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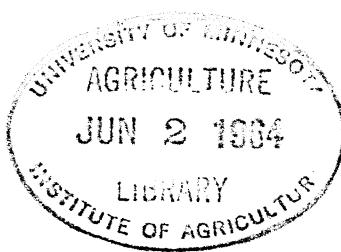
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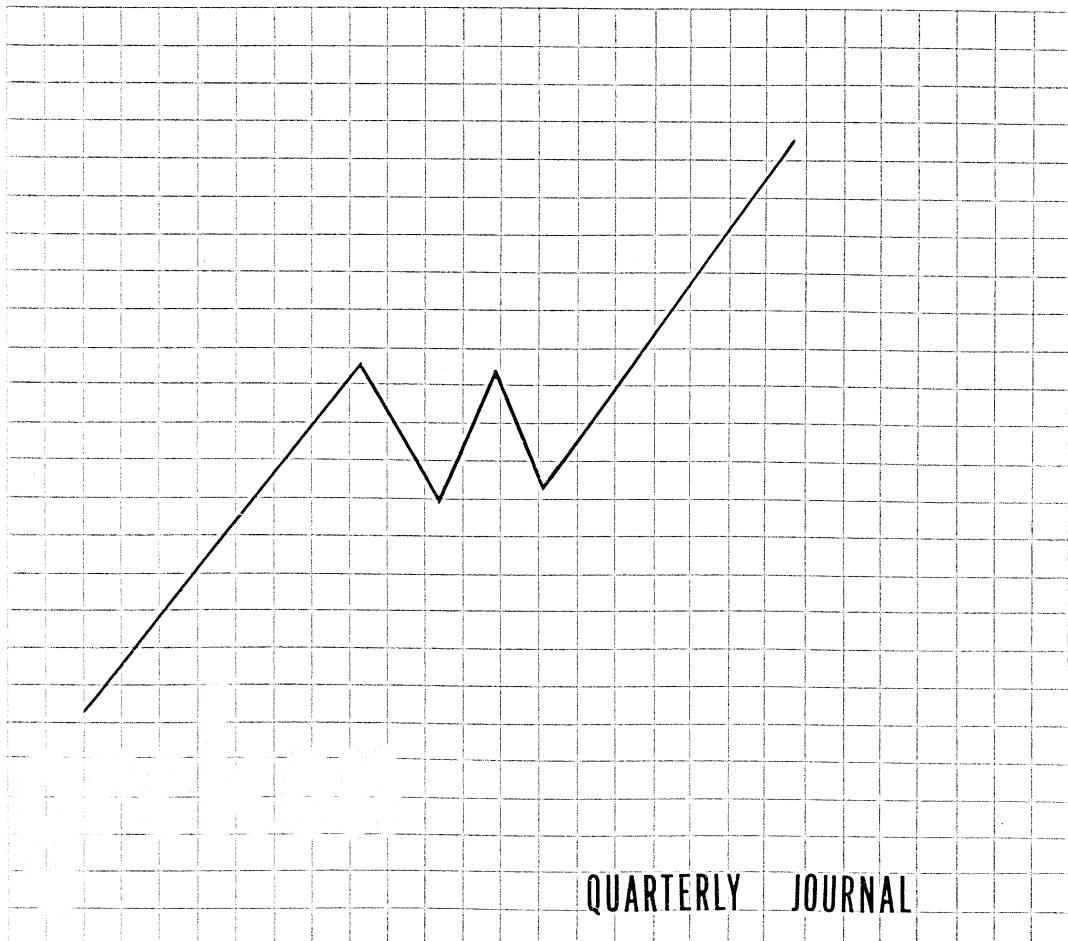
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Vol. 2, No. 4  
OCTOBER 1963



PRICE 20c



QUARTERLY JOURNAL  
ON AGRICULTURAL  
ECONOMICS

Issued by the Department of Agricultural Economics and Marketing, Pretoria

# Agrekon

VOL. 2, NO. 4

OCTOBER 1963

Editorial committee: Dr. C. van der Merwe (chairman),  
A.J. du Plessis (vice-chairman), Dr. F.R. Tomlinson, Dr. A.P. Scholtz  
Editors: O.E. Burger and H.J. van Rensburg  
Technical editing: Q. Momberg

## REQUIREMENTS FOR CONTRIBUTIONS

Deserving articles in the field of agricultural economics, for publication in this journal, will be welcomed.

These articles should have a maximum length of 10 folio pages (including tables, graphs, etc.), typed in double spacing. All contributions should be submitted in triplicate (preferably in both languages) to the editors, c.o. Department of Agricultural Economics and Marketing, Pretoria, and should be received by the editors at least one month prior to publication date.

The journal is being distributed by and is obtainable from the distributors: "Agrekon", Private Bag 144, Pretoria.

(The price is 20 cents per copy or 80 cents per annum, post free.)

Dates of issue, on a quarterly basis, are the following: January, April, July and October.

"Agrekon" is also published in Afrikaans.

# **ECONOMIC TENDENCIES IN THE SOUTH AFRICAN AGRICULTURE**

The production and consumption trends, as reflected in the accompanying graphs, can briefly be summarised as follows:-

## Butter

Due to rationing, production and consumption revealed the same tendencies as from 1947/48 until 1952/53. Thereafter rationing was discontinued and both production and consumption showed a gradual upward tendency. During 1959/60 production exceeded consumption, but it has decreased again since 1960/61; consumption, on the other hand, retained an upward tendency, with production falling behind at present.

## Cheese

Cheese was also rationed until 1952/53. Since then production exceeded consumption, except during 1956/57 and 1957/58 when production decreased to a level below that of consumption. After 1957/58 production increased sharply until 1960/61, when a sudden decrease occurred - resulting in the estimated production and consumption being in equilibrium at present.

## Eggs

As a rule, production exceeds consumption, but the tendencies are remarkably similar. Surplus eggs are being exported in various forms.

## Meat

The number of cattle on farms and the number slaughtered follow more or less the same trend. In the case of the number slaughtered, a time-lag exists of about one year when compared with the trend of the number of cattle on farms. Since 1957/58 the two curves have moved fairly simultaneously upwards.

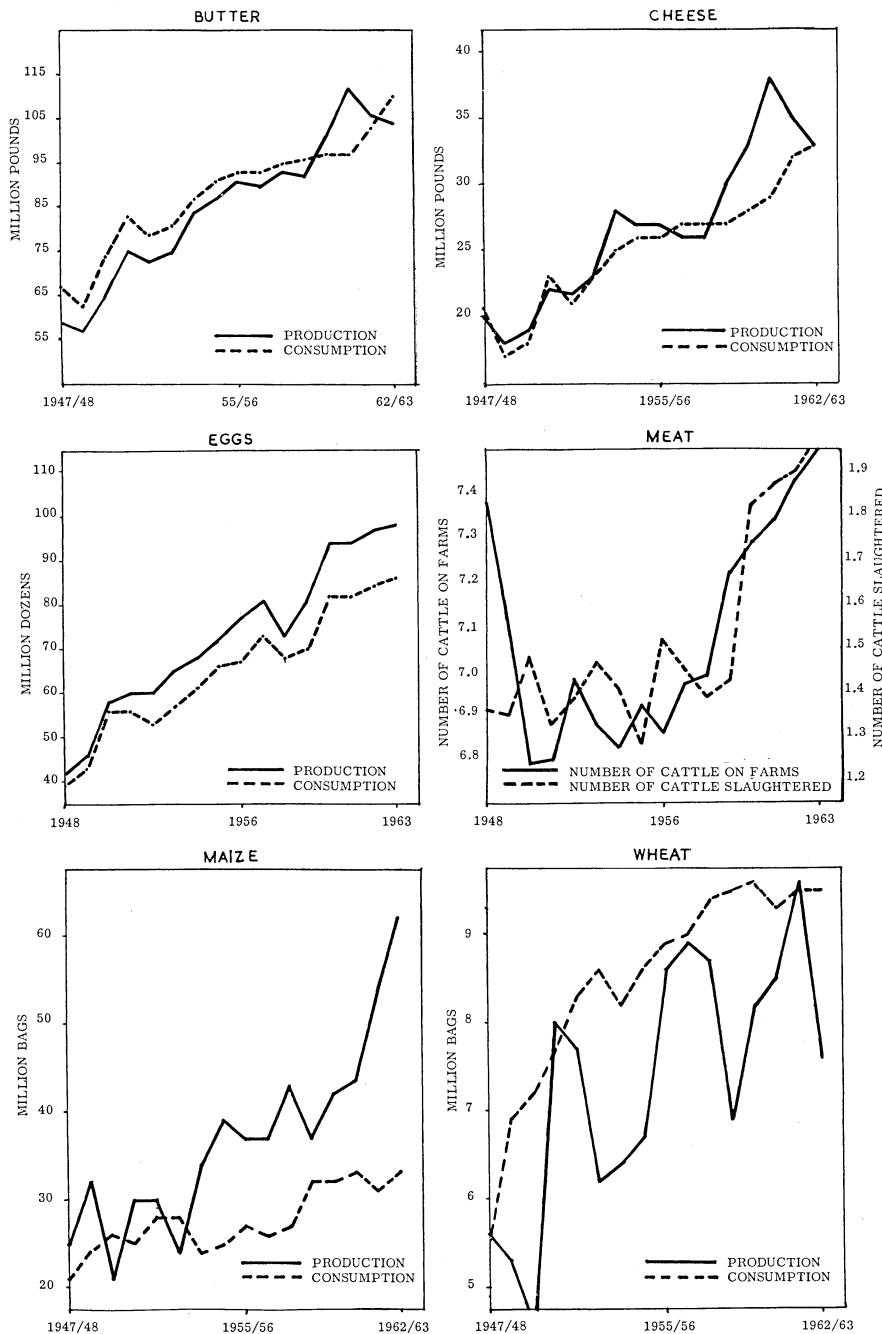
## Maize

Local consumption of maize increased from 21 million bags in 1947/48 to 33 million in 1962/63. Production, however, increased from 25 million bags in 1947/48 to an estimated harvest of 62 million in 1962/63. This large increase in production is partly due to better tillage and fertilising practices, as well as to more extensive use of hybrid seed.

## Wheat

Local consumption of wheat increased by 57% during the period 1947/48 to 1954/55; whereafter consumption has increased more gradually. Production has also increased, but it has been subject to severe fluctuations, due to weather conditions and other factors which materially affect production in the Orange Free State especially.

# PRODUCTION AND CONSUMPTION TENDENCIES OF SEVERAL IMPORTANT AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTS



SOURCE: DIVISION OF AGRICULTURAL ECONOMIC RESEARCH