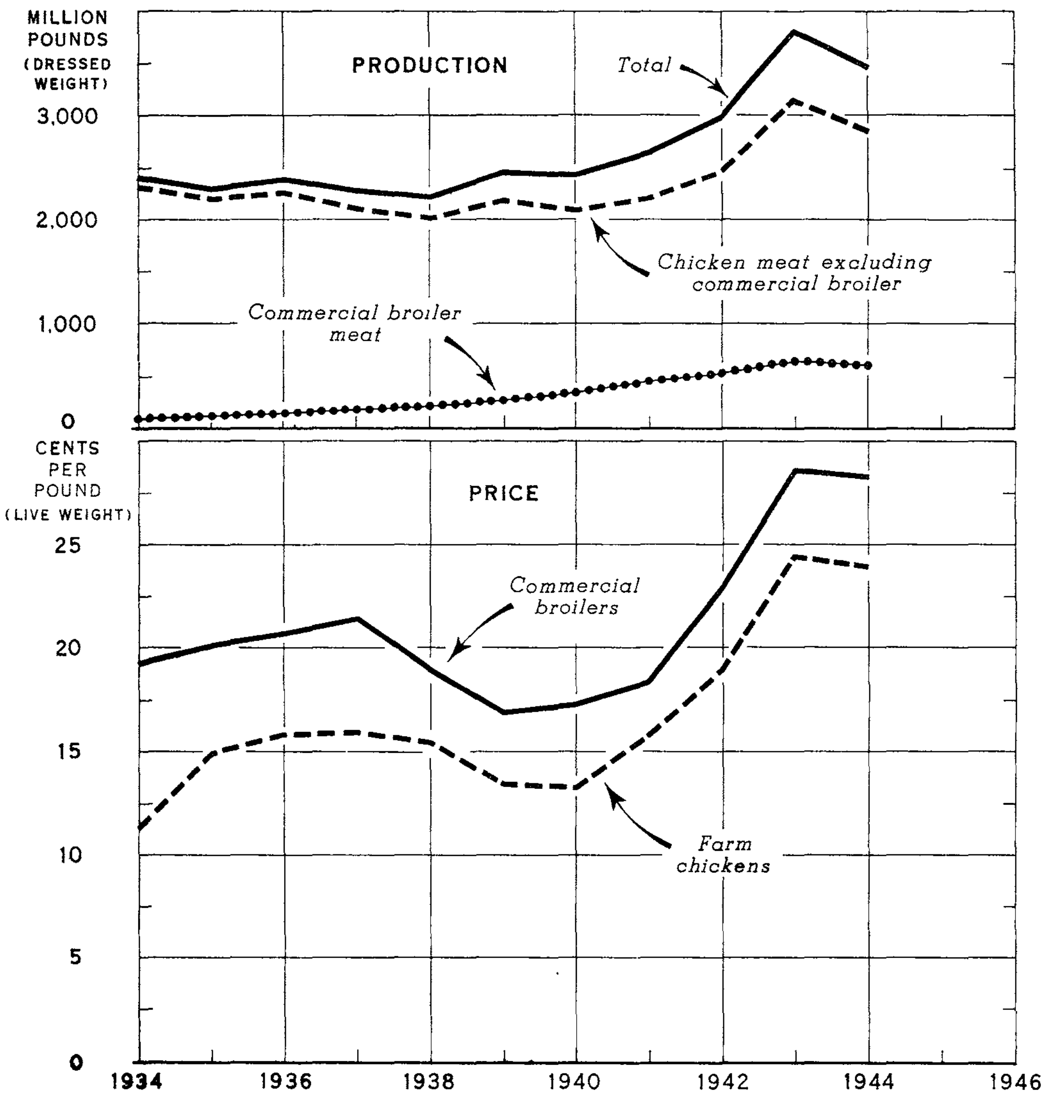
M. Lewin

THE Poultry and Egg SITUATION

BUREAU OF AGRICULTURAL ECONOMICS
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

PES - 100 BAE APRIL 1945

PRODUCTION OF CHICKEN MEAT AND AVERAGE PRICE RECEIVED BY PRODUCERS FOR FARM CHICKENS AND COMMERCIAL BROILERS, 1934-44



DATA FOR 1944 ARE PRELIMINARY

U. S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE NEG 45198 BUREAU OF AGRICULTURAL ECONOMICS

Since 1933 an increasing proportion of the total chicken meat supply has been coming from commercial broiler production. During 1944 almost one-fifth of the total output of 3,460 million pounds (dressed weight) was from commercial broilers. Total chicken meat production in 1945 is expected to be less than in 1944, with a further increase in the proportion provided by commercial broilers.

STATISTICAL SUMMARY

ITEM	UNIT	AVERAGE			1944		1945		CURRENT MONTH AS PERCENT OF	
		PERIOD	FEBRUARY	MARCH	FEBRUARY	MARCH	FEBRUARY	MARCH	YEAR EARLIER	AVERAGE
Layers on farms, number	Million	1934-43	334.7	325.3	445.2	437.8	409.3	396.4	91	122
Number of eggs laid per hen	Number	1934-43	9.36	14.57	12.12	15.58	11.69	16.54	106	114
Total farm production of eggs	Mil. doz.	1934-43	262.7	396.0	449.8	568.9	398.8	546.5	96	138
Stocks, eggs, U. S.:[1]										
Shell	1,000 case	1934-43	277	1,427	2,008	4,453	521	1,777	40	125
Frozen	1,000 case	1934-43	1,354	1,733	2,629	3,962	2,280	3,076	78	177
Total, shell and frozen	1,000 case	1934-43	1,632	3,060	4,637	8,415	2,801	4,853	58	159
Dried whole eggs	Mil. lb.	---	---	---	51.2	67.5	111.1	99.9	148	---
Apparent egg disappearance, civilian:										
Total shell egg equivalent	Mil. doz.	1934-43	263.6	344.2	309.1	352.3	349.9			
Dried egg production	Mil. lb.	---	---	---	26.0	32.0	14.1			
Commercial hatchery operations:										
Eggs set	Million	---								
Chicks hatched	Million	1934-43	74.5	167.2	128.8	293.0	109.4	267.5	91	160
Receipts:										
Poultry, dressed, four markets	Mil. lb.	1934-43	16.4	16.3	20.4	17.6	18.0	15.3	87	94
Poultry, live, Chicago	Mil. lb.	1939-43	3.5	3.7	1.8	1.6	.9	.6	38	16
Poultry, live, New York	Mil. lb.	1939-43	8.1	10.3	11.8	13.3	7.7	11.0	83	107
Poultry, live, Midwest, per plant	1,000 lb.	1934-43	8.1	7.0	7.6	5.3	4.7	3.6	68	51
Fowl (hens), live, Midwest, per plant	1,000 lb.	1934-43	6.9	6.0	5.9	4.5	3.3	2.2	49	37
Young stock, live, Midwest, per plant	1,000 lb.	1934-43	---	---	1.2	.4	1.1	1.2	300	---
Stocks, poultry[1]										
Broilers	Mil. lb.	1934-43	10.4	7.9	13.6	9.2	3.6	2.1	23	27
Fryers	Mil. lb.	1934-43	10.5	8.0	17.8	12.9	11.3	9.0	70	112
Roasters	Mil. lb.	1934-43	26.4	19.9	36.9	28.6	21.6	17.8	62	89
Fowls (hens)	Mil. lb.	1934-43	20.5	14.7	59.7	45.8	44.4	33.2	72	226
Turkeys	Mil. lb.	1934-43	35.9	29.0	47.1	36.6	62.7	46.4	127	160
Ducks	Mil. lb.	1934-43	2.4	1.3	1.6	1.1	1.0	.6	55	46
Miscellaneous and unclassified	Mil. lb.	1934-43	19.5	14.9	45.9	35.4	40.3	33.3	94	223
Total poultry	Mil. lb.	1934-43	125.8	95.8	220.9	168.5	183.9	141.8	84	148
Prices received by farmers:										
Eggs, per dozen	Cent	1934-43	21.7	19.4	31.9	30.1	35.8	33.1	110	171
Eggs, parity price per dozen[2]	Cent	1934-43	25.8	23.1	32.3	29.4	34.0	31.2	106	135
Eggs, percentage of parity	Percent	1934-43	84	83	99	102	105	106	104	128
Chickens, per pound	Cent	1934-43	15.1	15.5	23.7	23.8	24.5	25.0	105	161
Chickens, parity price per pound	Cent	1934-43	15.1	15.1	19.3	19.3	19.6	19.7	102	130
Chickens, percentage of parity	Percent	1934-43	99	102	123	123	125	127	103	125
Turkeys, per pound	Cent	1939-43	19.1	19.0	32.0	31.3	33.9	33.6	107	177
Turkeys, parity price per pound	Cent	1939-43	19.5	19.6	24.3	24.3	24.8	24.9	102	127
Turkeys, percentage of parity	Percent	1939-43	98	97	132	129	137	135	105	139
All farm commodities (1910-14 = 100)	Index no.	1934-43	117	118	195	196	199	198	101	168
Chickens and eggs (1910-14 = 100)[2]	Index no.	1934-43	118	117	181	184	193	195	106	167
Wholesale prices, Chicago:										
Eggs, standards, per dozen[3]	Cent		---	---	33.5	31.9	36.0	35.3	111	---
Live heavy hens, per pound	Cent	1939-43	19.3	19.6	24.0	24.0	[3] 26.5	[3] 26.9	112	137
Live broilers, per pound	Cent	1939-43	20.0	22.1	27.5	28.9			---	---
Live fryers, per pound	Cent	1939-43	21.2	23.0	27.5	27.5	30.0	30.4	111	132
Live roasters, heavy, per pound	Cent	1939-43	23.8	23.1	27.5	27.5	30.0	30.4	111	132
Wholesale prices, New York:										
Dressed broilers, 25-30 pounds per dozen, per pound	Cent	1934-43	23.7	23.7	37.5	37.5	38.5	38.9	104	164
Dressed roasters, 48-54 pounds per dozen, per pound	Cent	1934-43	25.5	26.2	37.5	37.5	38.5	38.9	104	148
Dressed fowls, 48-54 pounds per dozen, per pound	Cent	1934-43	22.5	23.5	33.5	33.5	34.5	34.9	104	146
Cash farm income:										
Total marketings	Mil. dol.	1939-43	718	791	1,343	1,433	1,343	1,387	97	175
Poultry and eggs	Mil. dol.	1939-43	78	102	158	194	157	196	101	192
Price ratios:										
Chicago, broiler-feed	Lb. feed	1939-43	14.5	15.7	12.1	12.8	---	---	---	---
Chicago, light roaster-feed	Lb. feed	1939-43	14.5	17.0	12.8	12.8	13.2	13.4	105	79
Farm, egg-feed	Lb. feed	1934-43	11.6	10.3	10.8	10.2	12.5	11.5	113	112
Farm, chicken-feed	Lb. feed	1934-43	8.2	8.3	8.0	8.1	8.6	8.7	107	105
Farm, turkey-feed	Lb. feed	1934-43	9.5	9.3	10.8	10.6	11.9	11.7	110	126
Farm, egg-laying mash	Lb. feed	---	---	---	8.9	8.4	10.1	9.3	111	---
Laying mash, cost per cwt.	Dollar	---	---	---	3.60	3.60	3.54	3.55	99	---
Feed cost per cwt., farm poultry ration	Dollar	1934-43	1.37	1.43	2.26	2.26	---	---	---	---
Wholesale food prices (1935-39 = 100)	Index no.	1934-43	102.4	102.3	132.1	132.2	132.4			
Retail food prices (1935-39 = 100)	Index no.	1934-43	103.3	103.8	134.5	134.1	136.5			
Prices paid by farmers including interest and taxes (1910-14 = 100)	Index no.	1934-43	132	133	169	169	172	173	102	130
Retail prices (BLS):										
Roasters, dressed, per pound	Cent	1934-43	32.6	33.1	44.7	44.9	45.6			
Eggs, strictly fresh, per dozen	Cent	1934-43	35.7	33.1	50.3	47.8	54.4			
Nonagricultural employees compensation (1935-39 = 100)	Index no.	1934-43	119.2	121.8	264.1	263.8	274.8			

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

[2] Adjusted for seasonal.

[3] No quotation.

THE POULTRY AND EGG SITUATION

Contents

SUMMARY

Demand for eggs and poultry at ceiling prices probably will continue strong throughout most of 1945, reflecting the scarcity of red meat, high consumer income, and large military requirements. With a smaller egg production this year than last and a small into-storage movement this spring egg supplies may be insufficient to meet demand at ceiling prices after the flush production season. Demand for poultry meat at ceiling prices has exceeded the supply by a rather wide margin for several months.

Prices received by farmers for eggs will be moderately higher in 1945 than in 1944 when the average price was 33.8 cents per dozen, 93 percent of parity. Prices received by farmers for chickens probably will continue above those of last year, especially after July 1 when increases in basic ceiling prices for young chickens will become effective.

Production of eggs will continue moderately below last year, since the average number of layers on farms is less than in 1944. Civilians, however, will probably receive somewhat larger supplies of eggs, primarily because substantially fewer eggs will be used for drying. Total chicken meat production for 1945 appears to be less than in 1944, with farm chicken production declining more than the increases in commercial broiler output. Because of increased requirements for chicken by the armed

forces, civilians probably will receive significantly smaller quantities than in 1944. Civilian consumption of chicken meat in 1944 was about 23 pounds per person, 5 pounds more than the 1935-39 average of 18 pounds.

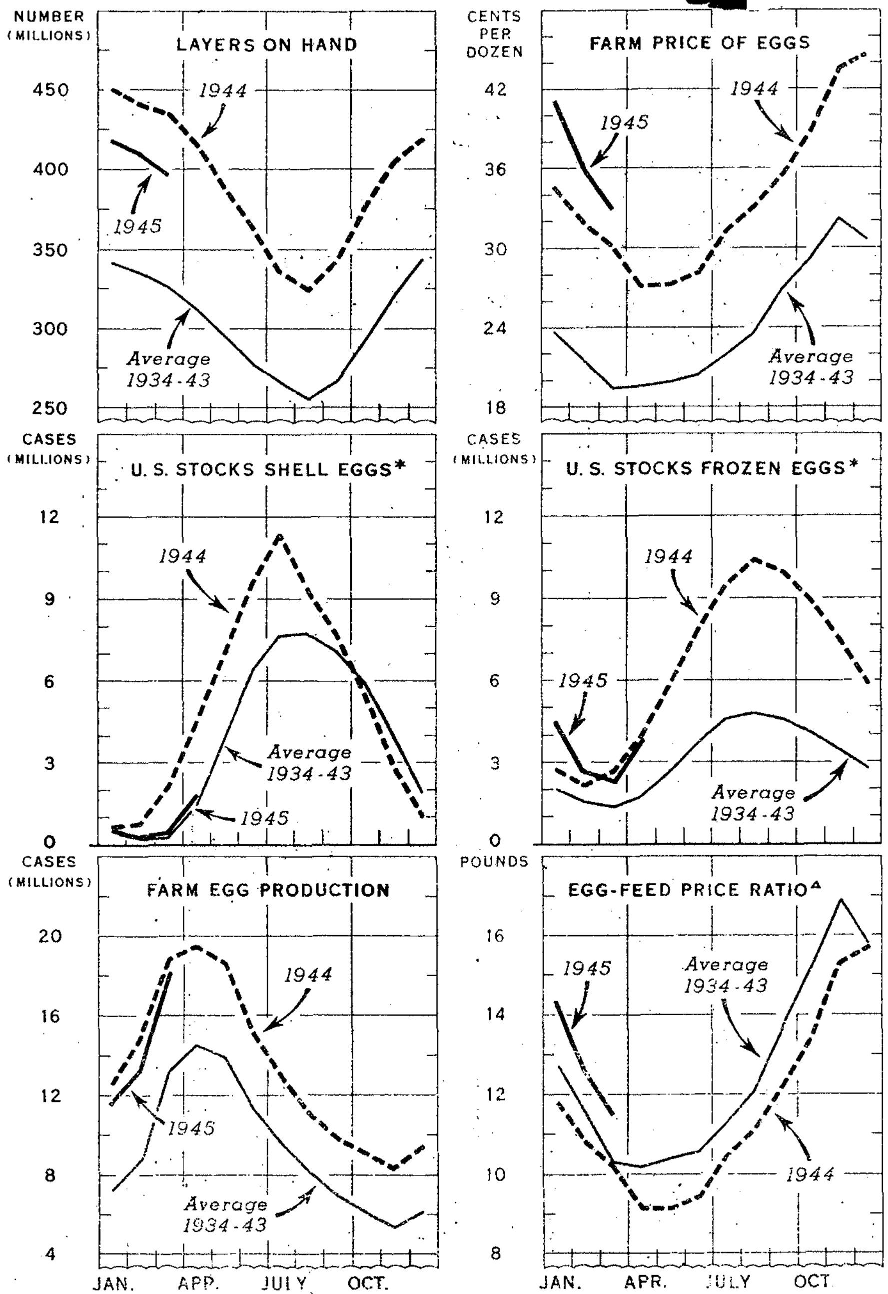
Commercial hatchings during March were 268 million chicks, 9 percent below the March 1944 record. Demand for baby chicks in March exceeded supply as a result of improvement in the egg price situation during the past 3 months. Commercial hatcheries were unable to fulfill demands fully due in part to the lack of suitable hatching eggs. A late hatch is expected again this year, with a situation similar to that in 1943 when 17 percent of the total chicks hatched were produced during June and July compared with a usual hatch of ~~7~~ 11 percent during those 2 months.

Egg production on farms during March totaled 546 million dozen, 4 percent below March of last year but 38 percent above the 1934-43 average for that month. The average number of layers on farms was 9 percent less than a year earlier, but this reduction was partly offset by a record average output of 16.54 eggs per layer. This rate of lay almost equaled that reached in recent years during April. Unusually mild weather in March, ample feed supplies, and a favorable egg-feed price ratio were chiefly responsible for the high rate of lay. Prices received by farmers for eggs averaged 33.1 cents per dozen in mid-March, a level for the month exceeded only in 1943 and 1920. The average price was 30.1 cents per dozen in mid-March 1944.

During March, WFO 106, the turkey embargo order, was reinstated so that the Army could procure the desired quantities of turkey meat. Priorities were instituted by the Army on both shell and frozen eggs so that needed supplies of eggs could be obtained.

-- April 21, 1945

THE EGG SITUATION



* 1st OF THE MONTH   △BASED ON FARM PRICES

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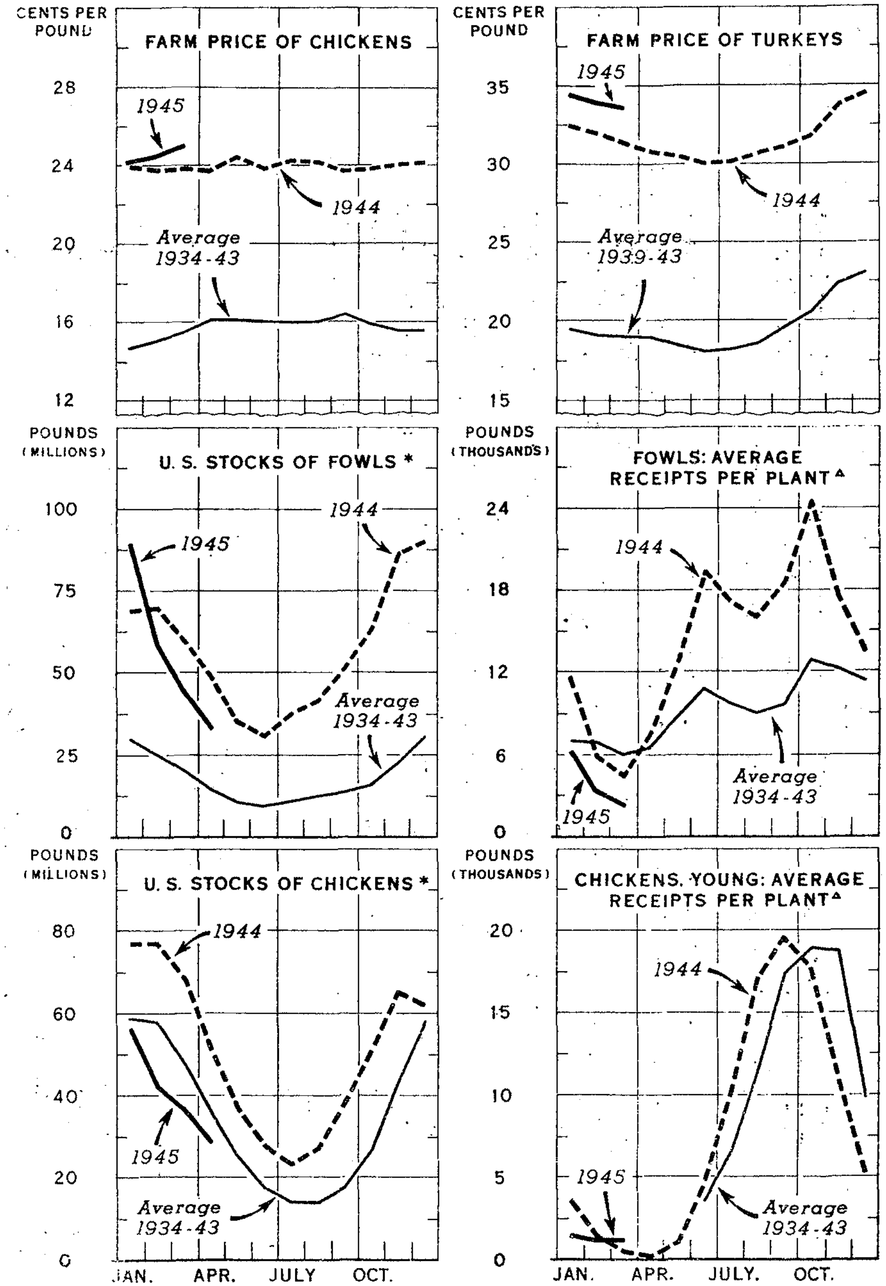
FIGURE 1

THE POULTRY SITUATION



* 1st OF THE MONTH   △ RECEIPTS AT CENTRAL WESTERN PRIMARY MARKETS

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FIGURE 2

OUTLOOK

BACKGROUND.- The meat situation is at present a significant factor in the demand for poultry and eggs. Accordingly, a summary of important facts about meat follows :

Per capita consumption of red meat during 1944 was the highest since 1911, reflecting large supplies and an unusually strong demand. Production of meats (dressed weight) during 1944 was at a record level of 24.6 billion pounds, which compares with an average of 16.2 billion pounds in the prewar years 1935-39. Meat output in 1945 is expected to be about 2 billion pounds less than the 1944 record production, primarily because of a decline of 29 percent in the 1944 pig crop compared with 1943. Supplies available for civilians are short of demand at ceiling prices by a wide margin; per capita consumption of meats in 1945 as a whole will be far below that of last year and may be smaller than in the 1935-39 period.

Demand for Eggs at Ceiling Prices May Exceed Supplies During Latter Half of 1945

Consumption of eggs by civilians during the first quarter of 1945 is estimated at about 100 eggs per capita, substantially above the consumption during the first quarter of 1944 and probably the highest on record for that quarter. This high level of consumption reflected the reduced supply of meat and the continuation of a high level of consumer income. Accurate data are not available as to the extent of substitution of eggs for meat, but it is apparent that substitution of eggs for meat has taken place in periods of meat shortages, as in recent months.

Civilian demand for eggs at ceiling prices throughout most of the second half of 1945 probably will exceed supply, because of reduced egg supplies and smaller meat production than in 1944. Egg production is expected to continue below last year, and supplies available to civilians will be smaller than during the first half of the year because of the seasonally reduced output and small commercial holdings of shell and frozen eggs. Also, meat production is not expected to increase materially until the last quarter of 1945.

During 1944, noncivilian takings of eggs were about 30 percent of the total supply available for human use. Total requirements from noncivilians are not as large for 1945 as for 1944, primarily because of decreases in requirements for new dried egg supplies for lend-lease. However, requirements by the armed forces appear to be moderately above last year. Thus far the Army supply program has not been completely fulfilled. During April a system of priorities on shell and frozen eggs was instituted, to aid the military forces in obtaining needed egg supplies.

Prices Received for Eggs Will Be Moderately Above 1944

Reflecting the strong demand for eggs, prices received by farmers are expected to continue moderately above those received in correspondong months of 1944. Because of record output of shell eggs in 1944, accompanied by large supplies of other foods, especially meat, a burdensome egg supply situation developed during the first half of the year. Government purchase operations were undertaken to support prices. Prices received by farmers during 1944, by quarters, averaged as follows:

	Price per dozen	Percentage of parity
	Cents	Percent
1st quarter	32.2	99
2nd quarter	27.5	90
3rd quarter	33.2	91
4th quarter	42.2	94

During the first quarter of 1945, prices received by farmers for eggs averaged 36.6 cents per dozen, 107 percent of parity and 4.4 cents above last year. Wholesale and retail prices probably will remain at ceilings during most of 1945, and prices received by farmers are likely to continue above those of last year by 3 to 6 cents per dozen.

Strong Demand for Baby Chicks; Late Hatch Expected

Chicks hatched by commercial hatcheries during March totaled 268 million, 9 percent below the March record of last year, but otherwise far ahead of any March prior to 1942. Especially pronounced were declines of 19 and 10 percent in the West North Central and East North Central States, where hatchings are carried on primarily for flock replacement. These two areas account for about 54 percent of commercial hatchery operations during March. Increases in March this year compared with last in other areas were as follows: New England States, 11 percent; Middle Atlantic States, 8 percent; South Atlantic States, 11 percent; and Pacific States, 3 percent.

Table 1 .- Commercial hatchings in the North Central States, 1935-39 average, 1942-45

Year	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept	Oct	Nov.	Dec.	Total
	Mil.	Mil.	Mil.	Mil.	Mil.	Mil.	Mil.	Mil.	Mil.	Mil.	Mil.	Mil.	Mil.
	East North Central												
1935-39	3.8	13.2	40.9	65.4	57.1	22.5	6.5	2.8	1.8	1.8	2.0	2.2	220.0
1942	10.0	22.2	60.6	81.0	73.5	31.1	16.4	9.1	6.2	4.8	4.3	4.6	323.8
1943	9.4	28.2	70.1	87.4	89.8	57.5	22.7	12.7	7.6	6.4	4.5	2.5	398.8
1944	7.0	27.7	69.5	83.5	71.4	23.8	6.9	5.5	4.8	4.7	3.6	2.4	310.9
1945	5.4	20.4	62.5										
	West North Central												
1935-39	2.5	10.4	40.4	71.9	70.7	22.5	3.3	1.6	1.6	1.7	1.5	1.1	229.3
1942	4.9	20.5	73.3	101.9	97.3	39.8	10.2	5.1	4.9	4.3	3.3	1.8	367.2
1943	5.1	26.1	85.4	114.2	115.3	61.9	14.9	7.1	6.2	5.0	3.4	1.5	446.0
1944	3.9	30.1	102.4	115.7	87.6	12.8	6.8	1.6	1.8	1.5	.8	.7	365.8
1945	2.6	17.9	82.6										

Totals computed from unrounded numbers.

Decrease in commercial hatchings in the North Central States reflect the relatively low egg prices throughout most of 1944 and an egg-feed price ratio below the long-time (1934-43) average. Also, at the end of 1944 when most hatcherymen were making plans for 1945, the demand for eggs was uncertain. As a result, many hatcheries were not prepared for a big hatching season. Most commercial hatcheries do not buy chicks except from flocks which are blood tested for pullorum. It is mandatory for hatcheries participating in the National Poultry Improvement Plan to have flocks blood-tested before qualifying for certification. About 40 percent of the commercial hatchery capacity operates under the jurisdiction of the N.P.I.P. With the demand outlook for baby chicks unfavorable at the end of 1944, commercial hatchery operators and egg producers were reluctant to enter into agreements for the production of hatching eggs.

Reflecting the improvement in egg prices since December, the demand for baby chicks in the past 2 months has become strong. At present hatcheries are unable to fill all orders placed. Hence it is expected that a late hatch will develop, similar to that in 1943. In June of that year 197 million chicks were hatched and in July 83 million. The hatch for the 2 months was approximately 17 percent of the total in 1943, although ordinarily only about 7 percent of the total hatch takes place in those 2 months.

Broiler Meat Production Expected To Be Materially Above 1944

The demand for chicken meat at ceiling prices throughout most of 1945 probably will be strong, as a result of high consumer income, reduced supplies of red meats, and large military requirements. The armed forces are using poultry meat to supplement the supply of other meat for American servicemen, principally in hospitals and overseas.

Recently OPA was authorized by the Office of Economic Stabilization to increase basic price ceilings on all young chickens. Such increases will be effective July 1 and will average about 1-1/4 cents per pound. Increases above the average will prevail in midwestern areas.

The commercial broiler industry is one in which production changes can be brought about quickly, as production techniques make it possible to raise a bird to 4 pounds in 12 to 16 weeks. Because of increased unit returns and with ample feed supplies, broiler meat production in 1945 is expected to increase 10 to 15 percent from 1944. Broiler production during 1944 is estimated at 610 million pounds (dressed weight).

The total 1945 chicken meat supply probably will be less than in 1944 because of the decline in chicken meat production from farm flocks which will more than offset increases in commercial broiler output. Chickens raised in 1945 probably will be nearly the same as in 1944. But the number of chickens on hand at the beginning of 1945 was 65 million head (11 percent) less than at the beginning of 1944. No material change in chicken numbers is expected from January 1, 1945 to January 1, 1946.

Table 2.- Production of chicken meat and average price received by Producers for farm chickens and commercial broilers, 1934-44
(Data for cover chart)

Year	Production of chicken meat (dressed wt.): Commercial broiler 1/	Chicken (farm and nonfarm)	Total (farm and nonfarm)	Commercial broilers, price per pound	Chickens, weighted average price per pound
	Mil. lb.	Mil. lb.	Mil. lb.	Cents	Cents
1934	85	2,307	2,392	19.3	11.3
1935	108	2,189	2,297	20.1	14.9
1936	134	2,258	2,392	20.7	15.8
1937	172	2,100	2,272	21.4	15.9
1938	211	2,003	2,214	19.0	15.4
1939	261	2,188	2,449	16.9	13.5
1940	337	2,085	2,422	17.3	13.3
1941	445	2,197	2,642	18.4	15.8
1942	534	2,454	2,988	22.9	18.9
1943	648	3,158	3,806	28.6	24.4
1944 2/	~~610~~ 621	2,850	3,~~460~~ 71	28.~~[illegible]~~ 1	23.9
1945 1946	730	2,870	3900	29.6	~~25.9~~ 26.1

1/ Commercial broilers include all young chickens of the heavy or cross breeds, 2-4 pounds live weight, raised for meat, and from which pullets are sold for broilers as well as the cockerels. "Commercial broiler" production is not included in farm production estimates.
2/ Preliminary. 500 3150 31.0 28.0

Civilian supplies will be significantly smaller because of increased military procurement. WFO 119 provides that virtually all broilers produced in the 4 important broiler areas are to be set aside for sale to governmental agencies. It is estimated that civilians in 1944 received an average of 23.5 pounds per capita, nearly 5 pounds less than in 1943, but over 5 pounds more than the 1935-39 average of 18 pounds. In 1945, per capita consumption probably will be about 20 pounds.

RECENT DEVELOPMENTS

March Rate of Lay 6 Percent Above Last Year and Highest on Record

Egg production during March totaled 546 million dozen, 4 percent below the March record of 1944, but 38 percent higher than the 1934-43 average. For the first quarter of 1945, egg production was 1,291 million dozen, 7 percent less than in the corresponding period of 1944, but more than in any other first quarter.

The average number of layers on farms during March was 396 million, 9 percent less than the March average of 1944. However, offsetting this decline in number of layers was a 6 percent increase in the average number of eggs laid per layer, so that total output was only 4 percent smaller than last year. This record March rate of lay is a reflection of extremely mild weather and possibly of further improvement in production techniques. Ample feed supplies and a favorable egg-feed price ratio may have also had some effect on the rate of lay. In the West North Central States layers produced an average of 16.65 eggs, 8 percent more than in March last year. For the United States as a whole, the March rate of lay averaged 16.54 eggs per layer, almost equal to that reached in recent years during April.

Egg Prices Decline Seasonally But Are Above Last Year

The average price received by farmers for eggs in mid-March was 33.1 cents per dozen, 8 percent less than in the previous month, a usual seasonal decline. This price was 106 percent of parity. Compared with last year, the average price received by farmers was 3.0 cents higher and except for mid-March 1920 and 1943 was the highest reported for that month. A strong demand for shell eggs and a reduction in output of about 4 percent from last year were responsible for the high price in March.

The egg-feed price ratio in mid-March was 12 percent above the long-time (1934-43) average.

Since mid-March, wholesale and retail egg prices have been firm at ceiling levels. As of April 21, current receipts at Chicago were quoted at 33.8 cents per dozen, 2.8 cents higher than a year earlier. Retail prices were also at ceiling levels. During January 1945 the BLS retail price was 60 cents per dozen, 6 cents higher than in January 1944. In February the BLS average retail price was 54 cents per dozen, 4 cents above the previous February.

Into-storage Movement of Eggs Far Below Last Year

Reflecting the strong current demand for eggs, the into-storage movement of shell eggs in March was far below last year. During March, 1-1/4 million cases of shell eggs were placed in cold storage. About one-fourth of this total was for Government use. Commercial shell egg inputs during March were slightly below the 5-year average (1940-44). The into-storage movement of frozen eggs during March was about 60 percent of the movement in March 1944.

Since April 1, according to weekly reports from 35 markets, the into-storage movement has continued behind last year. The shell egg into-storage movement in the 35 markets from March 31 through April 21 was 925,000 cases, 46,000 cases less than in similar period of 1944. The into-storage movement of frozen eggs was at the rate of about three-fourths of last year. However, a good portion of the eggs going into storage, probably one-fourth to one-third, was for Army use, so that commercial storage holdings at present are far below last year and probably are near the prewar average.

Table 3.- Cold storage holdings of egg products, United States, April 1, 1935-39 average, 1944-45

Egg product	April 1 average 1935-39	April 1, 1944 total holdings 1/	April 1, 1945 total holdings	April 1, 1945 non-Government-owned holdings
	1,000 cases	1,000 cases	1,000 cases	1,000 cases
Shell	1,227	4,453	1,777	1,074
Frozen 2/....	1,581	3,962	3,076	2,384
Dried 3/.....	---	6,748	9,988	1,223

1/ Includes WFA holdings.
2/ Case equivalent, converted on basis of 37.5 pounds to the case.
3/ Case equivalent, converted on basis of 10 pounds to the case.

WFA Egg Purchases Sharply Reduced From Last Year

In 1944 the War Food Administration began purchasing shell eggs for price support purposes in early January, and purchase programs were carried on into the summer. A total of 5-1/2 million cases of shell eggs were purchased. Dried eggs were also purchased for price support purposes. The proposed dried egg program provided for procurement of 185 million pounds for delivery from February 1944 through January 1945. In addition, for price support purposes approximately 61 million pounds were purchased.

The situation so far in 1945 is in sharp contrast to that in 1944. The 10-case purchase program in operation for the past 3 years in the South has been reinstated. Marketing facilities in the South are not able to absorb a local seasonal surplus, so that purchases by WFA are carried on a small scale. WFA has also attempted to buy moderate quantities of shell eggs to fulfill lend-lease requirements. Thur far, only a small quantity has been purchased.

To make eggs more freely available to the armed forces and civilians, WFA recently lowered its top paying price on dried egg. As of April 1 the announced top paying price was 3 cents below the ceiling price. This gives a top price of $1.09 per pound f.o.b. New York for the delivery April through June. The purchase price in 1943 and in 1944 on April 1 was $1.15 per pound for the April through June delivery period. WFA purchases of dried egg this year have been significantly less than at any time since dried egg procurement has been in operation.

Table 4.- Purchases of dried whole egg by the War Food Administration, by months scheduled for delivery, through April 21, 1945

Year	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Total
	Mil. lb.	Mil. lb.	Mil. lb.	Mil. lb.	Mil. lb.	Mil. lb.	Mil. lb.	Mil. lb.	Mil. lb.	Mil. lb.	Mil. lb.	Mil. lb.	Mil. lb.
1942	11.4	12.9	13.1	13.4	18.3	17.5	18.5	19.2	19.2	22.0	25.3	15.8	206.6
1943	7.2	20.1	12.6	21.4	17.2	10.9	19.6	19.9	16.1	16.4	20.1	28.1	209.6
1944	26.4	27.0	18.3	27.7	27.0	26.1	24.8	31.5	24.2	20.4	12.8	7.6	273.8
1945	6.2	5.0	9.9	10.7	1.9	0.5							

Poultry Supplies Increasing But Far Below Last Year

Comparisons of current market receipts with those of previous years are not strictly accurate as indications of changes in supplies. Intermarket movements, receipts at terminal markets for the Army, and other contributing factors do not make for comparability. Also, in periods of shortages as at present, many birds which ordinarily would go through usual market channels circumvent the packing plants and are marketed directly to consumers. However, comparisons may be useful to indicate general trends.

Receipts of poultry in the primary and secondary markets are increasing seasonally but are far below last year. Weekly receipts of live poultry at midwest primary markets for the first 2 weeks in April averaged 722,000 pounds compared with 773,000 pounds weekly during March and a weekly average during April 1944 of 1,690,000 pounds. Receipts of live poultry at New York during March and April are slightly more than one-half of last year.

Demand for poultry at ceiling prices is running far in excess of supply. The average price received by farmers for chickens in mid-March, at 25 cents per pound, was the second highest ever reported for the month, and was exceeded only in 1920. The March price this year was 1.2 cents per pound higher than in March 1944.

Turkey Embargo Order Reinstated

War Food Order 106, issued July 11, 1944 required the set aside of **all** turkeys produced in "turkey areas" for sale to governmental agencies. On November 6, 1944 the set-aside provisions of the order were suspended, following the fulfillment of the 1944 military procurement program. Effective April 8, 1945, WFO 106 was reinstated, with certain revisions.

In 1944, turkey production was 547 million pounds (dressed wieght), the largest ever reported. Despite large military procurement, civilians during 1944 received slightly more than 3 pounds per capita, compared with a 1935-39 average of 2.5 pounds.

Based on the intentions as of February 1, turkey growers expect to raise 8 percent more turkeys in 1945 than in 1944. On that basis, the 1945 turkey production will be between 575 and 600 million pounds, dressed weight. With ample feed supplies and favorable weather, and a strong demand for turkey meat, it is expected that the intentions will at least be met. Hatchings of poults are far ahead of last year. Accordingly, even with somewhat higher military requirements this year than last year, civilians will probably obtain slightly more turkey meat than in 1944.

Cash Receipts from Poultry and Poultry Products in 1944 Totaled 2.3 Billion Dollars

Cash receipts by farmers from sales of eggs, chickens, commercial broilers, turkeys, and other poultry during 1944 aggregated 2.3 billion dollars, about 149 million dollars below the record of 1943, but otherwise the highest ever reported. Although egg production was 7 percent greater in 1944 than in 1943, the average price received by farmers was 13 percent lower. Farmers received 1,336 million dollars from sales of eggs compared with 1,426 million dollars in 1943. Declines were also reported in receipts from chickens and broilers, because of decreases in output. However, an increase of 24 percent in farmers' cash receipts from turkeys was indicated in 1944 compared with 1943; in 1944 cash receipts from sales of turkeys were more than triple the 1935-39 average.

In most recent years, 10 to 11 percent of total cash receipts from marketings of all farm products were obtained from poultry and poultry products. In 1943, the proportion was greater -- 13 percent.

Table 5.- Cash receipts from farm marketings: Total all farm marketings and poultry and poultry products, 1925-29 average, 1935-39 average, 1940-44

Year	Eggs	Chickens	Commercial broilers	Turkeys	Receipts from poultry and poultry products 1/	Cash receipts from all farm marketings
	Mil. dol.	Mil. dol.	Mil. dol.	Mil. dol.	Mil. dol.	Mil. dol.
1925-29 av.	690	341	---	---	1,091	10,937
1935-39 av.	485	213	39	63	812	7,937
1940	465	190	66	78	809	8,340
1941	658	245	93	98	1,107	11,157
1942	1,005	346	139	145	1,652	15,316
1943	1,426	625	210	160	2,450	19,252
1944 2/	1,336	541	198	198	2,301	20,228
	1,463	581	179			

1/ Includes other poultry.
2/ Preliminary.

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