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Table No. 12—*Dried Vine Fruits Production: New South Wales.*
(Expressed as percentages of the 1935-39 average.)

Year ended 31st March.	Lexias.	Sultanas.	Currants.
	%	%	%
1935-39 average	100	100	100
1940	123	139	142
1941	134	142	107
1942	133	170	135
1943	125	159	133
1944	158	161	145
1945	150	101	104

Citrus fruits production remained fairly stable during the years under review and only in the 1939-40 and 1942-43 seasons did it fall appreciably under the average for the years 1935-39. The percentage to that average for these two seasons was 83 per cent. and 72 per cent., respectively.

Egg output was greatly expanded under the stimulus of war-time demand and here again special endeavours were made to assist producers faced with difficult supply problems. Table 13 and figure 7 indicate the relative increase in production in each of the war years.

Table No. 13—*Egg Production: New South Wales.*
(Expressed as percentages of 1935-39 average.)

Year ended 31st March.	%	Year ended 31st March.	%
1935-39 average	100	1943	122
1940	100	1944	133
1941	113	1945	171
1942	119		

EGG MARKETING BOARD.

THE ANNUAL REPORT FOR SEASON 1944-45.

In a recent issue of *The Poultry Farmer*, the official organ of the Egg Marketing Board of New South Wales, the Board published its seventeenth Annual Report covering operation to the 30th June, 1945. Space does not permit of the report being published in full in this "Review," but a selection has been made of various items which are considered likely to be of interest to our readers.

The Annual Report states, inter alia, that the year's operations continued under National Security (Egg Industry) Regulations, but, while no definite ruling has yet been made, operations under these Regulations are expected to terminate at the end of the present pool, viz., 30th June, 1946. (During the last few years, the Board has acted merely as an agent for the Commonwealth Egg Controller.)

Production and Prices.

The period reviewed is one of fifty-two weeks, and is therefore reasonably comparable with the 1943-44 year.

The total quantity of eggs produced (this refers to "controlled" production) during the year reached a figure of 47,369,229 dozens, compared with the previous year's total of 42,050,310 dozens. These figures were made up in the following way:—

	% of Total.	1944-45 Dozens.	1943-44 Dozens.	1942-43 Dozens.
Sydney Receivals ...	39.955	18,926,536	15,066,098	15,247,727
Newcastle Receivals ...	7.550	3,576,379	2,790,481	2,910,544
Country Receivals ...	25.538	12,097,204	9,356,160	8,818,363
Total of Receivals ...	73.043	34,600,119	27,212,739	26,976,634
Producer Agency Sales ...	26.957	12,769,110	14,837,571	15,670,038
	100.000	47,369,229	42,050,310	42,646,672

Demand for egg products was strong throughout the year, and curtailment of sales to the civilian market was necessary on occasions during the January-June period.

The average net price paid for the year was 1s. 6.178d., as compared with 1s. 5.876d. for 1943-44, an increase of .302d. The average gross price paid was 1s. 8.688d., compared with 1s. 8.767d. per dozen for the previous year, a decrease of .079d. per dozen. The total value of the year's production was thus approximately £4,083,227.

The Board's Income.

Income during the year, as has been the case since the commencement of Commonwealth Control, was the selling charge allocated by the Controller. The Control Fund Deductions from consignors' cheques and Producer Agency moneys were paid over to the Controller weekly, the Board acting as a collector for the Controller only. Incidentally, the deduction made for handling and selling is fixed on a Commonwealth-wide basis, and is uniform in all States. Hereunder is a summary of the total income for the year:—

	£	s.	d.
Handling and selling charges	250,695	9	9
Commission on sales of egg pulp	7,227	8	7
Commission on dried whole egg sales ..	199	2	5
Discounts and sundry commissions	1,006	15	5
Sundry income	2,879	14	2
Surplus on pulp trading	8,345	15	2
Surplus on dried albumen trading	5,910	11	4
	£276,264	16	10

Agreement with the Egg Controller.

The method of remunerating the Board for its services to the Controller is as follows:—

1. For receiving, purchasing, handling, candling and grading, packing, accounting to producers and to the Controller, including any statistical information required by the Controller—One penny per dozen.
2. For selling, packing for drying, packing for export or cold storage or pulping—Three-farthings per dozen.
3. For recandling ex cold storage—One-halfpenny per dozen.
4. For pulping for local sales (but excluding tins, cartons, storage, etc.)—Three-farthings per pound.
5. For pulping for export sale (excluding tins, cartons, storage, etc.)—Three-farthings per pound.
6. For selling pulp—
 - Up to 10,000 lb. to any one customer—two and one-half per cent.
 - Over 10,000 lbs. to any one customer—two per cent. on the excess over 10,000 lb.

All costs of labour, machinery, rent and other overhead and risk of bad debts, with other duties and charges set out in detail in the agreement, are the responsibility of the Board.

Egg Drying Activities.

The albumen-drying venture is one carried out solely by the Board in Australia and does not come under the Controller's direction. The eggs used in this connection are purchased by the Board from the Controller and dehydrated by a special oven at the Wattle Crescent premises. The oven is used to capacity, working a full twenty-four hours per day, with periodical breaks for servicing, etc., and the whole of the Board's output has been placed without difficulty. The quantity of liquid albumen treated in the period under review totalled 183,746 lb., which showed an output of crystallised albumen of 23,489 lb.

The pre-war demand for this commodity was approximately three-quarters of the Board's maximum output, but during the war period demands were made by the Services for the product, so that the output of the plant just met requirements. However, with the cessation of hostilities, inquiries are being received from overseas for the product and it appears certain that the oven will work to full capacity in the coming year; in fact, an increase in drying equipment may be found necessary.

During the war, certain quantities of overseas albumen were imported by the Allied Forces. The Board thus had an opportunity of comparing the products with its own, and in solubility, moisture content and other tests, the albumen made at Wattle Crescent compared more than favourably.

Egg Grading by Machinery.

Grading machines have been more extensively used and are now installed in all of the larger country depots. Thirty-seven machines are used on the Sydney floors, twenty-eight at Wattle Crescent and nine at Petersham, while twenty-nine machines are operating at country depots. These machines have proved their

worth, both as labour-saving devices during a period when extra labour was almost unobtainable and from the point of view of economy. Breakages on the machines are actually less than experienced with hand-candling. Although up till the termination of the pool the machines had not been used for export grading, it is interesting to note that they are being used extensively both here and in other States for export packing in the 1945-46 season. So popular have these machines been that every State, with the exception of Victoria, has now availed itself of the opportunity to use them, and in the case of Victoria the eggs were not physically handled by the Board. As our southern neighbour has now procured land and a permit to build its own floor, it is fully anticipated that the use of grading machines will become general throughout Australia.

Funds of the Industry.

The position is summarised as follows :				As at 30/6/44.	Additions during Year.	As at 30/6/45.
				£	£	£
1. Nett Surplus on Pool Operations (Building Fund)				81,837	74,741	156,578
2. Case Deposit Reserve				14,436	.....	14,436
3. "The Poultry Farmer" Accumulation Account				1,754	676	2,430
4. Depot Freight-on-Surplus Charge Balance				10,745	Dr. 2,970	7,775
				108,772	72,447	181,219

Year.	Deficits.	Surpluses.	Distributions.	Progressive Deficit or Surplus
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
1929-30 ...	3,582 8 0	.....	.....	D. 3,582 8 0
1930-31 ...	4,748 12 7	.....	.....	D. 8,331 0 7
1931-32 ...	.....	36,615 13 6	28,284 12 11	.....
1932-33 ...	.....	24,181 12 8	24,181 12 8	.....
1933 Contract	.....	3,093 8 8	3,093 8 8	.....
1933-34				
Guarant'd	25,019 9 5	.....	.....	D. 25,019 9 5
1934-35 ...	19,722 8 2	3,946 8 11	.....	D. 40,795 8 8
1935-36 ...	.....	22,242 11 3	.....	D. 18,552 17 5
1936-37 ...	13,568 13 3	.....	.....	D. 32,121 10 8
1937-38 ...	.....	30,803 7 2	.....	D. 1,318 3 6
1938-39 ...	3,844 0 2	.....	.....	D. 5,162 3 8
1939-40 ...	.....	46,264 0 9	9,961 5 8	S. 31,140 11 5
1940-41 ...	.....	8,396 17 9	.....	S. 39,537 9 2
1941-42 ...	.....	24,875 5 5	.....	S. 64,412 14 7
1942-43 ...	44,990 13 10	.....	.....	S. 19,422 0 9
1943-44 ...	.....	62,415 3 4	.....	S. 81,837 4 1
1944-45 ...	.....	74,740 18 0	.....	S. 156,578 2 1
	115,476 5 5	337,575 7 5	65,520 19 11	S. 156,578 2 1

Deduct Deficits	115,476 5 5
	222,099 2 0
Deduct Distributions ...	65,520 19 11
	£ 156,578 2 1

Building Expansion.

Permission was recently given to proceed with the Tamworth and Lidcombe buildings, and was promptly acted upon. Work at Tamworth is being expedited as this floor will be urgently needed for extensive pulping and refrigeration. At Lidcombe, a contract has been let for levelling the site, and here, too, every effort is being made to facilitate an early start on the building. The recent steel strike, however, will prevent the structure being ready for the forthcoming flush season. It is anticipated that temporary premises will shortly be more freely available, and by the 1946-47 season it is confidently expected that there will be full relief from congested floor handling operations, especially in the receivals section.

Conclusion.

In 1945-46, production, despite curtailment from feed shortages, will show a substantial increase on the pool now under review. Forecasts for 1946-47 vary, but a further increase in production must be provided for.

GENERAL NOTES AND NEWS.

The Australian Broadcasting Commission has received letters from numbers of listeners containing complimentary references to the value of the market report supplied by this Division which is included in the "Rural Hour" broadcast. This session was inaugurated late last year and is "on the air" between 12.15 p.m. and 1.15 p.m. each week day.

Millet crops in New South Wales in 1945-46 are expected to yield much better than last year when drought affected production. An official forecast by this Division places prospective yields of broom millet fibre this season at 21,700 cwt. compared with a recorded yield of about 9,500 cwt. in 1944-45.

The Minister for Agriculture proposes to take the necessary steps to provide for an increase in the number of elected (producer) representatives on the Egg Marketing Board from three to five. This is considered desirable owing to the extension of the area controlled by the Board, the large increase in production in recent years and the magnitude of the Board's business. The next ballot for the election of producer-representatives will be held in October of this year.

The Queensland Department of Agriculture has under consideration the question of instituting a system of collecting, recording and broadcasting prices of primary products for the benefit of producers in that State. The Assistant-Director of Marketing, Department of Agriculture, Queensland, who was recently in Sydney, was afforded every opportunity of investigating this Division's service in that connection which has now been in operation for many years.