

THE Poultry and Egg SITUATION

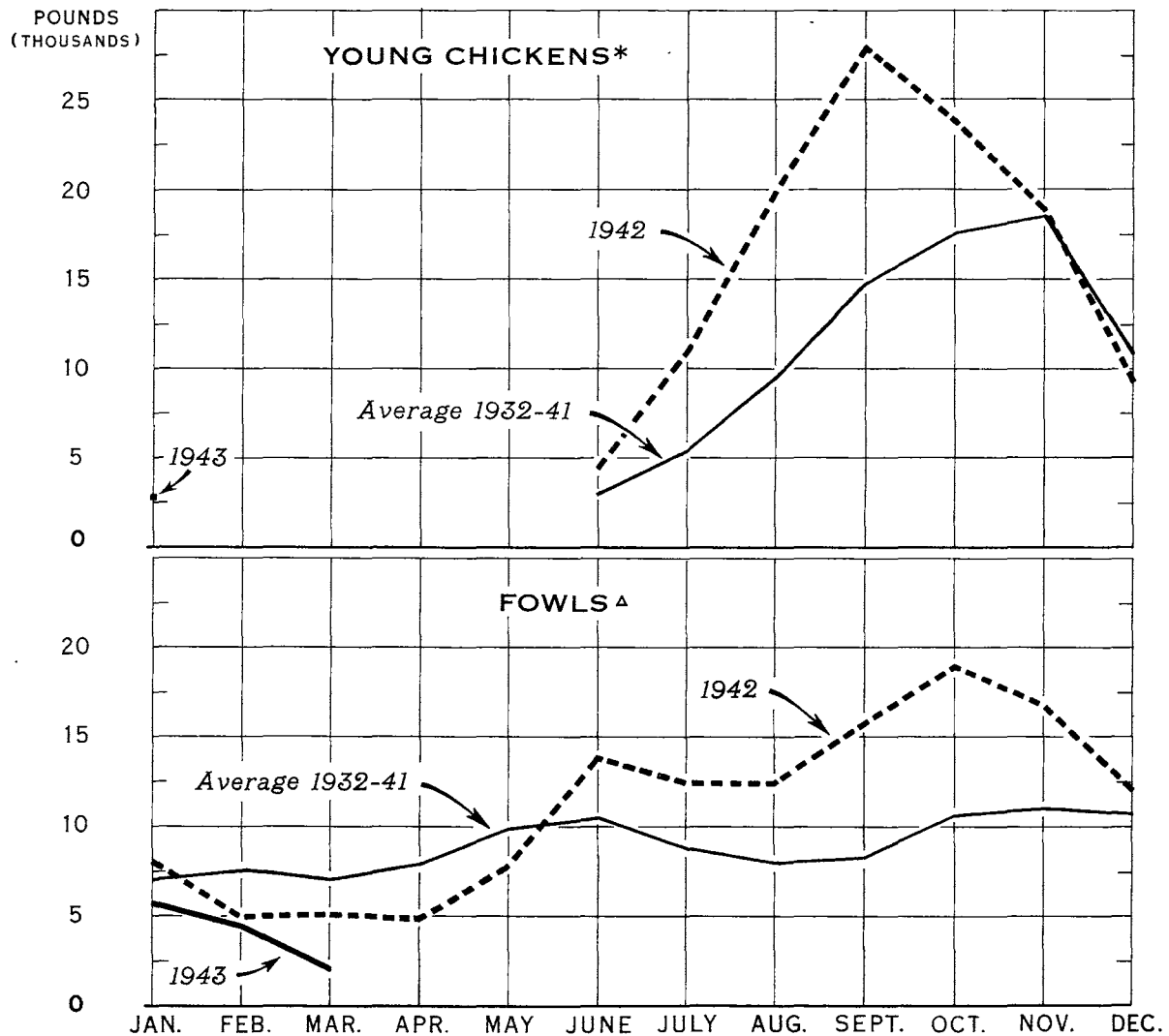
BUREAU OF AGRICULTURAL ECONOMICS
 UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

PES-76



APRIL 1943

POULTRY: AVERAGE RECEIPTS PER PLANT, CENTRAL WESTERN
 PRIMARY MARKETS, AVERAGE 1932-41, AND 1942-43



* DATA NOT PUBLISHED FEB. THROUGH MAY, WHEN MARKETINGS ARE SEASONALLY SMALL

^ MATURE HENS

Marketings of fowl in the Midwest, as in the nation generally, have been small in recent months because of the favorable relationship between egg prices and feed prices. An unusually small proportion of current marketings apparently has been moving through midwestern packing plants because of heavy consumption in producing areas. Despite small receipts to date, marketings of poultry in 1943 as a whole will be much larger than in 1942, with most of the increase coming in the latter half of the year.

STATISTICAL SUMMARY

I T E M	UNIT	MARCH AVERAGE		1942		1943		PCT. OF YEAR EARLIER
		PERIOD	AVERAGE	FEBRUARY	MARCH	FEBRUARY	MARCH	
Number of layers on farms	Million	1932-41	313.4	363.0	355.1	418.5	410.5	116
Number of eggs laid per hen	Number	1932-41	14.18	10.59	15.51	10.94	15.74	101
Total farm production of eggs	Mil. case	1932-41	12.33	10.68	15.30	12.71	17.95	117
Stocks, eggs U. S.: ¹								
Shell	1,000 case	1932-41	1,182	529	1,798	974	3,200	178
Frozen	1,000 case	1932-41	1,495	1,967	2,864	1,507	2,634	92
Total	1,000 case	1932-41	2,577	2,496	4,662	2,481	5,834	125
Purchases, eggs, USDA:								
Dried ²	Mil. lb.	--	--	18.1	26.7	16.9	14.0	52
Shell, direct	1,000 case	--	--	175	83	5	6	7
Dried egg production	Mil. lb.	--	--	14.6	19.7	20.7	23.4	119
Commercial hatchery operations:								
Eggs set	Million	--	--	250.7	398.4	284.2	441.8	111
Chicks hatched	Million	--	--	98.7	245.3	121.9	277.6	113
Receipts:								
Poultry, dressed, four markets	Mil. lb.	1932-41	16.6	16.9	19.6	16.3	13.8	68
Poultry, live, Chicago ³	Car	1937-41	293	262	293	132	113	39
Poultry, live, New York ³	Car	1937-41	722	463	648	583	736	114
Poultry, live, Midwest, per plant	1,000 lb.	1932-41	8.01	7.00	6.25	5.81	2.79	45
Fowl (hens), live, Midwest, per plant	1,000 lb.	1932-41	7.10	4.99	5.02	4.43	2.18	43
Stocks, poultry: ¹								
Broilers	Mil. lb.	1932-41	8.5	10.9	8.6	5.8	3.1	36
Fryers	Mil. lb.	1932-41	8.1	12.8	9.5	7.2	4.1	43
Roasters	Mil. lb.	1932-41	20.8	32.0	24.3	21.2	10.7	44
Fowls (hens)	Mil. lb.	1932-41	12.5	31.7	24.5	20.1	11.0	45
Turkeys	Mil. lb.	1932-41	25.0	55.8	45.8	30.0	19.0	41
Ducks	Mil. lb.	1933-41	1.3	3.1	1.7	1.3	0.7	41
Miscellaneous and unclassified	Mil. lb.	1932-41	15.4	32.7	25.3	16.1	9.5	38
Total poultry	Mil. lb.	1932-41	90.2	179.1	139.7	101.7	58.2	42
Prices received by farmers:								
Eggs, per dozen	Cent	1932-41	15.5	27.5	25.8	34.2	34.0	132
Eggs, parity price per dozen	Cent	1932-41	22.1	27.8	26.4	30.3	28.4	108
Eggs, percentage of parity	Percent	1932-41	70	99	98	113	120	--
Chickens, per pound	Cent	1932-41	13.5	17.4	18.0	22.8	23.5	131
Chickens, parity price per pound	Cent	1932-41	14.5	16.8	17.1	18.2	18.4	108
Chickens, percentage of parity	Percent	1932-41	93	104	107	125	128	--
Turkeys, per pound	Cent	1937-41	15.6	20.0	19.9	28.7	28.7	144
Turkeys, parity price per pound	Cent	1937-41	18.7	21.2	21.6	23.0	23.2	107
All farm commodities (1910-14=100)	Index no.	1932-41	94	145	146	178	182	125
Chickens and eggs (1910-14=100)	Index no.	1932-41	85	135	130	170	171	132
Wholesale prices, Chicago:								
Eggs, current receipts, per dozen	Cent	1932-41	16.3	27.6	27.0	34.9	35.9	133
Live heavy hens, per pound	Cent	1937-41	17.5	21.8	22.3	26.0	26.0	117
Live broilers, per pound	Cent	1937-41	21.4	20.8	24.5	27.0	27.0	110
Live roasters, light, per pound	Cent	1937-41	22.2	22.2	24.9	31.5	31.5	127
Live roasters, heavy, per pound	Cent	1937-41	23.0	24.3	27.2	33.5	33.5	123
Cash farm income:								
Total marketings	Mil. dol.	1937-41	575	833	901	1,131	--	136
Poultry and eggs	Mil. dol.	1937-41	62	93	119	140	--	151
Price ratios:								
Chicago, Broiler-feed	Lb. feed	1937-41	16.5	12.1	14.4	13.8	13.3	92
Chicago, Light Roaster-feed	Lb. feed	1937-41	19.0	12.9	14.6	16.1	15.5	106
Farm, egg-feed	Lb. feed	1932-41	14.4	16.8	15.5	18.4	17.7	114
Farm, chicken-feed	Lb. feed	1932-41	12.9	10.6	10.8	12.3	12.2	113
Farm, turkey-feed	Lb. feed	1937-41	13.1	12.2	12.0	15.4	14.9	124
Feed cost per cwt., farm poultry ration	Dollar	1932-41	1.14	1.64	1.66	1.86	1.92	116
Wholesale food prices (1935-39=100)	Index no.	1932-41	91.4	119.6	121.5	133.8	135.8	112
Retail food prices (1935-39=100)	Index no.	1932-41	94.7	116.8	118.6	133.6	--	114
Prices paid by farmers including interest and taxes (1910-14=100)	Index no.	1932-41	127	147	150	160	161	107
Retail prices (BLS):								
Roasters, dressed, per pound	Cent	1932-41	30.0	35.2	35.7	46.0	--	131
Eggs, strictly fresh, per dozen	Cent	1932-41	28.5	42.2	39.7	51.1	--	121
Nonagricultural employees' compensation (1935-39=100)	Index no.	1932-41	95.8	164.3	170.0	218.9	--	133

¹End of month. Frozen eggs converted to case equivalent.

²Includes purchases for future delivery.

³Car equivalent of receipts by freight, truck and express.

THE POULTRY AND EGG SITUATION

Summary

The egg-feed price relationship is likely to continue to be favorable for farmers throughout the coming summer. As a result, poultrymen will tend to cull their flocks lightly and feed well. Throughout 1943, egg production probably will be larger at any given time than a year earlier. During March, laying flocks averaged 16 percent larger than a year earlier and the rate of production per bird was 1 percent higher. Production of eggs in the first quarter of this year was 16 percent larger than in the corresponding period of 1942.

In late March the Food Distribution Administration issued an order providing that all shell eggs in cold storage on May 31 shall be set aside for governmental use or distribution. After May 31 no shell eggs may be stored except for Government uses, but part of the eggs in storage on that date may be released for civilians. Although few, if any, storage eggs will be available for civilians next fall and winter, supplies of eggs for civilians will be larger than a year earlier throughout 1943. The quantity of eggs demanded at ceiling prices, however, will be greater than the available supply next fall, when egg production will be seasonally small. Price ceilings for eggs will increase seasonally from June through November .

In mid-April, egg prices were slightly lower than in mid-March and supplies were ample to meet the demand at prevailing prices. Additional purchases were made in the Southeast as a price supporting measure. In egg-drying areas, prices of shell eggs continued high relative to announced purchase prices for dried egg, and egg-drying plants were operating at considerably less than capacity.

Hatchery production of baby chicks is setting new high records. The number of young chickens on farms April 1 was 23 percent larger than a year earlier. Supplies of poultry will be much larger this year than last, with most of the increase coming in the second six months. Prices of all classes of poultry at terminal markets recently have been at ceiling levels and the demand has greatly exceeded the supply. Sales of fowl by farmers have been very small because of the favorable relationship prevailing between egg prices and feed prices.

-- April 22, 1943

REVIEW OF RECENT DEVELOPMENTS

Numbers of Layers Increased Relative to a Year Earlier

The relationship between feed prices and egg prices continues to be very favorable for producers and, as a result, farmers are culling their laying flocks more lightly than usual. In March the number of layers on farms was 16 percent larger than a year earlier compared with an indicated increase of 14 percent on January 1. The number of layers on farms in March, nevertheless, was seasonally smaller than in January. In some States it is likely that the net seasonal decrease has been limited by the addition to laying flocks of pullets from chicks brooded last fall.

During March the rate of egg production per bird was higher than a year earlier in all major regions except those bordering the Atlantic seaboard. For the United States the average number of eggs laid per bird was about 1 percent above the previous record for that month, established in 1942. Total egg production during March was 17 percent larger than in March 1942, and the total for the first quarter this year was 16 percent larger than in the corresponding period last year. Increases over a year earlier in the March egg output, by regions, were as follows: North Atlantic, 11 percent; East North Central, 15 percent; West North Central, 20 percent; South Atlantic, 11 percent; South Central, 24 percent; and Western, 14 percent. Reflecting the larger production, receipts of eggs at primary markets in all areas have been much larger than last year. Receipts at Eastern egg auctions in early April were 34 percent larger than last year.

Storage of Shell Eggs Restricted by Food Order

The net into-storage movement for shell eggs began in late January this year and was the heaviest early movement for any season for which records are available. Maximum Price Regulation 333, establishing ceilings on egg prices, was issued in late February, about the time the major into-storage

season usually begins. The spring-to-fall seasonal increase permitted in ceiling prices paid by retailers is not greatly different from the price pattern for past years. But the demand for storing increased considerably after announcement of the ceiling schedule, since it was practically certain that prices would be seasonally high at the ceilings during the out-of-storage season. Prices advanced and were high relative to ceiling prices to retailers for shell eggs and were particularly high relative to ceiling prices for dried egg.

Largely because of these developments the Food Distribution Administration on March 23 issued Food Distribution Order 40, which provides that all shell eggs in cold storage on May 31 shall be set aside for governmental agencies. On May 31 the storage situation will be reappraised and supplies of eggs will be allocated among military, civilian, and lend-lease requirements. Some shell eggs may be released from the order by the Director of the Food Distribution Administration. Owners of eggs in storage on May 31 may offer eggs to Government agencies at no more than the ceiling prices applicable to grades for Government purchases in effect at the time of the offers. The order also provides that after May 31 no eggs may be stored except for Government uses.

A second Food Distribution Order, No. 41, reserving the entire 1943 production of spray-process dried whole eggs for delivery to Government agencies, was issued March 23. This order also limits the production of frozen and liquid eggs, dried yolks, dried albumen, and pan-dried whole eggs to the quantities produced ~~and sold for commercial use~~ in the United States in 1942. Governmental uses for dried whole egg are restricted to the spray processed product.

Early April Storage Movement About
Same as a Year Earlier

The into-storage movement of shell eggs during March was the largest on record. Total holdings increased 2.2 million cases compared with an increase of about 1.3 million cases in March 1942. On April 1, 1943, stocks of shell eggs totaled 3.2 million cases compared with 1.8 million cases a year earlier. Apparently reflecting the issuance of Food Distribution Order 40, regulating the storage of shell eggs, the storage demand slackened in early April and the into-storage movement, was smaller than a year earlier.

As indicated above, production of frozen egg for civilian purposes in 1943 is limited to the 1942 level, therefore any increases in production of frozen eggs this year will be primarily for use by firms producing dried egg for Government account. Through Amendment 3 to Maximum Price Regulation 333, effective March 23, the ceiling price of frozen whole egg for March and April was reduced 1.7 cents per pound from the level established by Maximum Price Regulation 333 which became effective March 6. The price ceiling for May was reduced 1.3 cents; for November, 0.5 cent; and for all other months, 1 cent per pound. Ceiling prices for frozen yolks and whites also were reduced.

Up to April 1, production of frozen egg was much larger than a year earlier and storage stocks increased relative to last year. Stocks of frozen egg in the United States on April 1 were 8 percent smaller than a year earlier compared with a reduction of 23 percent on March 1. In the first half of April the into-storage movement of frozen egg apparently was slightly larger than in late March and larger than in the first half of April 1942.

Dried Egg Production

Egg drying facilities in the United States have been expanded several-fold since the beginning of the lend-lease program in 1941. It is estimated that present capacity of the egg drying industry, based on 22 hours of operation per day, is 400 million pounds annually.

Although production of eggs on farms in the United States has been considerably larger than last year, the quantities of eggs going to drying plants have been only moderately larger, primarily because of the unprecedented consumer demand for eggs. Consequently, dried egg production has been considerably below both the capacity of plants and the schedule needed to meet estimated requirements for the Army and Allied Nations. Production of dried egg in March totaled 23.4 million pounds compared with 20.7 million pounds in February 1943 and 19.7 million pounds in March 1942. Production of dried egg in the first quarter of 1943 totaled 56.1 million pounds compared with 45.0 million pounds in the first quarter of 1942.

Through April 17, the Department of Agriculture had purchased, primarily for lend-lease, the following quantities of dried egg for delivery through January 1944. Dried egg also is purchased by the military services.

Purchases of dried whole eggs by the Department of Agriculture, by months of delivery, through April 17, 1943

Year	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.
	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000
	pounds	pounds	pounds	pounds	pounds	pounds	pounds	pounds	pounds	pounds	pounds	pounds
1942:	11,389	12,920	13,062	13,402	18,323	17,523	18,471	19,229	19,202	21,995	25,277	15,768
1943:	7,153	20,122	12,542	20,028	4,434	400	200	40	564	1,374	1,474	4,217
1944:	15,413											

Egg Prices Declined from Mid-March to Mid-April

Wholesale egg prices declined from 1 to 3 cents following the issuance on March 23 of Food Distribution Order 40, restricting the storage of shell eggs for civilian purposes. Prices of eggs increased slightly during the first half of April and in the middle of the month prices at Chicago were about the same as in mid-March. Although prices of high quality eggs at

New York advanced moderately during the first half of April, prices of most grades at that market were slightly lower than in mid-March. Wholesale prices of eggs in general in mid-April were from 25 to 30 percent higher than a year earlier. There has been little pressure on ceiling prices; frequently prices have been below the maximum levels permitted by Maximum Price Regulation 333.

Purchases Continue Under 10-case Program

The Food Distribution Administration is continuing to purchase eggs for price supporting purposes in some Southern States. Under this program producers sell eggs at designated prices to dealers who have contracted for the resale of such eggs to the Food Distribution Administration in lots as small as 10 cases each. During March, about 6,300 cases were purchased, making the combined total for February and March about 11,000 cases.

Poultry Marketings Continue Very Small

In specialized producing areas marketings of young chickens apparently have been larger than a year earlier. These birds have been sold and transported live out of producing areas. This has been due in large part to the high price of live birds relative to dressed birds in producing areas. The quantities dressed at country points have been considerably smaller than last year and many dressing plants have closed down. A large proportion of the live birds are being sold in new outlets, partly in cities near producing sections. As a result, the increase in total receipts of live birds at terminal markets has not been proportional to the increase in shipments of live birds out of producing areas.

Because of the unusually favorable relationship between egg prices and feed prices, sales of fowl by farmers are continuing very small compared with last year. During March, receipts of fowl at Midwest primary markets were only about 45 percent of the receipts in March 1942 and were by far the smallest on record. These comparisons, however, probably overemphasize the reduction to some extent since many fowl no doubt are diverted to consumer channels of trade before reaching packing plants.

Storage Stocks of Poultry Smallest Since 1918

Because of the unusually strong consumer demand for meats, net withdrawals of poultry from storage have been very heavy. These withdrawals supplemented seasonally small marketings of freshly dressed poultry. During March, stocks were reduced 43.6 million pounds compared with reductions of 39.4 million pounds in March 1942 and 40.3 million pounds in February 1943. Most of the March 1943 decline was accounted for by reductions in holdings of roasters, fowl, and turkeys. On April 1, stocks of poultry were less than half as large as a year earlier and 36 percent below the 1932-41 average for that date.

Poultry Prices Firm at Ceilings

Quotations on all poultry items now under ceilings continue at the maximum price levels permitted by Office of Price Administration regulations. The Office of Price Administration is currently engaged in a campaign to wipe out the "black market" which has developed in some marketing areas. Under Amendment 6 to Maximum Price Regulation 269, issued March 20, ceilings were removed from prices of guineas, pigeons, and squabs. Prices of these items have increased moderately in recent weeks.

Major Revisions Made in Ceiling Prices
for Poultry

The Office of Price Administration issued on April 22 Amendment 8 to Revised Maximum Price Regulation 269, making major revisions in the schedule of ceiling prices and simplifying the order generally to facilitate enforcement. Through this amendment the Office of Price Administration established:

- (1) uniform prices for several different poultry items
- (2) f.o.b. pricing for sales of live poultry at country shipping points, giving all buyers the same ceiling at any given point
- (3) a wider differential between prices of live and dressed birds designed to cover normal and actual dressing costs
- (4) an allowance for truckers who haul live poultry to city markets, ranging from $3/4$ cent to 2 cents per pound, depending on the distance hauled

Poultry producers shall use the same base price ceilings established for the nearest city, town, village, or hamlet. Ceiling prices for dressed poultry at such points are calculated in cents per pound by taking the price for the appropriate basing point and making the adjustment for freight to the city or town nearest the producer. The differential between prices of live and dressed poultry items at such points is the same as at the basing points. To enable live poultry truckers to bid for poultry at the farm level on about equal terms with country dressing plants, truckers are allowed designated amounts per pound, depending on the distance hauled. Such allowances are permitted only on live poultry and may be passed on as part of the wholesalers' or retailers' base price for live poultry.

In the following table revised maximum base prices for Grade "A" poultry at New York City are compared with previous ceilings.

Maximum base prices per pound for Grade "A" poultry at New York City

Item	Live		Dressed	
	Old price Cents	New price Cents	Old price Cents	New price Cents
Broilers	28.0	28.5	32.0	35.0
Fryers	29.5	28.5	33.5	35.0
Light roasters	32.5	28.5	36.5	35.0
Heavy roasters	34.5	28.5	38.5	35.0
Light capons	36.5	28.5	40.5	35.0
Heavy capons	37.5	32.0	41.5	38.0
Light fowl	24.0	25.0	28.0	31.0
Medium fowl	27.0	25.0	31.0	31.0
Heavy fowl	27.0	25.0	31.0	31.0
Light stags	27.5	21.0	31.5	26.5
Heavy stags	29.0	21.0	33.0	26.5
Light old roasters	19.0	21.0	23.0	26.5
Heavy old roasters	20.0	21.0	24.0	26.5
Ducks, all weights	27.0	24.0	27.0	27.0

Ceiling prices for most drawn, quick-frozen eviscerated, kosher-killed and kosher-dressed and plucked poultry items also were changed.

A differential between live and dressed ducks was established in an effort to discourage farm sales of live ducks and consequent loss of many feathers. Most of the ducks produced on large-scale duck farms usually have been dressed on the farms. The dressed ducks and feathers have been sold separately by farmers.

For broilers under 2-1/4 pounds live and 2 pounds dressed, which are produced, dressed, and consumed in the States of Washington, Oregon, California, Nevada, and Arizona, the regulation provides maximum prices of 30 and 38 cents, respectively.

Income from Poultry and Eggs Totalled
1.6 Billion Dollars in 1942

Production of eggs in the United States in 1942 was 15 percent larger than in 1941. Quantities consumed on farms, however, were slightly smaller in 1942 than in 1941, with the result that total sales of eggs were about 20 percent larger than in 1941. The average price per dozen received by farmers was 27 percent higher in 1942 than in 1941. Increased prices, together with larger sales, carried total cash farm income from eggs in 1942 to 1,001 million dollars compared with 658 million dollars in 1941 and a previous record high of 781 million dollars in 1920. In the first quarter of 1943 sales of eggs by farmers were much larger than a year earlier and prices were substantially higher. A much higher record income from eggs will be established in 1943.

Cash farm income from chickens, exclusive of commercial broilers, totaled 346 million dollars in 1942, compared with 245 million dollars in 1941. In 1942 income from broilers totaled 138 million dollars and from turkeys 145 million. Income from these items in 1941, the previous record year, was 93 million and 98 million dollars, respectively. Cash farm income from sales of the poultry and egg products enumerated was 1,630 million dollars in 1942, compared with 1,095 million dollars in 1941.

OUTLOOK

BACKGROUND.— In recent years many commercial hatcheries have increased the sales of sexed day-old chicks. This development followed improvement of the technique and efficiency of the sexing procedure and a corresponding increase in farmers' demands for such chicks, especially for sexed pullets. Sexing has increased particularly for light breeds, since such birds are less desirable for meat purposes, and people raising light breeds are primarily interested in producing eggs.

Large numbers of day-old cockerels of light breeds, particularly leg-horn, usually are killed during March and April because of the small demand for such birds. This year, however, prices of all young chickens are favorable relative to feed costs and relatively few day-old cockerels are being killed.

Unprecedented Demand for Hatchery

Chicks Continue

Relative to corresponding periods in other years, the egg-feed price ratio has become increasingly favorable in the last few months. As a result, farmers' demand for baby chicks apparently has become very strong. On April 1 the number of chicks booked for later delivery was 75 percent larger than a year earlier, with most of the increase in the East and South. In the West North Central States the number booked was 2 percent above the record of a year ago.

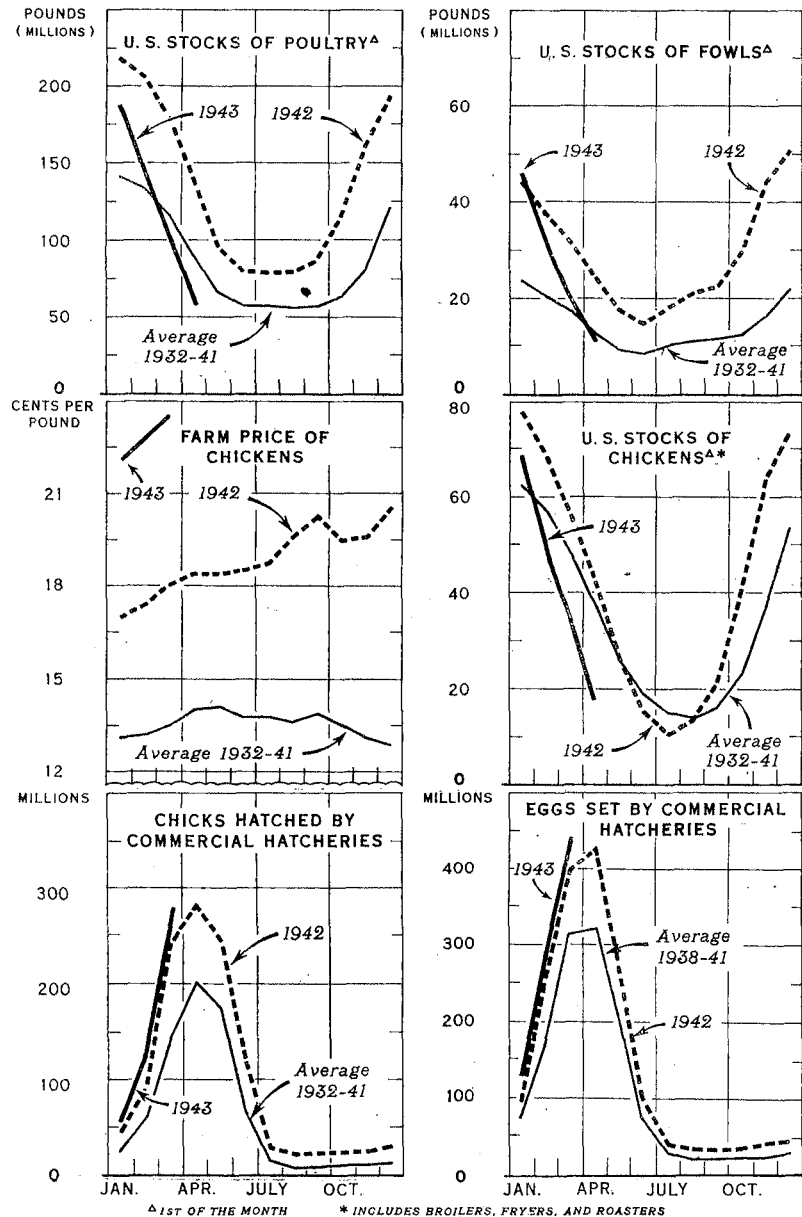
The number of chicks hatched during March was 13 percent larger than a year earlier and 45 percent larger than the 1938-42 average for that month. In the first 3 months of this year about 63 million more chicks were hatched than in the corresponding period of 1942. The number of eggs set during March was 11 percent larger than the number set in that month last year.

The output of turkey poults by commercial hatcheries also has been much larger than last year. Orders on hand April 1 were substantially larger than year earlier.

Record Poultry Supplies in Prospect for Second 6 Months of 1943

The large numbers of poultry on farms plus the prospective numbers of chickens being raised this year indicate that supplies of poultry meat in 1943

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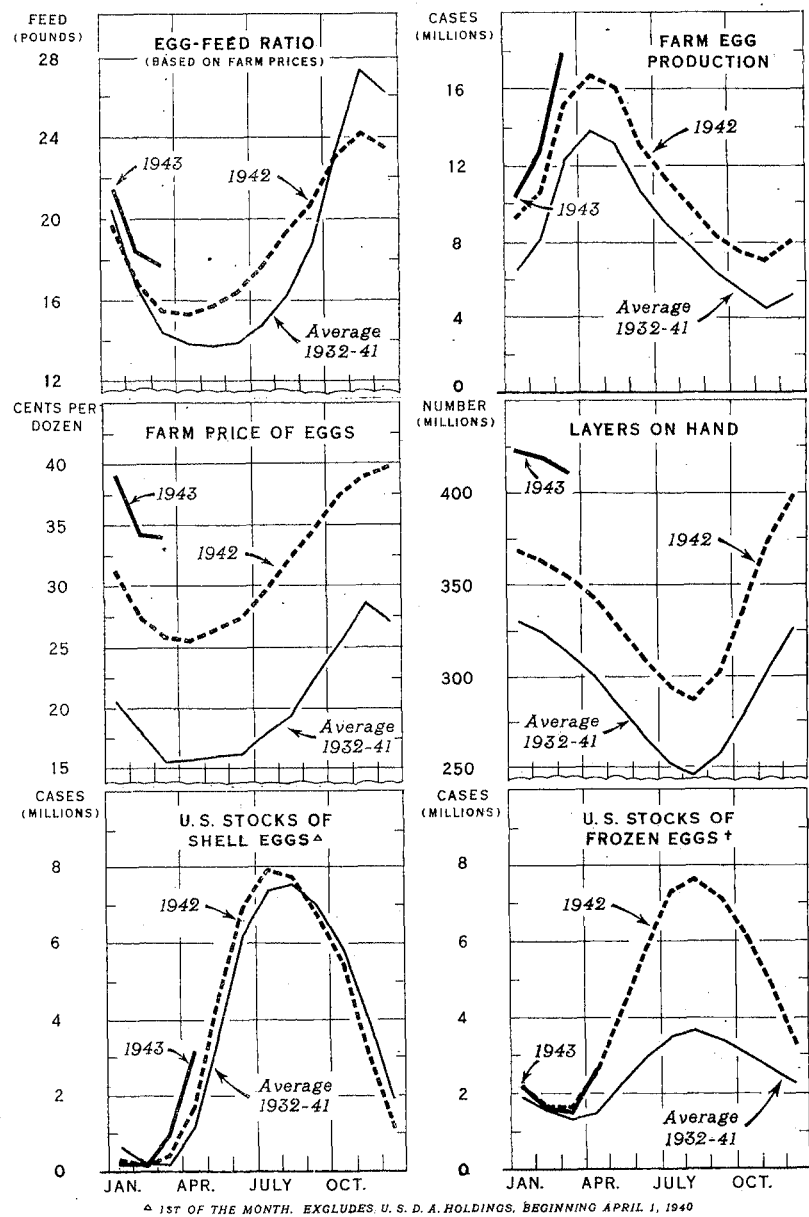


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FIGURE 1

THE EGG SITUATION



U. S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

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FIGURE 2

as a whole will be by far the largest on record. Young chickens from the major hatching season, however, are not marketed in volume until after July 1. Sales of fowl also reach the highest level after July 1. Hence, the prospective increase in supplies will show up mostly in the second half of the year. The number of pullets being raised this year is large relative to laying-house capacity. Consequently, sales of fowl this coming fall probably will be by far the largest on record.

Prices to producers are likely to continue much higher than a year earlier and favorable relative to feed prices. With the possible exception of peak marketing periods, prices received by farmers for chickens are likely to continue at ceiling levels.

Conditions Favorable for Continued
Large Egg Output

The relationship between egg prices and feed prices is likely to continue very favorable through the coming summer. This will encourage farmers to continue culling lightly and feed their layers as well as available feed supplies will permit. Although supplies of high-protein feeds are short in some localities, the record supplies in general apparently are fairly well distributed.

The rate of egg production per bird in the United States as a whole is continuing to be the highest on record. The trend in numbers of layers and in egg production in the last few months of 1943, however, will depend considerably on the outcome of this year's feed crops. Unless crop yields are again unusually good, the feed supply situation will be tight in 1943-44.

Egg production will reach a peak in early May and will then decline seasonally until the low point for the year is reached in November. During this period the consumer demand for eggs will grow progressively stronger. Although civilian supplies of eggs probably will be larger than a year earlier throughout 1943, the seasonal decline from the spring peak to the fall low point will much more than offset the effects of the seasonal increase in ceiling prices on the quantities consumers would like to purchase with their record large incomes. Hence the demand is likely to exceed the supply during the second half of the year and the margin is likely to widen as the end of 1943 is approached.

Consumption of Turkeys Larger
in 1942 Than in 1941

In the following table, data on production and consumption of turkeys are given. Comparable data for chickens and eggs were published in the March issue of this report. The average weight per turkey slaughtered in 1942 was considerably heavier than in 1941. The total dressed weight of turkeys slaughtered was 497 million pounds in 1942, compared with 467 million pounds a year earlier.

The goal for turkeys for 1943 calls for the slaughter of 560 million pounds dressed weight, 12.7 percent more than was slaughtered in 1942. In early February, farmers indicated that they intend to raise 12 percent more poultts this year than last. To accomplish this objective, however, turkey eggs will have to be used more efficiently than they were last year, since the number of breeder hens on farms January 1 was 1 percent smaller than on the same date a year earlier.

Turkeys, dressed weight ^{1/}: Consumption in the United States, total and per capita, 1935-39 averages, 1940-42

Year	Turkey production: ^{2/}	Cold-storage stocks at beginning: ^{3/} of year	Imports: ^{3/}	Cold-storage stocks at end: ^{3/} of year	Consumption	
					Total	Per capita
	Million pounds	Million pounds	Million pounds	Million pounds	Million pounds	Pounds
1935-39 average	350	24	^{4/}	31	343	2.7
1940	482	52	^{4/}	61	474	3.6
1941 ^{5/}	467				471	3.6
1942 ^{5/}	497				490	3.8

^{1/} 91 percent of live weight.

^{2/} Sales plus consumption on farms.

^{3/} Exports not reported separately.

^{4/} Less than 500,000 pounds.

^{5/} Complete data not published for 1941 and 1942; consumption figures apply only to civilian population.

FEED SUPPLIES AND PRICES

The production of four feed grains in 1943 may be about 11 percent smaller than in 1942, if farmers carry out their March 1 intentions and yields are about the same as the average for the past few years. With live-stock numbers increasing, the 1943-44 supply of feed grains may be 10 to 15 percent smaller in relation to the number of livestock on farms than the supply this year. This may occur even though supplies of feed from 1943 production are supplemented by quantities withdrawn from reserve stocks of feed grains, increased imports of grain from Canada, and larger quantities of domestic wheat and rye for feed.

The strong demand for feed during the first quarter of 1943 resulted in a 14 percent greater disappearance of corn than in the first quarter of 1942, and in a 23 percent greater disappearance of oats. Total stocks of corn and oats on April 1 were about 6 percent larger than on that date in 1942. The carry-over of corn next October 1 probably will not exceed 500 million bushels and, if the present rate of disappearance relative to 1941-42 is continued, the carry-over will be below 500 million bushels.

After five days return to
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APRIL 1943

- 14 -

The announcement released by the Office of Price Administration April 14, providing for an increase in the current ceiling on corn prices to the seasonal ceiling high point, permitted cash corn prices to advance 5 cents per bushel, or to \$1.07 for No. 2 Yellow corn at Chicago. Prices of oats and barley advanced 2 to 5 cents per bushel during March. Prices of wheat mill-feeds and all of the high-protein feeds are at the ceilings, with supplies of these feeds inadequate to meet fully the continued strong demand.

Sales of Government-owned wheat, recently made available for sale at the parity price of corn, have been about as large as permitted by transportation and moving facilities. It now seems probable that the entire quantity (100 million bushels) authorized by Congress for sale as feed wheat will be sold by July 1.

The average price paid by farmers in the United States for laying wash in mid-March was \$3.12 per 100 pounds compared with \$3.07 in February 1943, and \$2.88 in March 1942.