955	1956	1957*
Wheat .. .. .	1.77	2.46	1.95	2.29	2.11
Barley .. .. .	1.01	2.06	2.30	2.32	2.62
Oats .. .. .	2.43	2.59	2.58	2.56	2.35
Potatoes .. .. .	0.70	0.95	0.87	0.92	0.81
Sugar Beet .. .. .	0.35	0.44	0.42	0.43	0.43
Other Crops & Fallow	2.55	3.33	3.18	2.97	2.85
Tillage .. .. .	8.81	11.83	11.30	11.49	11.18
Temporary Grass .. .. .	4.09	6.03	6.24	6.12	6.35
Permanent Grass .. .. .	18.77	13.21	13.53	13.47	13.50
Million Head					
Cows & Heifers in milk & calf .. .. .	3.89	4.56	4.49	4.67	4.73
Other cattle .. .. .	4.99	6.16	6.18	6.24	6.16
Sheep .. .. .	26.89	22.87	22.95	23.59	24.80
Pigs .. .. .	4.39	6.25	5.84	5.47	5.97
Poultry .. .. .	74.36	83.64	86.86	92.46	94.87

\* Provisional

Digest of Statistics.

Table II. United Kingdom Agricultural Production

Thousand Tons	Pre-war average	1954/5	1955/6	1956/7	1957/8 †
Wheat .. ..	1651	2783	2599	2845	2680
Barley .. ..	765	2244	2936	2800	2950
Oats .. .. .	1940	2440	2709	2486	2146
Potatoes .. ..	4873	7325	6278	7533	5705
Sugar Beet .. ..	2741	4521	4556	5169	4515
Milk (million gallons)	1563	2138	2206	2359	2390
Eggs* .. .. .	385	552	575	628	661
Beef and Veal .. ..	578	797	687	849	855
Mutton and Lamb .. ..	195	182	191	197	212
Pigmeat* .. .. .	435	757	659	641	708
Wool (clip) .. .. .	34	34	31	37	35
Net Agricultural Output	100	151	155	160	161

\* Includes estimated output from units under one acre.

Cmnd. 390

† Provisional

The aggregate net income of farmers has ranged between £300 and £330 millions in recent years, but is expected to reach the record level of £360 millions in the harvest year 1957/8:—

Table III. United Kingdom Agricultural Income

£m.	Aggregate Net Income	Change in Stocks
1937/8	56	1½
1946/7	191½	23
1953/4	325	14
1954/5	296	18½
1955/6	329½	27½
1956/7	314	31½
1957/8*	360	12

\* Forecast

Cmnd. 390.

Included in these figures of net aggregate income are the following production grants:—

**Table IV. Production Grants, United Kingdom**

£000	Expenditure		Estimates	
	1955/6	1956/7	1957/8	1958/9
Ploughing .. .. .	5436	10025	9445	9420
Land drainage and water supply ..	2776	2882	2685	2622
Hill land, marginal prod. and bracken	1651	2127	2438	2227
Lime .. .. .	10237	9292	10400	9750
Fertilisers .. .. .	14300	19742	23600	26750
Stock rearing land .. .. .	1470	1639	1396	1676
Diseases of Animals Act 1950 T.T. herds* .. .. .	10243	9837	8225	8750
Hill Sheep and Cattle .. .. .	3742	3843	2821	2880
Calf rearing .. .. .	7661	11345	12400	12725
Silos .. .. .	—	—	2100	1375

\* G.B. only  
Civil Appropriation Accounts, 1955/6, 1956/7. Class VIII, votes 2, 12. Civil Estimates 1957/8, 1958/9. Class VIII, votes 2, 11.

**Table V. Livestock Subsidies, Rates per Head**

	1955/6	1956/7	1957/8	1958/9
<b>HILL SHEEP:</b>	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.
Breeding Ewes .. .. .	5 0	5 0	—	—
Ewes not in self-maintained flocks	2 6	2 6	—	—
<b>HILL CATTLE:</b>	£ s.	£ s.	£ s.	£ s.
Homebred, summer grazed ..	2 0	2 0	—	—
Cows and heifers .. .. .	10 0	10 0	10 0	10 0
<b>CALF-REARING:</b>				
Steer calves .. .. .	7 10	8 10	8 10	8 10
Other beef-type calves .. .. .	7 10	7 10	7 10	7 10

M.A.F.F. Press Notices.



Table VI. Fertiliser Subsidies

At July 1, 1958	Delivered Price per Ton Nutrient	
	Without Subsidy	With Subsidy
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Sulphate of Ammonia (20·8 N)	102 17 6	55 5 6
Super Phosphate (18% P <sup>2</sup> O <sup>5</sup> )	80 2 0	42 12 0
Basic Slag (12% P <sup>2</sup> O <sup>5</sup> )	56 5 0	31 13 4

Hansard, July 24, 1958.

The cost (actual or expected) of the agricultural price guarantees is given below:—

Table VII. United Kingdom Agricultural Price Guarantees

£000	Expenditure		Estimates	
	1955/6	1956/7	1957/8	1958/9
Cereals .. .. .	35906	26046	51261	43655
Eggs .. .. .	16000	33735	48417†	43500
Fatstock .. .. .	52276	74682	85700	105320
Wool .. .. .	—	220	1500	2500
Potatoes .. .. .	—	476*	8347†	7300
Milk .. .. .	34474	21285	12831	9268
Farm Improvements and Amalgamations .. .. .	—	—	200	5000
N. Ireland Agriculture .. .. .	—	—	850	200
Bread Subsidy .. .. .	37583	17278	50	15

\* Great Britain only.

† Including trading services.

Civil Appropriation Accounts, 1955/6, 1956/7, Class VIII, votes 2, 12. Civil Estimates 1958/9, Class VIII, votes 2, 11.

The following table gives the total value of the guarantees paid in 1957/8 as a percentage of the total value of output at the point of first sale:—

**Table VIII. Guarantees as Percentage of Estimated Market Value**

Product	Period	% Estimated Market Value
Fat Cattle	1957/8 financial	24
Sheep	year	21
Pigs	do.	29
Eggs*	do.	47
Milk†	do.	5
Wheat	Year to June 1958	42
Barley	do.	40
Oats	do.	27
Rye	do.	10
Wool	1957 clip	21

\*Market price delivered to wholesalers.

† Average price to producer less subsidy.  
Hansard, April 3, 1958.

## PART IV

# Price Reviews

### LONG TERM GUARANTEES

The price review held in March 1956 followed a substantial rise in the minimum wage for farm workers; the total increase in agricultural costs, assuming no economy in the use of resources, was estimated at about £37 millions a year for the commodities whose prices were guaranteed under the Agriculture Act 1947. Against this, the 1956 review provided increased guarantees expected to add about £25 million to farmers' returns, while the continuing increase in efficiency was expected to reduce costs by about the same sum. Considerable controversy was aroused over this decision and later in the year the mechanism of the reviews was discussed between the National Farmers' Unions and the Ministries concerned. Various modifications were agreed, which were announced in Cmnd. 23 as applying to all subsequent price reviews, in advance of the Agriculture Act 1957 (see p. 13). The Government undertook:-

1. to maintain the guaranteed price for each product at not less than 96 per cent of the guaranteed price of the previous year; prices for livestock and their products are not to be reduced by more than 9 per cent in any three years;
2. to maintain the total value of the guarantees (including production grants) at not less than 97½ per cent of the preceding year's total, plus or minus the calculated change in costs between each price review;
3. not to continue announcing forward minimum prices for crops and livestock for two to four years ahead;
4. to provide further grants in aid of improvements to land and permanent buildings on farms.

### MARCH 1957

The first price review under these new arrangements took into account a rise in the minimum wage (in September 1956) from 135s. to 141s. per week. Total agricultural costs were estimated to have increased by about £38 million in a full year; of this, £24 million was to be offset by greater efficiency and £14 million was provided through changes in guaranteed prices and grants, as compared with the minimum recoupment of £8 million established by the new agreement. Guaranteed prices were raised for fat cattle and sheep among livestock, and for oats, barley, potatoes and beet among crops; there were reductions in price for fat pigs, eggs and wheat while milk received a token increase of ¼d. per gallon. The guarantees for these four commodities had involved heavy subsidies in previous years and their output was still increasing. (Cmnd. 109).

### MARCH 1958

In October 1957, the minimum wage for farm workers was again raised to £7 10s. In a full year, and assuming no change in the numbers employed, this change was estimated to add nearly £17 million to the aggregate agricultural costs, but to offset this rise in costs, prices of feeding-stuffs were substantially lower. It was decided to raise slightly the guaranteed prices for fat cattle, and to extend the subsidy on some types of fertilisers; guaranteed prices were reduced

for pigs, eggs and milk, partly to follow the falling trend in the prices of feedingstuffs and partly to discourage any increase in their supply. These decisions were estimated to reduce the value of the total guarantees by some £21 million. The price changes made at these two reviews are summarised in the following table:—

Table IX. Guaranteed Prices, 1957 and 1958

Product	Unit	1956/7		1957/8		1958/9	
		s.	d.	s.	d.	s.	d.
<b>LIVESTOCK:</b>							
Fat Cattle	live cwt.	151	0 (a)	156	0	157	0
Fat Sheep & Lambs	lb. d.c. wt.	3	2	3	3½	3	3½
Fat Pigs (b), (c)	sc. dd. wt.	51	11	51	11	49	11
	equivalent on new feed price	—		—		44	9
Eggs (b)	doz.	4	3	4	1½	—	
	equivalent incl. E.M.B. costs (d)	—		4	6.2	4	4.45
	equivalent on new feed price	—		—		4	0.95
Milk	gal.	3	2.45	3	2.70	3	1.70
Wool	lb.	4	8¼	4	8¼	4	8¼
<b>CROPS:</b>							
Wheat	cwt.	30	0	28	0	28	1
Barley	cwt.	26	0	26	6	—	
	equivalent on new basis	—		29	0	29	0
Oats	cwt.	24	9	27	5	27	5
Rye	cwt.	23	0	22	1	22	1
Potatoes	ton	217	0	225	0	—	
	equivalent on higher minimum size	—		229	0	229	0
Sugar Beet	ton 16.5 % sugar	128	1	130	6	130	6

(a) Including special young cows in this year only.

(b) Price varies with changes in costs of standard feed ration.

(c) Deduction of 1d. per sc. in G.B. for progeny testing.

(d) In 1956/7 the price was that guaranteed to producers; in subsequent years the price has been guaranteed to the Egg Marketing Board and includes costs of packing stations, etc.  
Cmnd. 109, 309.

## PART V

**Agricultural Prices**

The following Table summarises the recent trend in agricultural prices received by farmers in England and Wales:—

Table X. Ministry of Agriculture Index Prices

Commodity	Unit	1947	1954†	1955†	1956†	1957*†
		s d	s d	s d	s d	s d
Wheat ..	cwt.	19 9	31 1	31 0	30 3	29 1
Barley ..	cwt.	24 1	27 6	26 8	27 5	28 7
Oats ..	cwt.	18 3	21 8	25 0	24 7	25 7
Potatoes ..	ton	181 11	255 6	303 0	362 6	290 6
Sugar Beet ..	ton	111 2	120 0	128 6	126 3	121 6
Milk ..	gal.	2 4·8	3 2·4	3 3·1	3 2·7	3 0·0
Fat Cattle ..	Live cwt.	89 11	137 6	157 4	148 4	161 10
Fat Sheep ..	lb. d. wt.	1 11	2 10 $\frac{1}{4}$	2 5 $\frac{3}{4}$	2 7	2 8 $\frac{1}{2}$
Fat Lambs ..	lb. d. wt.	2 1 $\frac{1}{4}$	3 3 $\frac{1}{4}$	3 2	3 4	3 5 $\frac{1}{4}$
Fat Pigs§	sc. d. wt.	31 10	51 10	54 11	54 8	51 9
Eggs ..	120	37 1	42 3	43 8	41 5	43 1
1936-8 = 100						
Crops .. ..		214	282	299	317	288
Livestock and products ..		233	325	340	331	325
All farm products‡ ..		241	310	328	328	319

\* Provisional . † Including payments made under guaranteed price schemes.  
‡ Including horticultural products.

## PART VI

## Guaranteed Price Schemes

## WHEAT AND RYE

The international market in wheat has been dominated by the large stocks accumulating in North America whose full influence on prices has been mitigated by the minimum price set under the International Wheat Agreement; the British Government has not been a party to the IWA since it considered the minimum price to be too high. The market price for homegrown wheat fell sharply from the early months of 1957 to less than 20s. per cwt. in the autumn (Table 5); deficiency payments have therefore been heavy:—  
*per cwt.*

Table X. Wheat: Standard Prices and Deficiency Payments

Per cwt.	1956/7		1957/8		1958/9
	Price	Payment <i>per cwt.</i>	Price	Payment	Price
	s d	s d	s d	s d	s d
July-Sept. .. ..	27 6	4 6.3	26 1	7 8.6	25 6
Oct.-Nov. .. ..	29 0	6 0.5	27 7	8 4.2	26 11
Dec.-Feb. .. ..	30 8	5 2.7	29 1	8 10.4	28 5
Mar.-Apr. .. ..	32 1	9 6.2	30 8	10 2.2	30 0
May-June .. ..	32 6	12 8.0	31 1	8 0.3	30 6
Annual Average ..	30 0	—	28 7	—	28 1
Total Paid £m ..	—	19.1	—	22.2	—

Hansard, Aug. 1, 1957; Aug. 1, 1958.

The standard price for rye was reduced from 23s. 3d. per cwt. in 1956/7 to 22s. 1d. per cwt. in 1957/8 and 1958/9. A deficiency payment of 11s. 1d. was made in 1956/7 and of 2s. 10.3d. in 1957/8.

## BARLEY AND OATS

The deficiency payments for these two cereals are made on every acre returned in June, if the average market price in the following cereal year falls below the standard price. The method of calculating the standard price for barley was altered to include all sales on the home market from 1957/8 onwards, without excluding the higher-priced malting barleys. The market for barley was fairly buoyant in 1956 but prices fell sharply in the early months of 1957 to touch about 20s. per cwt. in October (Table 5). As the standard prices for both barley and oats were raised in 1957, substantial deficiency payments were made:—

Table XII. Barley and Oats: Standard Prices and Deficiency Payments

		Barley		Oats	
		1956/7	1957/8	1956/7	1957/8
Standard Price	cwt.	s d 26 2 (a)	s d 29 0	s d 25 0	s d 27 5
Market Price	cwt.	21 9.25	21 3.23	23 0.08	21 9.75
Payment <u>per acre</u>		90 7	163 11	35 11	102 0
Total Payments	£m	10.5	21.3	4.6	12.4

(a) Excluding the higher priced barleys.  
Hansard, Aug. 1, 1957; Aug. 1, 1958.

The standard prices for 1957/8 have been continued unchanged for 1958/9.

### POTATOES

The short crop harvested in 1955 brought growers' prices to a peak exceeding £30 per ton in the spring of 1956 and the average for that year was well above the support price (Table 9). A higher yield from a larger area planted in 1956 brought down market prices to the supported level in 1956/7; 491,000 tons were sold for processing or for stock food and some 350,000 tons were left unsold in clamps. The total cost of maintaining the support prices in this year was estimated at £12-£13 million. The area planted to potatoes in Great Britain in June 1957 fell by some 80,000 acres from the previous year's level, and with a low yield prices were well above minimum level which had itself been raised from 1956/7. The Board of Trade allowed imports of main crop potatoes in the spring of 1958 as it had during the spring of 1956.

Under present arrangements, the Potato Marketing Board buys at the support price any maincrop potatoes for which no other market can be found; its purchases are resold either for stock feed or for processing or left in clamps, and 95 per cent of any loss is borne by Government funds. Similar arrangements will apply to the 1958 crop. For the 1959 crop, the Government proposes to limit its guarantee to a lump sum paid to the Board if the average market price received by producers falls below the prescribed standard price, leaving the Board to distributed the deficiency payment among the producers as it thinks best (See p. 31). Special arrangements will apply, as at present, to Northern Ireland.

### SUGAR BEET

The sugar beet price was raised from 128s. 1d. per ton in 1955/6 to 130s. 6d. per ton in 1957/8 and 1958/9. This price related to beet with 16.5 per cent sugar content; the prices received by farmers vary with the sugar content, the dirt tare of their beet, and the transport cost to the factories. All beet is bought by the British Sugar Corporation which sells its sugar to the Sugar Board at a price which covers the guaranteed price to beet growers and its own manufacturing margin. The Sugar Board also buys at agreed prices from the Commonwealth countries and re-sells at the current market price; it finances its transactions by a levy payable on all sugar with the Customs duty on imports or the Excise duty on the home-grown product. From its inception in 1956 the Board imposed a levy, since the market price of sugar was lower than the agreed prices at which it bought; but over the winter of 1956/7 the price on the international market almost doubled to reach a peak in April 1957. It was not until July, however, that the

Sugar Board suspended its levy and began to pay a bonus to refiners out of its profits; it reverted to a levy in February 1958 when the price was almost back to its 1956 level.

The first accounting period of the Board is to run from October 1956 to June 1958. (S.I. 1957 1308; Sugar Act, 1956, Account 1956/7).

### HOPS

The Hops Marketing Board is the sole seller of hops on behalf of the growers whose output it controls by means of quotas to the amount which can be sold at a profitable price. The average price paid is determined each year by a Joint Hops Committee, consisting of representatives of the Board, the brewers and the Minister of Agriculture; the brewers undertake to buy not less than 90 per cent of their hops from the Board up to a maximum of the output from 20,800 acres. The existing agreement along these lines was continued from 1957 for a further term of seven years. An exceptionally short crop in 1956 brought a record price of £35 2s. per cwt., but as quality was poor on the whole, the average price received was £32 9s. 6d. per cwt. In 1957, a large crop of 243,000 cwt. was sold at an agreed average price of £25 15s. 6d. per cwt.

Table XIII. Hops Marketing Board

	Unit	1955/6	1956/7	1957/8
Area .. .. .	acres	19992	20415	21130
Total Deliveries .. ..	000 cwt.	233	168	243
Receipts from sale .. ..	£000	6272	5860	6743
Agreed Price .. .. .	per cwt.	£27 8s 0d	£35 2s 0d	£25 15s 6d
Average Market Price ..	per cwt.	£25 17s 6d	£32 9s 6d	£25 3s 0d*

Hops Marketing Board Reports; M.A.F.F. Index Price. \*Provisional.

### MILK

The four Milk Marketing Boards in Great Britain and the Northern Ireland Milk Marketing Board are the first buyers of all milk in their areas; they pay producers a pooled price from the receipts of sales for the liquid market and for manufacture and from the State grants:—

Table XIV. Milk: Basic Quantities and Prices

Marketing Board	Basic Quantity mil. gals.	Basic Prices: d. per gal.		
		1956/7	1957/8	1958/9
England and Wales .. .. .	1654½	38·5	38·75	37·75
Scottish .. .. .	183	38·51	38·76	37·76
Aberdeen and District .. ..	19½	39·15	39·40	38·40
North of Scotland .. .. .	9	40·24	40·49	39·49
Northern Ireland .. .. .	95	37·16	37·41	36·41
United Kingdom .. .. .	1961	38·45	38·70	37·70

C.E.C. Intelligence Bulletin, May 1958.



The guaranteed basic prices were raised by  $\frac{1}{4}$ d. per gallon for 1957/8 but reduced by 1d. per gallon for 1958/9. These basic prices relate only to the basic quantities which are the total sales in 1953/4, the last year of full control of milk prices; and the basic prices are liable to be reduced if total output exceeds the basic quantities. The method of calculating the change in basic prices and in the size of the subsidy was described in the preceding "Record of Agricultural Policy" (p.29-32); there is given below a summary of the statistics for the main board:—

**Table XV. Milk Sales and Prices: England and Wales**

Year to March 31	1956/7	1957/8	1958/9
		million gallons	
Basic Quantity .. .. .	1651	1654 $\frac{1}{2}$	1654 $\frac{1}{2}$
Sales: Liquid .. .. .	1342	1340	—
Manufacture .. .. .	471	538	—
		pence per gallon	
Basic Price .. .. .	38.5	38.75	37.75
Basic Price adjusted for excess output .. .. .	36.76	35.88	—
Prices Received by Board			
Liquid .. .. .	40.91	43.34	—
Manufacture .. .. .	19.01	15.35	—
Average .. .. .	35.22	35.32	—
Average Producer Price* .. .. .	34.67	33.91	—

\*Excluding quality premiums, production bonus and transport deductions.  
C.E.C. Intelligence Bulletin, May 1958; Milk Marketing Board Reports.

Over the last two years, output has continued to expand; it exceeded the basic quantity by 162 million gallons in 1956/7 and by 223 million gallons in 1957/8 with consequent reductions in the basic price. This has itself been reduced by one penny per gallon for 1958/9, thus accentuating the falling trend in the price received by producers. Consumption in the main market has been slightly less than in previous years; the milk which could not be sold for liquid consumption was diverted to manufacture where it helped to depress the prices obtained by all suppliers of butter and cheese:—

**Table XVI. Milk Sold for Manufacture: England and Wales.**

Year to March 31	1955/6	1956/7	1957/8
		million gallons	
Sold for butter .. .. .	54	99	152
cheese .. .. .	126	196	213
		pence per gallon	
Sold for butter .. .. .	16.50	15.19	13.5
cheese .. .. .	18.72	18.69	11.8

Milk Marketing Board Reports.

In addition to providing a guaranteed price to producers (which is adjusted downwards in relation to output in excess of the basic quantity), the Government also prescribes maximum retail prices, thus determining the total distributive margin. The exact division of this margin between the various functions is subject to negotiation between the Marketing Boards and the distributors but the agreed allowances are uniform throughout the area controlled by each Board. Partly as a result, there have been constant complaints of inadequate margins from producer retailers, especially those in rural areas with high transport costs per consumer served; the number of producer-retailers in England and Wales has been falling steadily, from about 60,000 in 1942 to some 19,000 in 1955/6 and there have been acute difficulties in securing delivery in a few places. At the end of 1957, it was announced that a "working party" appointed by the Minister would investigate the price structure for milk. (See p. 31).

The general subsidy on milk was almost eliminated by the increase in retail prices in July 1956 and January 1957, each time by  $\frac{1}{2}$ d. per pint or 4d. per gallon. A seasonal reduction of  $\frac{1}{2}$ d. per pint was enforced for the months of April, May and June 1957 and again from May 1, 1958. The retail price of milk is thus 5s. per gallon for three months of the year and 5s. 4d. for the remainder. There are special prices for Channel Island milk; the retail price of welfare milk was also raised in April 1957 from 1s. to 2s. 8d. per gallon.

### FAT CATTLE AND SHEEP

From April 1956, the administration of the schemes for guaranteed prices of fat stock was considerably simplified, by dropping the twelve month moving average for calculating the average market price. Standard prices were announced at the annual price reviews held in the spring of 1957 and 1958; these were constant in 1956/7 but in subsequent years they have been given a seasonal variation which is based on that expected in market prices. Each week officials of the Ministry calculate the average price received by producers in the last four weeks and forecast the expected price for the next four weeks; the average of these is then compared with the appropriate standard price and an appropriate deficiency payment is announced, if justified. In order to avoid frequent changes in these payments, they are not adjusted after publication unless the average market price for the eight weeks, when ascertained from the sale records, differs by more than certain limits from that forecast. In the case of fat cattle, these limits are 7s. per live cwt. on either side of the forecast price, and for fat sheep and lambs 4d. per lb. In April 1957, young cows were excluded from the guarantee scheme, but a bonus of 5s. per live cwt. was included in the deficiency payment for Grade I cattle; this was raised to 6s. 6d. in April 1958 and to 8s. in July 1958.

For both these products, average auction prices during the past two years have been almost continuously below the standard prices; the only exception being a few weeks in the spring of 1957 when the price of hoggets reached a brief peak. Deficiency payments have been continuous and in some weeks amounted to one-quarter to one-third of the auction price for fat cattle. From the statistics given in the appendix, it will be seen that prices both of fat cattle, grade I (Table 7) and of lambs (Table 10) fell slowly to the autumn of 1956; that an upward trend then developed, associated with a fall both in the home output and of imports, which reached a peak in March and April 1957; that a sharp fall in prices then occurred which only gradually gave way to another rising trend at the end of that year. The deficiency payments have, for both cattle and sheep, smoothed out the bottom of these troughs and conveyed to the producers only minor fluctuations in their total returns.

It is noteworthy that store cattle prices rose sharply in 1957 and 1958 and this trend was again reflected in a strong demand for rearing calves, whose prices rose from £12-£14 per head in

1956 to £18-£22 in the early months of 1958. Profits on those farms that buy young cattle for fattening have thus been dependent on skilful buying on a rising market.

### PIGS

The guaranteed price for pork pigs is calculated in the same manner as for other livestock, except that the standard price has no seasonal variation but is adjusted (monthly in 1956/7 and weekly thereafter) in accordance with changes in the cost of a standard ration of feeds. The Fatstock Marketing Corporation buys almost all bacon pigs from farmers for sale on contract direct to the bacon factories, so that the deficiency payment on bacon pigs is made direct to the Corporation. As market prices for cereals fell with little intermission from the summer of 1956, the standard price for pigs has also fallen; in addition, it was reduced by 2s. per score from March 1958. The number of breeding sows fell sharply in 1955/6, but there has since been a steady rise; output of pork in the United Kingdom is estimated to have risen from 362,000 tons in 1956 to 375,000 tons in 1957 and for the first five months of 1958 output was some 15 per cent above the previous year. The production of bacon in the United Kingdom fell from 242,400 tons in 1955 to 208,700 tons in 1956 and then increased slightly to 211,600 tons in 1957; but imports were substantially higher, rising from 317,000 tons in 1956 to 322,000 tons in 1957. (Table 13).

Prices for pork pigs at auction markets, after falling slightly in the summer of 1956, rose to a peak of 35s.-40s. per score dead weight in December and then fell with only slight interruptions throughout 1957 and the first half of 1958 to 25s.-27s. in June 1958, in sympathy with the increasing volume of supplies (Table 12). Bacon prices fluctuated remarkably, falling from about 320s. per cwt. in December 1956 to 250s. in April 1957; a marked rise in June and July almost to the previous peak was followed by another fall which continued into 1958 (Table 13). As the auction price of pigs has been continuously below the standard price, deficiency payments have been made at varying rates each week. A premium of 2s. per score was paid, in addition to the deficiency payment, from April 1956 on all AAA bacon pigs; from April 1957 two premiums were paid, 3s. and 2s. per score, related to the length of pig and these premiums were raised by 6d. in April 1958. The weight range over which these premiums could be claimed was reduced in September 1957 from 7 sc.-8 sc. 15 lb. to 7 sc.-8 sc. 5 lb. The total cost of implementing the guaranteed prices for pigs in 1957/8 was estimated at £38.9 million. (Press Notice MAFF 109/58).

The Fatstock Marketing Corporation had some difficulty in securing an adequate volume of baconers in the spring of 1957 when bacon prices were low and prices for pork pigs were rather more favourable than those of bacon pigs. It introduced a bonus scheme for regular suppliers which operated during the autumn of 1957 and which was continued into 1958. The bonus was at first paid monthly on four times the average number of pigs supplied in the two weeks of lowest deliveries; from November 1957, it is to be paid on four times the average number of pigs supplied in the two lowest quarters of each year.

### EGGS

After an affirmative vote by a very large majority of producers, the Egg Marketing Board came into full operation in July 1957 and covers the whole of the United Kingdom. The Board consists of 21 members, of whom 17 are to be elected by producers and 4 appointed by the Minister. All producers with a flock of more than 50 laying hens of six months or over must register with the Board and all eggs must be sold to the Board except for holders of A and B licences. An A licence entitles producers to sell direct to the public, including institutions, but the sale must not be made through any third person; a B licence entitles the holder to sell direct to retailers and these licences cannot be refused to a duly registered producer. The Board buys eggs at previously

announced prices through the packing stations which act as its agents. Packing stations (which include private companies and farmers' co-operatives) have to be licensed by the Board but the Board cannot refuse a licence to any person who has suitable premises, nor can it impose adverse conditions with the licence. (See p. 31).

Until July 1957, producers obtained minimum support prices by selling through any packing station when they could not obtain higher prices through the usual markets (Table 16). Since that date, the minimum price is guaranteed to the Board, ex-packing station, and any deficiency payment is made to the Board. The guaranteed price thus includes the cost of the Board's administration, as well as the cost of the packing stations in collecting, grading and packing the eggs. The guaranteed price of 4s. 6·2d. per dozen in 1957/8 was reckoned to be equivalent to a price to producers of 4s. 1¼d. per dozen on the old basis, thus allowing nearly 5d. per dozen for these costs. The proportion which is payable to packers has not yet been published. The deficiency payment is to be calculated each year, curiously enough, in advance of the year to which it relates. The Ministry's officials are to forecast what the market price will be in the ensuing twelve months; if this forecast is below the standard price set at each price review, then the Board will collect the appropriate deficiency payment in bulk. Even more curiously, it has been agreed that the forecast of market prices is to be the average of the wholesale price actually obtained in the last two years, with the most recent year given a double weighting. If at the end of each year it is found that the actual selling price differs from that forecast by 2d. per dozen or less, the Board takes the profit or the loss; outside these limits, the Ministry supplies 90 per cent of any deficit and takes 90 per cent of any surplus. For the first accounting period, from July 1957 to April 1958, the actual selling price of the Board was 3·3d. per dozen more than had been forecast, though still well below the standard price; of this surplus, producers are to receive 2·6d. per dozen as a bonus on their sales and the Government pays £1·7 million less in subsidy.

The standard price is determined each year at the price review and is linked to the cost of a standard ration of feeds (Tables 16 and 17). In 1956/7, it was implemented by the minimum support prices operated by the Ministry through the packing stations. Since the Marketing Board came into operation, producer prices have been fixed by it at such a level as will, over the year as a whole, equal either the standard price or the Board's selling price (whichever is the higher), less the marketing costs. The Board has also prescribed a levy of ½d. per dozen on all eggs sold by producers, in order to finance its share of the deficiency payment and also an extensive advertising scheme. On an average monthly output of nearly 80 million dozen eggs, this levy should bring in nearly £2 million in a full year. The Board has also instituted four grades of egg by size, each with a separate price scale, in place of the two grades formerly used.

The market price of eggs has been consistently below the standard price over the two years here reviewed, and imports are now negligible (Table 15). It should be noted that an unknown quantity of eggs is sold direct to consumers or retailers by producers under A or B licences and by producers with fewer than 50 laying hens; these eggs obtain no subsidy or support price, but apparently command somewhat higher retail prices since housewives consider them fresher than the stamped eggs which have passed through the packing stations. The Board is attempting to meet this competition by speeding the flow of eggs through the official mechanism and by insisting on at least weekly collection from all farms.

## WOOL

The British Wool Marketing Board is the sole seller of home produced fleece wool in the United Kingdom. If its annual receipts from the year's sales do not equal the guaranteed price fixed at the annual price review, then the deficiency is drawn either from its reserves or from the

Treasury. It therefore pays to producers a price which varies according to the quality and type of each clip but which on average equals the guaranteed price. If the Board makes a surplus over the guaranteed price, the surplus is placed to reserve to supplement payments in years when there is a deficit. The reserves accumulated during the price boom of the Korean war were exhausted in 1956 so that the deficit incurred in 1956/7 between the guaranteed price and the market price was made good by drawing £220,000 from the Treasury. The average price received by the Board for its wool in 1956/7 was higher than in the previous year by about 2½d. per lb. but its marketing costs also rose because of wider margins to its agents and higher bank charges. The Board slightly overpaid producers for the 1956/7 and 1957/8 clips, as there was an unexpectedly large proportion of the higher priced wools; this deficit will be met partly from reserves and partly by a reduction of nearly 1d. per lb. in the producers' price to be paid in 1958/9. In July 1958, a Committee of Investigation appointed by the Minister reported that the Board had imposed new contracts on its agents without giving adequate time for negotiation and that the Board ought not even to appear to misuse its powers as a statutory monopolist. It was suggested that a special negotiating Committee should be set up with powers to refer any unresolved dispute to a consultant or to the Minister.

Table XVII. British Wool Marketing Board

Year to 30 April	1956/7	1957/8	1958/9
	d. per lb.	d. per lb.	d. per lb.
Guaranteed Price	56.25	56.25	56.25
Realised Price	55.0	48.00	—
Producers' Price	53.079	52.02	50.85*
Marketing Costs	4.785†	5.08	5.4*

\* Provisional. † A rise in costs was met partly from reserves.  
Reports of the Wool Marketing Board.

## PART VII

# Administration

Under the *Agricultural Safety, Health and Welfare Provisions Act, 1956*, various orders have been made, requiring the provision by the employer on farms of certain first aid equipment (S.I. 1957, 940); the guarding of power take-off shafts (S.I. 1957, 1386); the proper maintenance of ladders (S.I. 1957, 1385); and prohibiting children under 13 from riding on tractors and certain farm implements when drawn by tractors (S.I. 1958, 366).

The Agriculture Act, 1957, provided for grants in aid of a wide range of *farm improvements*. Between September 1957 and March 1958, 21,700 applications had been received from farmers in Great Britain, of which 8,600 (32 per cent) had been approved, involving grants of £6 million. A further 21 per cent were ready for approval and about 19 per cent of the original applications had been rejected or withdrawn.

*Milk Quality.* In furtherance of the aim that all cattle should be tuberculin-tested by 1961, four more regions were declared attested areas in October 1957 (S.I. 1957, 1612, 1613, 1614, 1634); in March 1958 five others were declared eradication areas (S.I. 1958, 211, 212, 213, 228, 229) in which all remaining non-T.T. cattle must be compulsorily tested. The Ministry is offering free tests in six other areas, four of which are due to become eradication areas in March 1959 and two more in March 1960. Similar measures are being taken over the retail sale of milk. In October 1956 nine areas were declared specially designated where all milk sold retail must be pasteurised, sterilised or tuberculin tested; in 1957 19 towns and neighbouring districts were designated and a further 19 are to be designated in 1958 (S.I. 1956, 1409); S.I. 1957, 391, 1902; S.I. 1958, 485).

The *export of live cattle* for slaughter was more strictly controlled after July 1957 (S.I. 1957, 1254), following certain investigations into the transport and shipping of these animals. The regulations concerning the *import of live animals* were slightly modified in April 1958 (S.I. 1958, 558).

*Imports of butter* were restricted in the spring of 1958, in order to alleviate the exceptionally low prices caused partly by increased imports and partly by larger home production. The open general licence for butter imports from Belgium and East Europe was withdrawn, and Poland, Sweden and Finland were asked either to eliminate their imports or to keep them within agreed limits. (C.E.C. Intelligence Bulletin, May 1958).

The *Royal Commission on Common Land* (Cmnd. 462) recommended the registration of all claims to right on commons, estimated at some 1½ million acres in England and Wales, and the encouragement of schemes for improving productivity.

A Committee under Viscount Runciman was appointed in March 1955 to investigate the facilities for, and methods of, *marketing vegetables, fruit and flowers*: its report was published in January 1957. The Committee considered that the distributive trades in the United Kingdom performed a risky, skilled and difficult job with remarkable efficiency, on the whole, but it recommended that a London Markets Authority should be established with powers to improve the existing metropolitan wholesale markets for these products; a new market was suggested for north-west London in order to reduce the pressure on Covent Garden. The Government has decided not to accept these two recommendations. The Committee's report contains valuable

See T XVI

information on marketing costs, methods of sale and turnover of firms in the fruit and vegetable distributive trades.

The Committee of Public Accounts in its third report (Session 1957-58, 256) noted that under the control of the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food, *egg packing stations* had obtained excess profits amounting to about four times the intended level, largely because the margins had not been adjusted for the rising throughput. Further, the price guaranteed to the Egg Marketing Board for the year 1957-58 was made on a similar basis, with no power to revise it when the results became available of the cost investigation then in progress. This unnecessarily high level of profit was therefore continued for another year, until the new and lower price was introduced in April 1958 for the year 1958-59.

The Committee noted that *milk distributive margins* were based on costings obtained from a sample of 85 out of the 40,000 existing retailers. This small sample, which has remained substantially unchanged since the early years of the war, showed a range from a loss of 6d. per gallon to a profit of 6d. per gallon compared with the "target" of 1½d. The Committee considered this to be a most unsatisfactory basis of costings for the substantial sums involved in retail milk margins and recommended proper statistical advice. Similarly, the controlled prices for *lime* (whose supply to farmers is heavily subsidised) were found to be based on costings only roughly adjusted from pre-war years, in spite of the very large changes that had taken place in the volume and types of lime supplied.

The Committee also considered the arrangements made with the *Potato Marketing Board* to be unsatisfactory. It had been agreed that the Board should be recouped 95 per cent of any loss incurred in implementing the guaranteed price for potatoes, but that its normal administrative costs should be met from the levy of £1 per acre paid by growers. It appeared however to be impossible to separate the two items in the final accounts. In 1956, the Board used only £120,000 out of its income of nearly £700,000 while its agreed losses (of which the Ministry paid 95 per cent) amounted to £439,000 in 1955, £12,868,000 in 1956 and about £250,000 in 1957. The Committee noted that revised arrangements would operate for 1959 and subsequent years.

## STATISTICAL APPENDIX

Table 1. Relative Growth of U.K. National and Agricultural Incomes

Harvest Year	Net Income		1937/8 = 100		1946/8 = 100	
	U.K.	Agric.	U.K.	Agric.	U.K.	Agric.
1937/8	£m (a) 4998	£m 56	% 100	% 100	—	—
1946/8	8859	207	182	395	100	100
1948/9	10105	291	202	520	114	140
1949/50	10622	305	212	545	120	147
1950/1	11371	268½	227	480	128	130
1951/2	12541	323½	251	577	142	156
1952/3	13656	334	273	597	154	161
1953/4	14553	332	291	593	164	160
1954/5	15378	296	307	529	174	143
1955/6	16331	329½	327	589	184	158
1956/7	17460	314	349	561	197	152
1957/8 (c)	—	360	—	644	—	174

(a) Gross National Product minus depreciation. (b) Calendar year 1938. (c) Provisional. National Income and Expenditure, 1957; Cmnd. 390.

Table 2. Farm Income by Type of Farm: Great Britain

£ per farm	Arable			Mainly Dairy (4)	Upland Stock (5)	Scottish Hill Sheep (6)
	Heavy Soil (1)	Light Soil (2)	Fens (3)			
1946	1,020	1,214	1,653	597	278	—
1947	311	384	1,150	545	250	632
1948	1,483	1,530	1,850	847	613	1,173
1949	1,091	1,032	1,314	766	564	1,163
1950	1,219	1,229	1,300	700	416	710
1951	1,379	1,574	1,531	672	655	819
1952	960	1,328	1,808	828	894	938
1953	1,551	2,252	1,348	1,063	914	1,059
1954	1,386	2,277	1,301	828	861	794
1955	2,238	1,863	2,952	814	677	912
1956	1,892	1,775	1,232	—	—	—

Cols. (1)-(3) Reports of the Farm Economics Branch, School of Agriculture, Cambridge.

(1) West Cambridgeshire.

(2) South Cambridgeshire.

(3) Isle of Ely.

Cols. (4) & (5) Farm Management Survey

Col. (6) Scottish Agricultural Economics Vol. I-VIII.

Table 3. Farm Income by Size of Farm: England and Wales

Year	Farm Size Group (Acres)					
	50 and under	50-1-100	100-1-150	150-1-300	300-1-500	over 500
	£ per farm					
1946-7	328	395	481	761	1,288	2,158
1947-8	281	334	401	547	797	1,204
1948-9	387	565	784	1,251	1,958	3,102
1949-50	344	505	715	1,109	1,680	3,184
1950-1	361	477	718	1,114	1,793	2,275
1951-2	383	536	807	1,280	2,238	3,330
1952-3	428	611	909	1,304	2,305	2,956
1953-4	478	761	1,066	1,632	2,863	4,041
1954-5	416	637	834	1,350	2,346	3,416
1955-6	489	679	899	1,349	2,418	3,525

Size groups in 1946-7 were on "adjusted acres" for which areas of rough grazing were reduced to an estimated pasture equivalent.

Farm Management Survey 1944-5 to 1947-8; 1955-6.



Table 4. Farm and Industrial Weekly Earnings

	G.B.		E. & W.	E. & W.
	Weekly Earnings Men over 21		Net Farm Income under 50 ac.	Minimum Wage Adult Men
	Agric. Half year starting	Manuf. Building Pub. Serv.		
	s. d. (1)	s. d. (2)	s. (3)	(4) s.
1947 Average	101 0	125 9	108	Aug. 90
1948 Apr.	108 7½	134 0		
Oct.	105 1½	137 11	149	
1949 Apr.	114 9	139 11		Jan. 94
Oct.	110 9½	142 8	132	
1950 Apr.	115 5½	145 9		
Oct.	115 7½	150 5	145	Sept. 100
1951 Apr.	123 3½	160 2		
Oct.	126 8	166 0	147	Oct. 108
1952 Apr.	133 8	173 7		
Oct.	132 8½	178 6	165	Aug. 113
1953 Apr.	142 1½	185 11		
Oct.	142 10½	189 2	184	Aug. 120
1954 Apr.	151 10	197 8		
Oct.	150 2	204 5	160	
1955 Apr.	165 3	217 5		Jan. 127
Oct.	160 3	222 11	188	
1956 Apr.	174 2	235 4		Jan. 135
Oct.	174 11	237 11		Sept. 141
1957 Apr.	184 10	241 6		Oct. 150

Cols. (1), (2), (4) Ministry of Labour Gazette.

(3) Table 3.

Table 5. Cereals: Market and Standard Prices

Per cwt.	Wheat		Barley		Oats	
	(1) Average Market Price	(2) Standard Price	(3) Average Market Price	(4) Standard Price	(5) Average Market Price	(6) Standard Price
1956	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.
July .. ..	27 3	27 6	24 2	26 2†	25 3	25 0
August .. ..	23 11	27 6	24 2		24 1	
September .. ..	22 8	27 6	23 7		23 2	
October .. ..	22 6	29 0	23 4		23 3	
November .. ..	23 6	29 0	24 7		24 1	
December .. ..	25 2	30 8	26 0		25 8	
1957						
January .. ..	25 10	30 8	26 2		26 0	
February .. ..	25 2	30 8	25 6		24 8	
March .. ..	23 3	32 1	24 8		23 0	
April .. ..	21 7	32 1	23 6		21 11	
May .. ..	20 0	32 6	21 3		20 4	
June .. ..	19 4	32 6	20 8		20 2	
July .. ..	20 0	26 1	21 7	29 0	21 7	27 5
August .. ..	18 5	26 1	22 11		20 4	
September .. ..	18 4	26 1	21 3		19 11	
October .. ..	18 10	27 7	20 3		20 8	
November .. ..	19 8	27 7	20 3		22 6	
December .. ..	19 10	29 1	20 7		22 11	
1958						
January .. ..	20 6	29 1	21 1		23 1	
February .. ..	20 4	29 1	21 7		22 10	
March .. ..	19 10	30 8	21 7		22 5	
April .. ..	21 0	30 8	22 4		22 9	
May .. ..	22 7	31 1	23 8		24 8	
June .. ..	23 6	31 1	23 6		25 3	

† Calculated on different basis, not comparable with subsequent years.  
 Cols. (1), (3), (5) M.A.F.F. Monthly Index Price, England and Wales.

Table 6. Potatoes: Market and Support Prices—G.B.

Per ton ware	(1) Average Market Price	Support Prices*			(5) Scotland
		(2)	(3)	(4)	
		England and Wales			
		1 South & West	2 Midlands & North	3 East & N. East	
1956	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.
August ..	169 0	185 0	175 0	170 0	165 0
September ..	200 0	207 6	200 0	195 0	187 6
October ..	214 0	207 6	200 0	195 0	187 6
November ..	226 0	207 6	200 0	195 0	187 6
December ..	235 0	240 0	230 0	225 0	220 0
1957					
January ..	242 0	240 0	230 0	225 0	220 0
February ..	238 0	255 0	247 6	242 6	235 0
March ..	234 6	255 0	247 6	242 6	235 0
April ..	236 0	267 6	260 0	255 0	247 6
May ..	243 0	277 6	270 0	265 0	257 6
June ..	270 0	277 6	270 0	265 0	257 6
July ..	400 0	277 6	270 0	265 0	257 6
August ..	346 0	197 6	185 0	180 0	177 6
September ..	322 0	202 6	195 0	190 0	182 6
October ..	238 0	212 6	205 0	200 0	192 6
November ..	394 0	222 6	215 0	210 0	202 6
December ..	388 6	232 6	225 0	220 0	212 6
1958					
January ..	403 0	242 6	235 0	230 0	222 6
February ..	412 6	252 6	245 0	240 0	232 6
March ..	483 0	262 6	255 0	250 0	242 6
April ..	616 0	272 6	265 0	260 0	252 6
May ..	667 0	282 6	275 0	270 0	262 6
June ..	830 0	282 6	275 0	270 0	262 6
July ..	302 0	282 6	275 0	270 0	262 6

\* Support prices for 1958/9 are on average 4s. higher than in 1957/8; monthly regional prices September-February are 5s. higher, and in August and March-July are 2s. 6d. higher.

Col. 1 M.A.F.F. Monthly Index Price, England and Wales.

Cols. 2-5 Farmer and Stock-Breeder July 17th 1956, May 14th 1957.

Table 7. Fat Cattle: Auction Prices, Standard Prices and Deficiency Payments

Per live cwt.	(1) Average Auction Price*		(2) Standard Price	(3) Deficiency Payment†	Per live cwt.	(1) Average Auction Price*		(2) Standard Price	(3) Deficiency Payment†				
	s.	d.	s.	d.		s.	d.	s.	d.				
<i>week ending</i>					<i>week ending</i>								
1956					June 23	119	11	166	0	43	6		
June 24	128	10	151	0	30	114	9	164	0	47	0		
July 1	123	3		29	0	111	2	161	6	49	0		
July 8	121	6		29	0	112	2	158	6	48	6		
15	122	7		29	0	21	113	10	155	6	51	6	
22	119	6		30	0	28	114	5	153	6	49	0	
29	115	6		30	0	Aug. 4	114	7	151	6	46	6	
Aug. 5	113	4		30	0	11	115	10	150	0	44	6	
12	115	10		30	0	18	117	4	149	0	42	6	
19	112	3		30	6	25	116	4	148	0	40	0	
26	107	6		32	6	Sept. 1	116	10	147	0	39	0	
Sept. 2	106	1		34	0	8	116	2	146	0	36	6	
9	106	1		33	6	15	116	5	145	0	34	0	
23	102	3		36	6	22	114	3	144	0	33	0	
30	103	3		36	0	29	113	10	143	0	33	6	
Oct. 7	103	8		34	6	Oct. 6	113	10	142	0	33	6	
14	103	1		34	6	13	116	0	141	6	34	0	
21	99	4		38	6	20	116	8	141	6	33	0	
28	97	10		40	0	27	117	2	141	6	31	0	
Nov. 4	97	2		40	6	Nov. 3	115	8	141	6	30	0	
11	94	5		42	0	10	115	9	141	6	29	6	
18	92	5		44	6	17	118	10	142	0	31	0	
25	92	8		44	6	24	121	8	143	0	30	0	
Dec. 2	92	9		44	0	Dec. 1	126	3	145	0	28	0	
9	94	7		40	0	8	128	11	147	6	27	0	
16	107	4		38	0	15	140	3	150	6	25	0	
23	108	0		38	0	22	139	0	152	6	24	6	
30	130	11		38	0	29	141	2	154	0	23	0	
1957					1958								
Jan. 6	123	5		40	0	Jan. 5	141	2	154	0	23	0	
13	120	2		40	0	12	141	2	156	6	20	0	
20	126	4		40	0	19	140	10	158	6	21	0	
27	134	1		40	0	26	140	8	160	6	20	6	
Feb. 3	132	8		39	6	Feb. 2	141	10	162	6	23	6	
10	130	7		39	6	9	141	4	163	6	23	0	
17	133	6		39	6	16	141	2	164	6	25	0	
24	135	9		39	6	23	139	9	165	6	27	6	
Mar. 3	137	1		38	6	Mar. 2	139	11	166	6	28	6	
10	136	11		38	6	9	140	4	167	6	30	6	
17	134	1		38	6	16	140	5	168	6	30	6	
24	131	5		38	6	23	141	0	169	6	33	0	
				†		30	140	5	170	6	33	0	
Apr. 31	145	9	170	6	37	0	Apr. 6	139	9	173	0	35	6
7	157	5	171	6	26	6	13	140	5	174	0	37	0
14	158	2	172	6	26	6	20	141	6	175	0	36	6
21	153	6	173	6	25	0	27	141	2	175	0	37	6
28	154	11	174	0	27	6	May 4	141	1	175	0	38	6
May 5	153	8	174	0	24	6	11	140	2	175	0	38	0
12	147	1	174	0	25	0	18	145	9	174	0	39	0
19	141	11	173	0	29	0	25	150	11	173	0	34	0
26	140	8	172	0	31	6	June 1	152	10	172	0	32	0
June 2	137	8	171	0	33	0	8	155	7	171	0	27	6
9	131	11	170	0	36	0	15	149	3	169	0	26	0
16	129	0	168	0	38	6	22	146	3	167	0	26	0

\* Steers and Heifers, light weight, Grade A. † 1956/7 inclusive of supplementary guarantee.

‡ On grade 1 steers and heifers only.

Sources: Cols. 1, 2. M.A.F.F. Fatstock Price Guarantee Scheme. Col. 3. Farmer and Stock-Breeder.

Table 8. Fat Cattle: Supplementary Guarantee Payments 1956/7

		Per live cwt.	
		s.	d.
1956	23 March — 22 April	23	0
	23 April — 20 May	21	0
	21 May — 17 June	18	0
	18 June — 15 July	15	0
	16 July — 12 August	13	0
	13 August — 9 September	11	0
	10 September — 7 October	10	0
	8 October — 4 November	9	0
	5 November — 2 December	8	0
	3 December — 30 December	6	0
1957	31 December — 27 January	5	0
	28 January — 24 February	4	0
	25 February — 24 March	3	0

Table 9. Beef Supplies and Prices

	(1) Supplies		(3) Wholesale	(4) Prices per lb*
	Home Output†	Imports	English Longsides	Argentinian Chilled
1956	000 tons		s. d.	s. d.
July (a) ..	67.2	29.9	1 10½	1 8½
August ..	58.1	37.5	1 9½	1 5½
September	62.6	34.3	1 8½	1 5½
October (a)	87.5	44.1	1 7½	1 6
November	74.7	43.9	1 6½	1 3½
December ..	66.5	38.1	1 7	1 3½
1957				
January (a)	84.3	27.2	1 10	1 7½
February ..	64.2	31.9	2 0	1 6
March ..	59.5	39.2	2 0½	1 5½
April (a) ..	67.7	33.7	2 3½	1 9
May ..	57.3	38.9	2 2½	1 10
June ..	52.1	37.7	1 11½	1 7
July (a) ..	69.3	40.0	1 9	1 7½
August ..	60.1	51.5	1 9½	1 5½
September	66.2	34.4	1 9½	1 8
October (a)	83.3	43.3	1 9	1 7
November	70.6	37.2	1 10	1 6½
December ..	64.8	26.5	2 0	1 5½
1958				
January (a)	83.1	32.1	2 1½	1 7½
February ..	64.8	27.8	2 1½	1 6½
March ..	66.1	35.7	2 1½	1 6½
April (a) ..	76.3	29.6	2 1½	1 10½
May ..	63.0	26.5	‡	‡
June ..	63.6	26.5	‡	‡

(a) Five week period.

\* Monthly average prices at Smithfield derived from average of top daily prices.

† Including production from imported fatstock.

‡ Smithfield Strike.

Col. 1. Monthly Digest of Statistics.

Cols. 2, 3, 4. C. E. C. Intelligence Bulletin, July 1957-Aug. 1958.

Table 10. Fat Lambs: Auction Prices, Standard Prices and Deficiency Payments

Pence per lb. dressed carcass weight	(1) Average Auction Price	(2) Standard Price	(3) Deficiency Payment	Pence per lb. dressed carcass weight	(1) Average Auction Price	(2) Standard Price	(3) Deficiency Payment	
<i>Week beginning</i>	d.	d.*	d.	<i>Week beginning</i>	d.	d.	d.	
Lambs: Light	and Medium Weight	Weight		June	35	40	6	
1956				June	10	35½	6½	
June	4	44	6½	17	34½	38½	6½	
	11		6½	24	33	38½	6½	
	18		6	July	1	31½	6½	
	25		6	8	31½	38½	6½	
July	2		6	15	32½	38½	7½	
	9		6	22	32½	38½	7	
	16		6	29	31½	38½	7½	
	23		6	Aug.	5	32½	38½	
	30		6	12	33	38½	7½	
Aug.	6		6	19	32½	38½	7	
	13		6	26	32½	38½	7	
	20		6	Sept.	2	32½	38½	
	27		6	9	32	38½	6½	
Sept.	3		6	16	32	38½	6½	
	10		6½	23	32½	38½	7	
	17		6½	30	32½	38½	7½	
	24		6½	Oct.	7	32½	38½	
Oct.	1		6½	14	32½	38½	7½	
	8		6½	21	32½	38½	7	
	15		6½	28	32½	38½	7	
	22		6½	Nov.	4	32½	38½	
	29		6½	11	31½	38½	7½	
Nov.	5		6½	18	33½	38½	7	
	12		6½	25	33½	38½	7	
	19		6½	Dec.	2	34	39	
	26		6½	9	34½	39½	6½	
Dec.	3		6½	16	34½	39½	6	
	10		6½	23	36	39½	6½	
	17		6½	30	36	39½	6½	
	24		4½					
	31		4½					
		Hoggets light		1958		Hoggets light		
1957				Jan.	6	36½	39½	6½
Jan.	7		5½	13	35½	40	6½	
	14		4½	20	35	40	7	
	21		3½	27	36	40	7½	
	28		2½	Feb.	3	37	40½	8
Feb.	4		2½	10	37½	41	8½	
	11		1½	17	35½	41½	8½	
	18		1½	24	37½	42½	9½	
	25		1½	Mar.	3	37½	43½	10½
Mar.	4		1½	10	37½	44	10½	
	11		1½	17	37½	44½	11½	
	18		—	24	36½	44½	11½	
	25	44½	1½	31	36½	44½	12	
Apr.	1	44½	2	Apr.	7	38	44½	12½
	8	44½	2½	14	39	44½	10½	
	15	43½	3	21	37½	44	10½	
	22	44½	3	28	36½	43½	9½	
	29	44	4½					
		43½	4					
				May	5	Lambs: Medium Weight		
May	6	41	4½	12	40½	43	8½	
	13	39	6	19	41½	42½	6	
	20	39½	6½	26	41½	41½	5½	
	27	37½	6½	June	2	40½	41	4½
				9	37½	39	4½	

\* Standard price 1956/7 was fixed at 3s. 8d. with stabilising limits of 4d. It was not seasonally adjusted. Sources: Col. 1 M.A.F.F. Fatstock Price Guarantee Scheme. Cols. 2, 3 Farmer and Stockbreeder.

Table 11. Mutton and Lamb: Supplies and Prices

	(1)	(2) Supplies		(3)	(4)
	Home* Output	Imports		Wholesale Prices per lb. †	
		Mutton	Lamb	Eng. Lamb	N.Z. Lamb
		000 tons		s. d.	s. d.
1956					
July (a) .. ..	20.9	3.6	20.4	2 6½	2 1½
August .. ..	19.4	4.6	21.4	2 5½	2 2½
September .. ..	19.8	3.4	15.4	2 4½	2 3
October (a) .. ..	23.7	3.9	17.0	2 5½	2 3½
November .. ..	18.5	6.0	24.2	2 4	2 3
December .. ..	14.6	4.0	11.4	2 5½	2 3
1957					
January (a) .. ..	17.7	2.9	26.8	2 7½	2 7½
February .. ..	11.5	2.4	22.8	2 11	2 6½
March .. ..	9.5	6.3	49.4	3 0½	2 5½
April (a) .. ..	12.5	5.2	27.8	3 6½	2 6
May .. ..	13.4	9.1	23.2	3 0½	2 7
June .. ..	16.9	8.5	23.5	2 9	2 5½
July (a) .. ..	22.7	9.2	23.2	2 7½	2 5½
August .. ..	19.4	6.1	21.0	2 7	2 5½
September .. ..	19.0	2.2	14.7	2 6	2 5
October (a) .. ..	23.0	2.0	10.5	2 4½	2 5½
November .. ..	18.5	5.0	14.2	2 4	2 3½
December .. ..	15.0	1.6	16.1	2 4½	2 2½
1958					
January (a) .. ..	19.2	2.8	28.4	2 5	2 4½
February .. ..	14.1	2.4	31.4	2 5	2 1½
March .. ..	13.3	6.9	35.6	2 5½	2 0½
April (a) .. ..	13.0	6.6	33.8	3 6	2 1½
May .. ..	11.0	4.2	14.1	†	†
June .. ..	12.8	4.3	25.2	†	†

(a) Five week period.

\* Including production from imported fatstock.

† Monthly average prices at Smithfield derived from average of top daily prices. ‡ Smithfield Strike.

Col. 1 Monthly Digest of Statistics.

Cols. 2, 3, 4 C.E.C. Intelligence Bulletin January 1957-Aug. 1958.

Table 12. Fat Pigs: Auction Prices, Deficiency Payments and Standard Pig Ration

Week Ending	(1)		(2)	(3)		Week Ending	(1)		(2)	(3)		
	Auction Price 4 Sc. 10-7	Sc. 9	Deficiency Payment	Auction Price 4 Sc. 10-7	Sc. 9		Auction Price 4 Sc. 10-7	Sc. 9	Deficiency Payment	Auction Price 4 Sc. 10-7	Sc. 9	Standard Pig Ration
	per sc. liveweight			per cwt.			per sc. liveweight			per cwt.		
1956	s.	d.	s.	d.	s.	d.	s.	d.	s.	d.	s.	d.
April 1	32	3	8	5					30	0	9	6
8	33	3	8	5	31	5			31	2	8	8
15	34	0	8	2					32	1	7	5
22	32	5	8	5					31	1	6	6
29	31	3	7	7					32	0	5	8
May 6	32	1	7	7	31	2			29	0	5	0
13	31	3	7	7					28	1	4	5
20	30	4	7	9					28	3	4	7
27	30	10	7	1					29	0	4	8
June 3	31	5	7	1	32	6			32	0	4	8
10	30	10	7	1					31	8	4	4
17	31	8	7	1					29	7	4	1
24	32	10	6	7					29	11	5	0
July 1	32	6	6	7	33	0			30	2	6	3
8	31	4	6	7					29	3	6	4
15	30	7	6	7					30	1	7	8
22	30	9	6	5					30	1	7	8
29	30	4	6	5	33	5			29	9	7	3
Aug. 5	29	2	6	5					30	3	6	10
12	32	3	6	5					30	4	6	10
19	32	3	6	5					30	4	7	0
26	31	8	6	5	33	10			30	0	7	10
Sept. 2	32	9	6	5					28	5	6	11
9	34	2	6	5					28	2	8	8
16	34	0	6	8					27	6	9	2
23	33	7	6	8	34	0			27	5	9	7
30	33	0	6	8					28	3	9	9
Oct. 7	33	4	6	8					29	7	9	4
14	34	11	7	0					30	8	8	11
21	35	5	7	0	33	10			31	2	7	4
28	34	6	7	0					31	9	7	2
Nov. 4	34	6	7	0					32	0	6	11
11	35	6	7	1					30	0	6	7
18	35	8	7	1	33	6						
25	35	6	7	1								
Dec. 2	35	6	7	1								
9	35	5	7	1								
16	36	3	7	2	33	6						
23	37	8	7	0								
30	38	5	7	2								
1957												
Jan. 6	36	0	7	0								
13	32	5	7	0	33	7						
20	33	5	7	0								
27	34	8	7	0								
Feb. 3	34	2	6	7								
10	33	9	6	7	33	7						
17	33	6	6	7								
24	33	0	6	7								
Mar. 3	32	9	6	2	*							
10	32	6	6	2	31	5						
17	30	5	6	4	29	8						
24	29	8	6	11	29	3						
31	31	1	9	0	28	11						
Apr. 7	29	10	9	7	28	9						
14	29	3	10	8	28	4						
21	29	5	10	5	28	1						
28	31	2	10	5	28	2						
May 5	30	10	10	3	28	1						
12	29	7	9	9	27	7						
1958												
Jan. 5	30	0	6	7								
12	29	2	6	0								
19	28	4	6	4								
26	28	4	7	1								
Feb. 2	27	8	7	2								
9	26	11	7	6								
16	27	3	7	11								
23	27	3	8	4								
Mar. 2	27	4	7	11								
9	28	0	7	10								
16	28	4	7	3								
23	28	9	6	11								
30	28	4	6	6								
Apr. 6	27	11	4	6								
13	31	3	4	3								
20	31	2	4	1								
27	28	10	3	10								
May 4	27	9	3	6								
11	25	11	3	8								
18	28	5	3	11								
25	28	1	4	6								
June 1	27	10	4	7								
8	28	3	5	2½								
15	25	9	5	0½								
22	25	3	5	7½								
28	28	5	5	7½								

\* From March 1957 the standard pig ration was calculated from a 12 week period. The subsequent adjustment in the standard price was made weekly.

Sources: Col. 1 M.A.F.F. Fatstock Price Guarantee Scheme. Col. 2 Farmer and Stock-Breeder. Col. 3 M.A.F.F. Press Notices.



Table 13. Pork and Bacon: Supplies and Prices

	(1) Pork		(3) Home* Output	(4) Bacon		(5) Wholesale Price†		(6) Danish A
	Home Output	Wholesale Price Under 100 lb.		Imports	Wholesale Price†			
					G.B. No. 1	Danish A		
	000 tons	(per lb.) s. d.	000 tons	000 tons	(cwt) s. d.	(cwt) s. d.		
1956								
July (a) .. ..	28.1	2 3	28.5	18.5	314 6	318 6		
August .. ..	24.5	2 4½	15.2	29.5	310 0	314 0		
September .. ..	27.8	2 6½	16.7	28.5	310 0	314 0		
October (a) .. ..	37.0	2 7	21.4	26.1	298 2	314 0		
November .. ..	31.3	2 8½	16.2	27.9	298 1	306 0		
December .. ..	35.8	2 9½	15.1	23.6	321 5	327 5		
1957								
January (a) .. ..	34.4	2 7	17.4	26.5	326 5	332 5		
February .. ..	28.5	2 5½	15.5	26.0	300 3	302 6		
March .. ..	28.7	2 5½	16.5	27.4	263 0	272 5		
April (a) .. ..	35.2	2 5	20.0	26.7	247 8	260 8		
May .. ..	26.9	2 4½	16.3	26.2	285 9	292 3		
June .. ..	21.9	2 3½	15.9	26.1	309 0	314 0		
July (a) .. ..	28.0	2 3½	19.9	31.6	303 6	307 6		
August .. ..	26.1	2 3½	15.9	26.1	262 8	266 8		
September .. ..	31.3	2 4½	18.3	29.8	279 3	281 7		
October (a) .. ..	41.3	2 4	22.9	30.5	231 3	251 10		
November .. ..	36.4	2 3½	17.3	28.0	242 0	259 3		
December .. ..	40.8	2 5½	15.8	27.8	257 11	269 3		
1958								
January (a) .. ..	38.9	2 3½	17.9	29.4	243 6	246 0		
February .. ..	32.7	2 2	15.0	28.4	250 10	252 10		
March .. ..	34.7	2 2½	15.7	31.0	282 7	290 0		
April (a) .. ..	38.2	2 4	20.4	28.5	295 0	305 0		
May .. ..	29.3	†	16.6	28.9	290 7	300 6		
June .. ..	28.5	†	16.7	30.1	292 6	302 6		

(a) Five week period.

\* Including hams.

† Monthly average prices at Smithfield derived from average of top daily prices. ‡ Smithfield Strike.

Cols. 1, 3 Monthly Digest of Statistics.

Cols. 2, 4, 5, 6 C.E.C. Intelligence Bulletin January 1957-June 1958.

Table 14. Constituents of Standard Pig Ration

	1953		1957	
	Per Cent by Weight			
Barley meal .. ..	40		40	
Maize meal .. ..	20		10	
Wheat offals .. ..	30		10	
White fish meal .. ..	10		5	
Feeding wheat .. ..	—		20	
Feeding oats .. ..	—		10	
Extracted soyabean meal .. ..	—		5	
	100		100	

Cmd. 8798, Cmd. 109.

Table 15. Eggs: Producer and Wholesale Prices

Per 120	(1) Average Market Price		(2) LPE Price English Standard	
	s.	d.	s.	d.
1956				
January ..	38	8	30	10
February ..	34	0	33	5
March ..	33	6	38	2
April ..	33	5	29	7
May ..	36	0	28	4
June ..	40	3	32	4
July ..	41	10	38	9
August ..	48	7	47	2
September ..	50	9	40	5
October ..	48	10	34	5
November ..	50	7	36	2
December ..	46	2	30	3
1957				
January ..	43	3	24	9
February ..	39	4	19	11
March ..	40	0	18	5
April ..	32	0	18	4
May ..	33	8	24	11
June ..	36	10	26	11
July ..	44	5	37	10
August ..	48	6	40	2
September ..	49	2	34	2
October ..	47	6	33	2
November ..	50	2	37	0
December ..	52	1	42	11
1958				
January ..	39	8		
February ..	31	5		
March ..	33	9		
April ..	36	3		
May ..	32	11		
June ..	36	6		

Col. 1 M.A.F.F. Index Price, England and Wales.  
Col. 2 C.E.C. Intelligence Bulletin, January 1957-June 1958.

Table 16. Eggs: Payments to Packers and Support Prices

Per 120	(1) Payments to Packers Average all grades		(2) Support Price (large and standard)		Per 120	(1) Payments to Packers Average all grades		(2) Support Price (large and standard)	
	s.	d.	s.	d.		s.	d.	s.	d.
1956			1956		Mar.	21	s. d.		
Aug.	2	4 5				28	26 11	Mar.	31 36 8
	9	4 6	Aug.	12 50 0	Apr.	4	26 11	Apr.	7 33 4
	16	5 6				11	21 7	Apr.	14 30 10
	23	5 1	Aug.	26 52 6		17	18 4		
Sept.	30	8 9				25	15 10		
	6	11 9			May	2	15 10		
	13	11 11				9	12 1	May	12 33 4
	20	11 3	Sept.	23 50 10		16	10 8		19 35 10
	27	14 8		30 50 0		23	11 8		26 37 6
Oct.	4	14 1				30	12 3		
	11	17 0			June	6	13 7		
	18	11 9				13	13 6		
	25	9 5	Oct.	27 51 8		20	13 6	June	22 36 7
Nov.	1	11 3	Nov.	4 52 6		27	13 5		
	8	12 0		25 50 10			12 9*	*July	8 42 6
	15	11 8							14 47 6
	22	18 4		25 50 10					21 50 0
	29	19 6	Dec.	2 48 4				†Aug.	17 45 5
Dec.	6	17 1						*Sept.	8 47 11
	13	17 1	Dec.	15 46 8					30 42 11
	20	15 5		23 45 10				Oct.	20 47 11
	27	17 1						Nov.	24 50 5
1957			1957					1958	
Jan.	3	17 1						Jan.	4 47 11
	10	21 6	Jan.	13 44 2					18 37 1
	17	21 1		24 43 4					25 33 9
	24	20 3						Feb.	1 35 5
	31	20 3	Feb.	3 41 8					8 30 5
Feb.	7	21 11		10 40 0				Mar.	15 33 9
	14	23 4						Apr.	12 36 3
	21	22 4						May	10 32 11
	28	22 4							17 31 3
Mar.	7	23 7						June	14 33 9
	14	23 7	Mar.	17 21 4					21 38 9

\* From July 1 1957, Egg Marketing Board's minimum producer price.

† From August 17 1957, minimum producer price for standard eggs.

Col. 1 N.E.M.O. press notices. Col. 2 M.A.F.F. press notices.

Table 17. Cost of Standard Poultry Ration

	Cost of Standard Ration cwt.			Cost of Standard Ration cwt.	
	s.	d.		s.	d.
1956			4 May ..	27	8
32 weeks to			1 June ..	26	9
28 July (a)	30	7	29 June ..	26	3
25 August	31	0	27 July ..	26	3
22 September	31	3-39	24 August ..	26	1
20 October ..	31	7	21 September ..	25	9
17 November ..	31	9	19 October ..	25	2
15 December ..	31	9	16 November ..	24	11
1957			14 December ..	25	2
12 January ..	31	9	1958		
9 February ..	31	7	11 January ..	25	5
9 March ..	31	4	8 February ..	25	7
12 weeks to			8 March ..	25	7
9 March			5 April ..	25	5
(new basis) (b)	29	10	3 May ..	25	7
6 April ..	28	9	31 May ..	26	1

(a) Variations 6½d. standard ration involves variation ½d. per dozen in price.  
 (b) Variation 7d. standard ration involves variation ½d. per dozen in price.  
 M.A.F.F. Press Notices.

Constituents of Standard Poultry Ration

	Per Cent by Weight	
	1954	1957
Feeding Wheat .. ..	10	20
Wheat offals .. ..	30	20
Feeding Barley .. ..	—	10
Feeding Oats .. ..	20	20
Maize .. ..	30	15
White fish meal .. ..	10	5
Extracted soyabean meal ..	—	10
	100	100

Cmnd. 9104; Cmnd. 109.

