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Supplement to Economic Report No. 95

Maincrop Potatoes - Seed and Ware

1967

J. L. Anderson

Acknowledgements

Grateful acknowledgements are due to the farmers for their help and co-operation in providing the data for this supplement and to the Potato Marketing Board for the use of statistical data.

Maincrop Potatoes - Seed and Ware - 1967 Crop

This supplement is based on the records for 47 seed crops and 42 crops grown for ware in the east of Scotland during 1967. The following table indicates where the farms were situated.

County	Angus	East Perth	Fife/Kinross	Lothians	Totals*
Seed crops	12	8	7	3	30
Ware crops	6	1	9	10	26

*8 farms grew both seed and ware crops

General

1967 proved to be a good growing season following a cold start in April and May. Planting was generally completed earlier than usual, most crops being in the ground by the first week in May. Blight was not a serious problem. Lifting was interupted by broken weather but most crops were secured by early November. Harvesters were used to lift 24 of the crops costed.

Returns

In 1967, prices of ware potatoes were generally depressed, despite an extensive buying programme by the Potato Marketing Board. This situation was due principally to an oversupplied market arising from high average yields in association with an increased acreage of potatoes grown. Recent acreage trends are shown in the table below.

Potato Acreages - U.K. (*000 acres)

	1964	1965	1966	1967	1968*
Earlies Maincrop	148.1 519.0	132.2 516.8	112.7 473.0	104.6 508.5	119.7 488.7
Totals	667.1	649.0	585.7	613.1	608.4

^{*}Provisional figures

Source-P.M.B.

The seed trade **fared** rather better on the whole. Prices generally were not particularly high, but good yields helped to improve output in many cases.

The results show the usual wide range in total output per acre, the average figure for the seed crops being £188 compared with a figure of £135 for the ware crops. Analysis of the sample on the basis of highest and lowest gross regins indicated a range in output from £257 to £125 per acre among the seed group, with individual results above and below these figures. A similar picture is shown for the ware sample where total output ranged from £192 to £70 per acre for the highest and lowest gross margin groups. Yield per acre was again the principal factor behind the range in returns.

Variable Costs

Seed costs were at their highest level for the past 3 years. Other variable costs continued to show an upward movement including wheat straw for pits which rose from £8 to £12-£14 per ton.

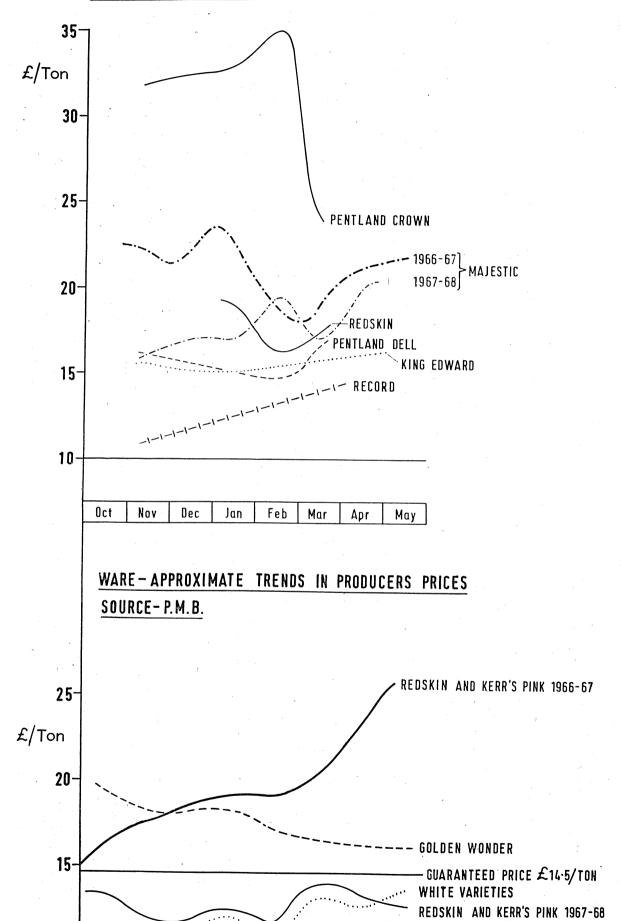
The average figures for casual labour, contract work and sundry expenses are not very helpful for budget work as they cover a wide range of situations.

For example, there were 11 cases where the casual labour bill for lifting and dressing came to over £40 per acre. Typical costs for particular operations are given on page 10 and should be used in preference to the average figures when preparing budgets.

Gross Margins

The average gross margin for the seed crops dropped to £99.6 per acre compared with the high figure of £141 achieved in 1966. The comparable figure for the ware crops was the lowest for the last three years, at £67.1 per acre. This result reflected the generally poor year for Redskin and Kerr's Pink, the varieties which are principally grown for the ware market in Scotland. (It is likely that a firmer trade can be expected in 1968 as the acreage of Redskin has fallen by 5177 to 20574 acres and Kerr's Pink by 2800 to 8777 acres).

SEED 'A' CERTIFICATE APPROXIMATE TRENDS IN PRODUCERS PRICES SOURCE - FARMING PRESS



10

- 3 -

Average Results per Acre - Seed Crops 1967

	12 highest*	Average	12 lowest*
Output	${\mathfrak L}$	£	£
seed ware P.M.B. brock	177.7 70.9 6.3 1.8	109.9 60.0 15.5 2.2	59.9 51.9 10.3 2.8
Total output	256.7	187.6	124.9
Variable costs seed fertiliser casual labour contract fuel excl. tractor sundry exps.	38.1 10.2 24.7 2.9 .3 10.3	38.3 10.1 27.1 3.4 .3 8.8	38.1 9.7 28.7 2.9 .2 7.9
Total variable costs	86.5	88.0	87.5
Gross margin	170.2	99.6	37.4
Average yields seed ware P.M.B. brock	Tons 7.8 5.2 .4 .9	Tons 5.7 4.3 1.1 1.0	Tons 3.7 3.9 .7 1.2
Total yield	14.3	12.1	9.5
Average seed price/ton Average ware price/ton	£22.8 £13.6	£19.3 £14.0	£16.2 £13.3
Average seed rate (cwt) Average seed cost/ton	28.0c £27.2	28.3c £27.0	26.8c £28.4
Average fertiliser rate (cwt) Units N P_2O_5 K_2O Average dressing F.Y.M. (tons)	9.2c 122 117 171 8.1T	8.7c 116 111 160 10.0T	8.4c 102 102 157 11.8T
Number of crops Total acreage costed Average acreage	12 169.5 14.1	47 551 11.7	12 143.5 12.0

*Selected on a gross margin basis.

Average Results per Acre - Seed Crops 1967

		,	
Variety	Majestic	K. Edward	Record
Output	£	£	£
seed ware P.M.B. brock	122.2 44.5 11.4 3.1	105.8 93.2 12.5 2.4	61.1 80.7 21.1 1.0
Total output	181.2	213.9	163.9
Variable costs			
seed fertiliser casual labour contract fuel excl. tractor sundry exps.	30.9 10.1 30.3 2.1 .1 8.8	29.7 10.1 18.5 4.2 .4 8.9	30.5 11.0 25.9 4.9 .1 8.0
Total variable costs	82.3	71.8	80.4
Gross margin	98.9	142.1	83.5
Average yields	Tons	Tons	Tons
seed ware P.M.B. brock	6.6 3.5 .8 1.2	5.9 6.4 .8 1.4	4.3 5.6 1.5 .4
Total yield	12.1	14.5	11.8
Average seed price/ton Average ware price/ton	£18.5 £12.7	£17.9 £14.5	£14.2 £14.4
Average seed rate (cwt) Average seed cost/ton	28.7c £21.5	26.2c £22.7	25.8c £23.6
Average fertiliser rate (cwt) Units N P_2O_5 K_2O Average dressing F.Y.M. (tons)	8.1c 110 106 155 9.5T	8.9c 126 126 180 9.0T	9.4c 137 117 163 10.9T
Number of crops Total acreage costed Average acreage	17 183 10.8	5 121.5 24.3	7 45 6.4

- 5 -Average Results per Acre - Seed Crops 1967

	P. Dell	P. Crown	Redskin	H. Guard
Output	£	£	£	£, , , ,
seed ware P.M.B. brock	88.6 63.8 31.3 1.9	214.5 44.5 14.5 2.6	53.1 64.9 12.1 1.8	220.3 36.5 - .9
Total output	185.6	276.1	131.9	257.7
Variable costs				
seed fertiliser casual labour contract fuel excl. tractor sundry exps.	58.2 9.4 28.3 4.1 .8 9.1	68.8 10.2 25.4 4.5 .3 10.0	29.7 10.0 25.7 4.9 .2 8.7	44.0 9.8 34.2 - - 7.5
Total variable costs	109.9	119.2	79.2	95.5
Gross margin	75.7	156.9	52.7	162.2
Average yields	Tons	Tons	Tons	Tons
seed ware P.M.B. brock	5.5 4.5 2.2 .9	7.0 3.4 1.0 1.0	3.3 4.5 .8 1.0	7.7 3.2 -
Total yield	13.1	12.4	9.6	11.4
Average seed price/ton Average ware price/ton	£16.1 £14.2	£30.6 £13.1	£16.1 £14.4	£28.6 £11.4
Average seed rate (cwt) Average seed cost/ton	32.6c £35.7	30.4c £45.2	22.5c £26.4	37.2c £23.6
Average fertiliser rate (cwt) Units N P_2O_5 K_2O Average dressing F.Y.M. (Tons)	8.8c 109 109 165 11.6T	9.7c 112 114 178 4.5T	9.6c 112 112 156 13.7T	7.5c 130 95 115 12.0T
Number of crops Total acreage costed Average acreage	7 82.5 11.8	4 26 6.5	4 80.5 20.1	2 10.5 5.3

- 6 -

Average Results per Acre - Ware Crops 1967

	10 highest*	Average	10 lowest*
Output	£	£	£
seed ware P.M.B. brock	10.0 160.0 19.8 2.1	9.6 107.3 15.6 2.3	7.5 44.3 15.8 2.2
Total output	191.9	134.8	69.8
Variable costs			
seed fertiliser casual labour contract fuel excl. tractor sundry exps.	22.4 10.7 17.0 3.6 .2 8.7	25.5 11.1 19.3 3.4 .2 8.2	22.9 11.6 17.6 1.4 .1 5.5
Total variable costs	62.6	67.7	59.1
Gross margin	129.3	67.1	10.7
Average yields	Tons	Tons	Tons
seed ware P.M.B. brock	.7 11.2 1.4 1.0	.7 7.4 1.1 1.1	.6 3.0 1. 1 1.1
Total yield	14.3	10.3	5.8
Average seed price/ton Average ware price/ton	£14.3 £14.3	£13.7 £14.5	£12.5 £14.8
Average seed rate (cwt) Average seed cost/ton	20.9c £21.4	20.9c £24.4	19.7° £23.3
Average fertiliser rate (cwt) Units N $P_2 O_5$ $K_2 O$ Average dressing F.Y.M. (tons)	9.4c 127 127 194 12.3T	9.0c 125 123 178 11.6T	9.5c 131 130 189 10.2T
Number of crops Total acreage costed Average acreage	10 163.5 16.3	42 494 11.7	10 72.5 7.2

*Selected on a gross margin basis

Average Results per Acre - Ware Crops 1967

£ 8.4 79.1	K. Pink £	G. Wonder £
8.4 79.1	3.9	Maria de la compania
79.1	3.9	7.8
79.1	02.5	1 • •
20 2	88.9	126.2
28.2	11.7	<u>-</u>
3.2	1.4	1.7
.18.9	105.9	135.7
25.4	18.4	25.2
11.2	11.4	11.4
19.1	16.9	19.5
3.2	1.5	1.0
		.1
6.8	6.2	7.6
65.9	54.5	64.8
53.0	51.4	70.9
Tons	Tons	Tons
.6	.3	•4
6.0	6.4	6.4
1.9	.8	<u>-</u>
1.5	•9	.8
10.0	8.4	7.6
7		
e14.0	£13.0	£19.5
213.2	£13.9	£19.7
20.90	18.4c	20.1c
€24.3	£20.0	£25.1
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12.3T	11.4T	10.7T
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17	7	7
17 198	7 29.5	7 62 8.9
	25.4 11.2 19.1 3.2 .2 6.8 65.9 53.0 Cons .6 6.0 1.9 1.5 10.0 214.0 213.2 20.9e 224.3 9.4e 125 122 182	25.4 18.4 11.2 11.4 19.1 16.9 3.2 1.5 .1 6.8 6.2 65.9 54.5 53.0 51.4 Property of the second state of the s

	Record*	A. Consul
Output	£	£
seed ware P.M.B. brock	9.8 155.2 19.1 1.6	18.9 144.6 - 1.5
Total output	185.7	165.0
Variable costs seed fertiliser casual labour contract fuel excl. tractor sundry exps.	18.9 11.2 22.1 3.5 .3 6.0	39.4 9.3 17.4 14.6 / .3 13.4
Total variable costs	62.0	94.4
Gross margin	123.7	70.6
Average yields seed ware P.M.B. brock	Tons .7 10.6 1.3	Tons 1.4 10.6 -
Total yield	13.5	12.9
Average seed price/ton Average ware price/ton	£14.0 £14.6	£13.5 £13.6
Average seed rate (cwt) Average seed cost/ton	18.4c £20.5	26.6c £29.6
Average fertiliser rate (cwt) Units N P2O5 K2O Average dressing F.Y.M. (tons)	9.9c 124 125 174 7.6T	7.8c 114 95 162 13.0T
Number of crops Total acreage costed Average acreage	5 106 21.2	3 46 15.3

^{*4} of these crops were grown under contract for crisping.

[/] Includes harvester on contract.

Range in Yields per Acre

Tons per Acre	3 - 6	6-9	9 - 12	12 - 15	over 15
Seed Crops 12 highest crops (4 of Majestic 3 of P. Crown 3 of K. Edward 1 of P. Dell 1 of H. Guard)	-	-	1	7	4 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1
12 lowest crops (4 of Majestic 3 of P. Dell 2 of Redskin 1 of K. Pink 1 of K. Ed. 1 of Record) Majestic K. Edward Record P. Dell P. Crown Redskin Home Guard Kerrs Pink		1 1 2 2 3 4 4 1	9 9152131-	1 6 1 4 3 - 1	2 3 1 1
Ware Crops 10 highest crops (4 of Redskin 3 of Record 1 of G. Wonder 1 of K. Edward 1 of K. Pink)	-	1		6	3
10 lowest crops (6 of Redskin	8 4 3 1	1 1 5	7 2 1 2 2	- 3 1 - 2 - 1 1	2 - 1 1

- 10 -Variable Costs per Acre

	Typical	Range
	£	£
Fertiliser 8c (120 N 120 P ₂ O ₅ 168 K ₂ O 1968-69 prices)	13.0	(11.0 - 15.0)*
Casual labour (where employed)		
semi automatic planters automatic planters squad	1.0 - 1.5 .3 2.0 - 4.0	.2 - 2.0 .16 1.2 - 4.1
harvesters - older or smaller machines - newer or larger machines	7.2 3.0 - 5.0	7.1 - 7.4 2.2 - 6.0
'contract' squad squad organised by farmer	20.0 - 21.0 15.0 - 18.0	19.0 - 23.0 5.0 - 26.0
dressing - merchant (per ton seed and ware)	1.3 - 1.6/T	1.0 - 2.3/T
- casual assistance 2 - 3 workers (per ton seed, ware and brock)	•3 - •5/T	.1 - 1.5/T
<u>Contract</u>		
weeds - paraquat - paraquat & residual	3.5 - 4.0 4.0 - 5.0	3.3 - 4.0 3.9 - 6.7
blight (per application) - ground - helicopter	1.2 2.2	1.0 - 1.9
acid - half strength	3.5 2.5	2.8 - 5.0 1.6 - 2.8
pulverise	1.3	1.0 - 1.3
Sundry		
weeds - paraquat	3.0	1.4 - 3.7
blight (per application)	1.2	1.0 - 1.2
shaws - diquat - chlorate	2.4	-
bags (usually supplied by merchant) - $\frac{1}{2}$ cwt paper $6\frac{1}{2}$ d. - cwt jute ls.9d.	1.1/T 1.75/T	

^{*}Approximate