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REQUIREMENTS FOR CONTRIBUTIONS

Articles in the field of agricultural economics, suitable for publication in the journal, will be welcomed.

Articles should have a maximum length of 10 folio pages (including tables, graphs, etc.), typed in double spacing. Contributions, in the language preferred by the writer, should be submitted in triplicate to the Editor, c/o Department of Agricultural Economics and Marketing, Pretoria, and should reach him at least one month prior to date of publication.

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Economic Tendencies in South African Agriculture

The development in various agricultural economic directions is shown in the accompanying graphs and further information is given in the Section on Statistics. The latest tendencies may be summarised as follows:

BUTTER

From 1947/48 to 1958/59 production increased gradually but never equalled consumption. During the three seasons ending in 1961/62 production exceeded consumption by an average of about 10 million pounds a year. Measures to discourage production coincided with unfavourable weather conditions and resulted in production falling short of consumption by considerable quantities. During the past two seasons production increased substantially and was sufficient for domestic requirements. The consumption of butter is now estimated at 112 million pounds a year and has nearly doubled during the past two decades.

CHEESE

Although the production of cheese fluctuates from year to year, the increase in production as well as consumption during the past two decades has been marked. Comparable average production and consumption figures are as follows:

Average, 4 years	Production	Consumption
	1,000 lb.	
1947/48-1950/51	19,888	19,736
1951/52-1954/55	24,895	23,709
1955/56-1958/59	27,347	26,812
1959/60-1962/63	34,763	30,115
1963/64-1966/67	34,231	35,932

Production and consumption for 1967/68 is estimated at 44 and 39 million pounds respectively which leaves a surplus of 5 million pounds. During 1966/67 the quantity produced amounted to 42.3 million pounds and consumption was 37.7 million pounds.

EGGS

Since 1947/48 production of eggs has exceeded consumption. During that year 59.4 million dozen were produced and 56.5 million dozen consumed. Since then production has increased to 147.1 million dozen and consumption to 131.5 million dozen in 1966/67. Production during 1967/68 is

estimated at 155 million dozen as against consumption of 143 million dozen.

MEAT

Mainly as a result of prolonged droughts in parts of the Republic cattle numbers on farms of Whites, declined from 8.4 million in 1964 to 7.0 million in 1966. Since 1966 there has been an increase and the cattle population is now estimated at 7.5 million. Commercial slaughterings amounted to 1,671,000 in 1966/67 and to 1,480,000 in 1967/68 - a decline of 11 per cent. Average carcase weights increased, however, to 457 pounds in 1967/68 as compared with 430 pounds during the previous year, which represents an increase of 6.3 per cent. The quantity of beef available in the controlled areas declined from 241,900 tons in 1965/66 to 237,200 tons in 1966/67 and to 231,400 tons in 1967/68. During the same years the price of Grade I beef on the Witwatersrand was 17.15c, 18.54c and 20.30c a pound.

WHEAT

In the Free State in particular the production of wheat is greatly subject to weather factors. As indicated in the table below consumption exceeds production. For 1967/68 production and consumption were estimated at respectively 11.6 and 13.1 million bags. The indications are that the coming crop which is very promising, might exceed consumption. Production as compared with consumption during the past 20 years has been as follows:

Average, 4 years	Production	Consumption
	million bags	
1947/48-1950/51	6.1	7.6
1951/52-1954/55	6.8	9.0
1955/56-1958/59	8.3	9.9
1959/60-1962/63	8.5	10.2
1963/64-1966/67	8.8	12.1

MAIZE

Production of maize usually exceeds consumption. The record crop of 106 million bags in 1967 far exceeded the previous biggest crop of 67 million bags in 1963. The 1968 crop is estimated at 57 million bags. Commercial consumption has increased from 22.9 million bags in 1947/48 to 46.7 million bags in 1966/67. The value of whole maize exported during 1967 was about R78.6 million as against only R1.0 million during the previous year.

EKONOMIESE TENDENSE IN DIE SUID-AFRIKAANSE LANDBOU
ECONOMIC TENDENCIES IN THE SOUTH-AFRICAN AGRICULTURE

Produksie en verbruik van sekere belangrike landbouprodukte
Production and consumption of certain important agricultural products
1947/48 - 1949/50 = 100

