THE Poultry and Egg SITUATION
BUREAU OF AGRICULTURAL ECONOMICS
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
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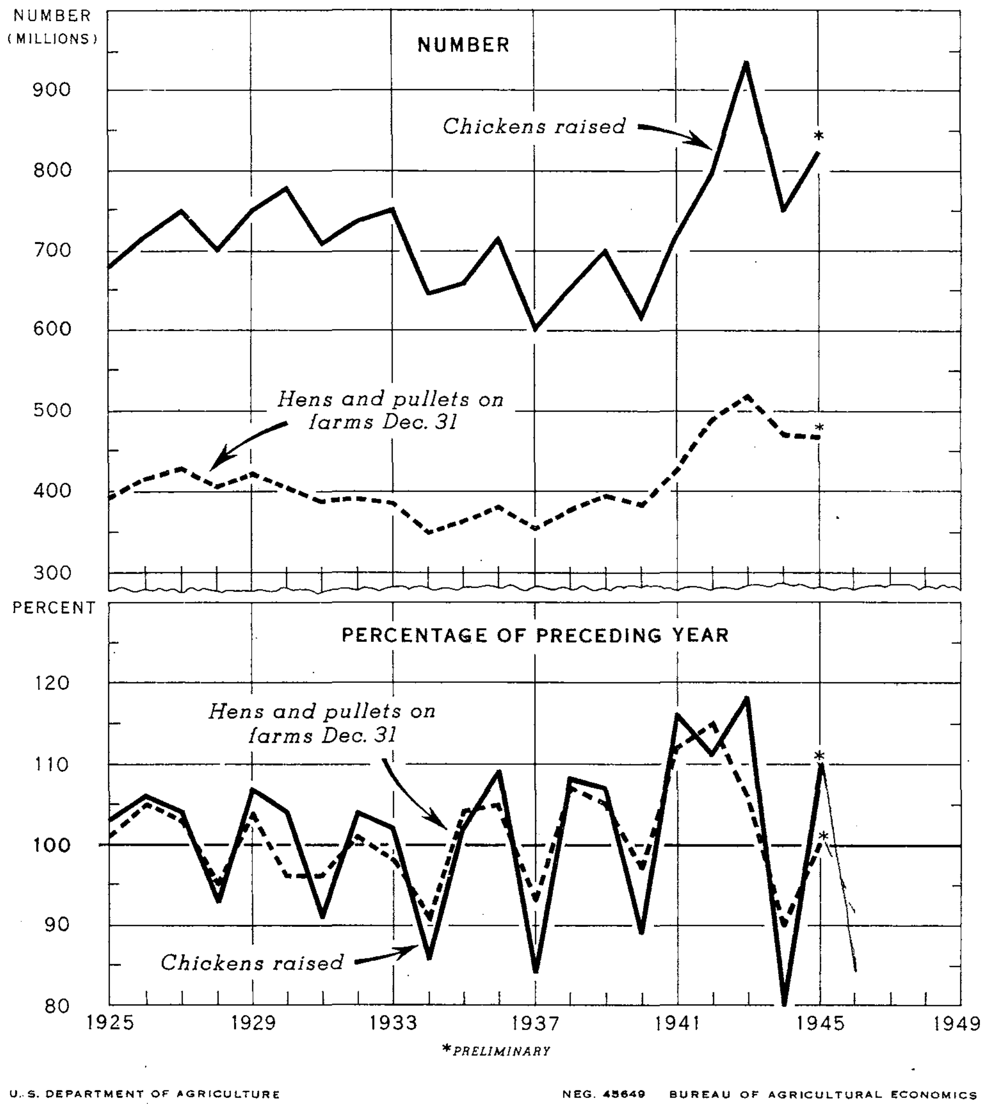
CHICKENS RAISED, AND HENS AND PULLETS ON FARMS DECEMBER 31, UNITED STATES, 1925-45



The number of chickens raised probably will be smaller in 1946 than in 1945, reflecting a lower egg-feed price ratio during the 1946 hatching season. Change in the number of chickens raised usually results in a corresponding but smaller change in the number of hens and pullets on farms at the year's end.

The Poultry and Egg Situation at a Glance

Item	Unit	Month	Average 1935-44	1945	1946	Comments about 1946
			Eggs			
Farm production	Million doz.	Feb.	284.7	399.6	412.8	Exceeded only in February 1944.
Average number of layers on farms	Million	"	345.9	409.5	407.4	Disappearance of layers from flocks below last year.
Rate of lay per hen	Number	"	9.7	11.7	12.2	A record for the 12th consecutive month.
Apparent civilian per capita consumption	Number	"	25	32	31	
Frozen egg production	Million lbs.	"	---	34.2	45.4	
Dried egg production	Million lbs.	"	---	13.7	7.4	USDA began dried egg procurement program in February.
Prices received by farmers	Cts.per doz.	"	23.3	35.8	32.6	Decline of 8.5 cents per dozen from January was sharpest since 1933.
Prices received by farmers as percentage of parity	Percent	"	88	105	92	
Retail price (BAE)	Cts.per doz.	Jan.	34.9	54.6	55.2	Farmer's share of consumer's dollar was 80 cents, equal to the records in 1915 and 1912.
Egg-feed ratio	Pounds feed	Feb.	11.7	12.5	10.8	Not favorable for egg production.
Stocks: 1/ Shell	Thous. cases	"	469	521	1545	Into-storage movement earliest and, thus far, largest on record.
Frozen	Thous. cases	"	1511	2280	3141	Exceeded only in February 1944.
Dried	Million lbs.	"	---	111	17	
Chicks hatched	Million	"	83.1	111.4	116.8	Hatchings ahead of last year for flock replacement purposes, but behind last year for meat purposes.
Prices paid by farmers for laying mash	Dols. per cwt.	"	---	3.54	3.71	
Egg-laying mash ratio	Lbs. laying mash	"	---	10.1	8.8	
			Poultry			
Prices received by farmers for chickens	Cts. per lb.	Feb.	16.4	24.5	23.1	Decrease of 5.5 cents per pound since August.
Prices received by farmers as percentage of parity	Percent	"	105	125	114	
Retail prices of chickens (BAE)	Cts. per lb.	Jan.	32.2	43.7	45.2	
Prices received by farmers for turkeys	Cts. per lb.	Feb.	19.4	33.9	31.6	Large marketings of breeder hens.
Stocks: 1/ Poultry excluding turkeys	Million lbs.	"	99.0	121.2	222.1	Exceeded any previous March 1.
Turkeys	Million lbs.	"	38.7	62.7	134.4	
Chicken-feed ratio	Pounds feed	"	8.3	8.6	7.6	Not favorable for chicken meat production.
Turkey-feed ratio	Pounds feed	"	9.7	11.9	10.5	
Receipts of poultry at Central Western Primary Markets, per plant	Thous. lbs.	"	7.8	4.5	8.5	

1/ End of month.

THE POULTRY AND EGG SITUATION

Approved by Outlook and Situation Board, March 28, 1946

Contents

SUMMARY

Unless the feed shortage becomes more acute, farmers are likely to raise 5 to 10 percent fewer chickens in 1946 than in 1945, and from 10 to 15 percent fewer turkeys. Farmers' intentions reported about February 1 showed a prospective 14 percent decrease in purchases of baby chicks this spring compared with last, but recent changes in the egg-price situation is likely to improve these prospects. On the basis of past relations, a decrease of 5 to 10 percent in the number of chickens raised this year will result in a smaller decrease in the number of hens and pullets on farms January 1, 1947 compared with January 1 this year.

The developing tight feed situation, particularly on the West Coast where wheat is fed extensively to turkeys, and in the northeast, is expected to result in a larger decline in turkey production than the 5 percent reduction indicated in farmers' intentions reported January 1. But even with a reduction of 10 to 15 percent in the number of turkeys raised, per capita civilian supplies of turkey meat this year will be about as large as the record quantity consumed in 1945. Extremely large cold-storage stocks and reduced turkey procurement by the armed forces will about offset the expected decrease in production.

Chicken and turkey price support programs were announced by the U.S. Department of Agriculture in March. Support prices are expected to reflect at least 90 percent of parity. At the current parity, this means a support of live chicken at a U. S. average of 18.4 cents per pound and live turkey at 23.2 cents per pound, with variations for type, weight, and location. The method of support will be through purchases of frozen poultry. In mid-March the average price received by farmers for chickens was 23.3 cents per pound, 114 percent of parity. Since that time wholesale prices have increased, particularly on lighter weights.

Prices received by farmers for eggs in mid-March averaged 32.1 cents per dozen, 98 percent of parity. After declining sharply during January and early February, egg prices became stabilized and at the end of March were about the same as a month earlier, although seasonal declines usually occur during this period. The recent strength in egg prices has resulted from a strong demand for eggs for storing, a current rate of consumption nearly as high as last year's annual rate of about 400 eggs per capita, and Government purchases of dried eggs for export at prices above support levels.

Prices received by farmers for eggs for the remainder of the year probably will average moderately below last year. During most of 1945, egg prices were at or near ceiling levels, owing to large Army procurement, a wide margin between demand for and supply of meat, and a record level of consumer income payments. For the remainder of 1946 the demand for eggs is not expected to be quite so strong as in 1945, as military procurement will be down, the demand-supply gap for meat will be somewhat smaller, and consumer incomes may be somewhat reduced. Government purchases of dried eggs for export will be at least as large as the rather small purchases in 1945, when export requirements were met largely from stocks previously accumulated.

Supplies of eggs available for civilians during the second half of the year will be larger than in the corresponding period of 1945. Farm egg output may be somewhat smaller, but the increase in commercial stocks which is expected during the next few months will more than offset any decrease in production.

Into-storage movement of eggs during February and early March was, with the exception of 1944, the largest on record for that period. Withdrawals of poultry meat during February were at a near-record low. Exceeding any previous March 1, total stocks of chicken meat, excluding turkeys and ducks, were 220 million pounds, 100 million pounds above March 1, 1945 and approximately 2 1/2 times the prewar average. Turkey stocks on March 1 were also at a record, totaling 134 million pounds, 3 times prewar and more than double last year's March 1 holdings.

Farm egg production during February was 412.8 million dozen, 3 percent above February 1945, and the second largest for the month. A record rate of lay per average layer for the twelfth consecutive month was an outstanding development. The average number of layers on farms was slightly below that of last year.

OUTLOOK

BACKGROUND:- Farmers' intentions to purchase baby chicks and turkey poults, reported since 1938, give some evidence of farmers' plans for the year with respect to raising chickens and turkeys. Developments during the hatching season frequently modify these intentions; in some years actual purchases vary widely from the early intentions. These developments include price changes for eggs and feed, availability of turkey poults, and changes in demand prospects during the spring hatching season. This year the difficulty in obtaining feed is also a factor.

For 1946, farmers' intentions indicate that purchases of baby chicks may be 14 percent less than in 1945, and that purchases of turkey poults may be 5 percent less. Comparisons of intentions with numbers raised in recent years are as follows:

Table 1.- Number of chickens raised compared with intended purchases of baby chicks

Year	Intended purchases of chicks 1/	Number of chickens raised
	Percentage of previous year	Percentage of previous year
1938	108	108
1939	108	107
1940	96	89
1941	109	116
1942	112	111
1943	116	118
1944	83	80
1945	96	110
1946	86	

1/ Based upon reports from Crop Correspondents as of February 1.

Table 2.-Number of turkeys raised compared with intended purchases of turkey poults

Year	Intended purchases of poults 1/	Number of turkeys raised
	Percentage of previous year	Percentage of previous year
1938	106	103
1939	127	125
1940	105	102
1941	97	97
1942	108	100
1943	112	100
1944	102	110
1945	110	123
1946	95	

1/ Based on reports from Crop Correspondents as of February 1 for 1938 through 1942 and as of January 1 since 1942.

Layers on Farms January 1, 1947 Probably Below January 1, 1946

The early February intentions to purchase baby chicks were reported by farmers during an interval when egg prices were declining sharply. Wholesale prices of eggs on February 1 were about 20 percent below a month earlier and 10 percent below February 1, 1945. Since February 1, however, egg prices have stabilized and have shown little change. Usually, seasonal decreases occur.

Wholesale and retail prices of eggs in late March were near ceiling levels. Hence, it appears that the decrease of 14 percent from last year in purchases of baby chicks, indicated by the intentions report, may be an overestimation of the actual reduction that will occur. The decrease in the number of chickens raised from the number raised in 1945 may not exceed 5 to 10 percent. However, further decreases in feed supplies would magnify this decrease.

Every year since 1933, a decrease in the number of chickens raised in any year results in some decrease in the number of hens and pullets on farms at the year's end. Hence, the number on farms on January 1, 1947 will probably be below that of January 1, 1946.

Table 3.-Chickens raised and hens and pullets on farms, United States, December 31, 1925-45
(Data for cover chart)

Year	Chickens raised	Hens and pullets on farms Dec. 31	Percentage of preceding year: Chickens raised	Percentage of preceding year: Hens and pullets on farms Dec. 31	Year	Chickens raised	Hens and pullets on farms Dec. 31	Percentage of preceding year: Chickens raised	Percentage of preceding year: Hens and pullets on farms Dec. 31
	Millions	Millions	Percent	Percent		Millions	Millions	Percent	Percent
1925	679	394	103	101	1936	715	380	109	105
1926	718	415	106	105	1937	601	353	84	93
1927	750	427	104	103	1938	651	376	108	107
1928	700	404	93	95	1939	697	393	107	105
1929	751	420	107	104	1940	617	381	89	97
1930	777	402	104	96	1941	717	426	116	112
1931	709	386	91	96	1942	795	488	111	115
1932	736	391	104	101	1943	934	519	118	106
1933	750	385	102	98	1944	750	469	80	90
1934	644	350	86	91	1945	1/821	1/469	110	100
1935	658	363	102	104					

1/ Preliminary.

Egg-Feed Price Ratio Reduced in 1946

Farm egg output will be somewhat larger during the flush production season than in the same period a year ago, as a result of a higher rate of lay. The number of layers on farms is about the same as last year. Prices received by farmers for eggs in the spring and early summer probably will average below 1945, reflecting principally a reduction in military procurement, and somewhat larger civilian meat supplies. During the spring of 1945, demand for eggs was very strong in part due to shortages of meat, and prices were at ceilings. Per capita consumption during the first half of 1945 was at an annual rate of over 400 eggs per person. During the first two months of 1946, per capita consumption was at an annual rate of 380 to 390 eggs.

Prices paid by farmers for poultry rations have been averaging about 5 percent above last year. Recent increases in ceiling prices for feed grains will result in further increases in prices paid by farmers for feed. With egg prices lower than last year and feed prices higher, the egg-feed price ratio this spring is averaging about 10 percent below that of the corresponding period of last year. A decline of that magnitude, on the basis of past relationships, would result in a 5 to 10 percent decrease in the number of chickens raised unless feed shortages become more acute.

Large Late Hatch Not Likely in 1946

With egg prices during the 1946 hatching season not so favorable as in 1945, and a tight feed situation, a large late hatch probably will not occur. During 1945 commercial hatchings for flock replacement purposes were at a record, with the exception of 1943, despite a late start. During January and Feburary 1945, commercial hatchings were at a low level. However, the high prices that prevailed for eggs during the hatching season resulted in a record late hatch for flock replacement purposes. During June and July 1945 commercial hatchings were 290 million birds.

Commercial hatchings during January and February 1946 averaged 2 percent below 1945. However, increases occurred in the States where chicks are raised primarily for flock replacement purposes rather than for meat. Percentage changes during January and February 1946 by areas compared with 1945 were as follows:

	Percent		Percent
New England	- 7	South Atlantic	- 22
Middle Atlantic	+ 1	South Central	+ 11
East North Central	+ 5	Mountain	- 7
West North Central	+ 6	Pacific	+ 5

Current reports indicate that commercial hatchings during March continued at a high level and probably were not much different than last year. However, baby chick orders booked for April and May delivery have declined compared with last year.

Civilian Egg Supplies for Second Half of 1946 Ahead of 1945. Prices Probably Lower

The number of layers on farms during the second half of 1946 will be somewhat smaller than in the second half of 1945. Farm egg output probably will be slightly less.

Civilian supplies of eggs, however, will be larger in the second half of 1946 than in corresponding period of 1945. Procurement by the armed forces will be drastically reduced. At recent rates of storing, supplies of shell eggs available from cold storage will be substantially larger than in the second half of 1945-probably by 2 to 4 million cases.

Demand for eggs by domestic consumers will not be so strong in the latter half of 1946 as a year ago, since meat supplies will be somewhat larger and consumer income probably will be moderately lower. During 1945, civilian supplies of meat were considerably short of demand and some replacement of eggs for meat apparently occurred. Prices received by farmers averaged 43 cents in the second half of 1945 and were 103 percent of parity. Wholesale and retail prices were at or near the seasonally adjusted ceiling levels.

Purchase of Dried Eggs for Export Resumed

Export demand for dried eggs has strenghtened during the past few months. At present, firm commitments for about 45 million pounds of dried eggs for export have been made.

To meet present export commitments the Department of Agriculture, as of March 23, had purchased under its procurement program 28 million pounds of dried whole eggs. Prices paid per pound of dried whole eggs packed in barrels under this program were $1.11 for February delivery, $1.08 for March delivery, and $1.05 for April delivery. These prices exceed the minimum support commitment of $.99 per pound, (increased to $1.02 per pound on March 22).

Table 4.-Purchases through March 23, 1946, of dried whole egg by Production and Marketing Administration, by months scheduled for delivery

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	1[illegible].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	9.8	10.6	3.5	0.6	0.1	0.3	---	---	---	---	36.1
1946	---	4.2	15.2	9.6									

European Egg Production at Low Level

Egg production in Europe, excluding Russia, for the 1945-46 fiscal year is nearly 50 percent below prewar. The greatest relative decreases have occurred in Finland, Norway and Netherlands where production is down more than 75 percent from prewar. Production in the United Kingdom is down about one-third.

Table 5.- Eggs: Estimated production, foreign trade, and apparent disappearance in Europe, by countries, average 1934-38 and 1945-46 crop year

Country	Average 1934-38				1945-46		
	Production	Net imports 1/	Net exports 1/	Apparent domestic disappearance	Production	Prospective net exports	Production as percentage of prewar
	Mil.eggs	Mil. eggs	Mil.eggs	Mil. eggs	Mil.eggs	Mil.eggs	Percent
United Kingdom ......:	5,098	2/2,685	---	7,783	3,416	---	67
Eire ....:	1,086	---	358	728	800	200	74
Total, U.K. & Eire :	6,184	---	---	8,511	4,216	---	68
Finland ....:	317	---	143	174)	143	---	21
Norway ....:	369	---	20	349)			
Sweden ....:	900	---	57	843	900	---	100
Denmark ....:	1,979	---	1,374	605	935	226	47
Netherlands ....:	1,978	3/	1,251	727)	835	---	23
Belgium ....:	1,702	3/	178	1,524)			
France ....:	6,200	3/ 164	---	6,364	4,000	---	65
Spain ....:	1,700	600	---	2,300	1,600	---	94
Switzerland ....:	423	250	---	673	210	---	50
Italy ....:	5,600	3/ 101	---	5,701	3,100	---	55
Germany ....:	6,585	3/1,362	---	7,947)			
Austria ....:	663	---	20	643)	5,185	---	40
Czechoslovakia ......:	1,958	86	---	2,044)			
Poland ....:	3,500	---	437	3,063)			
Balkans ....:	5,100	---	700	4,300	2,617	---	51
Total continental Europe excl.USSR..:	38,974	---	---	37,258	19,525	---	50
Total Europe excl. USSR ....:	45,158	---	---	45,769	23,741	---	53

Compiled from reports of Office of Foreign Agricultural Relations.
1/ Applies only to shell eggs. 2/ An additional 95 million pounds of egg products were imported. 3/ Appreciable quantities of egg products imported.

In 1943 and 1944 about 150 million pounds of dried whole eggs were shipped each year from the United States to the United Kingdom including war services under lend-lease; shipments during 1945 were about one-half of each of the previous 2 years. Additional shipments were made to Russia. Egg consumption per person in the United Kingdom during those years remained near prewar levels. However, recent reports indicate that there has been a decrease in the British dried egg rations. The 45 million pounds of dried eggs (equivalent to 1.6 billion eggs) which the United States will contribute to international trade, chiefly to the United Kingdom, will offset only about 8 percent of the decrease from prewar in European egg production.

Smaller Turkey Crop Expected in 1946 Than in 1945

Although farmers' intentions as of January 1 indicated only a 5 percent decrease in the number of turkeys to be raised in 1946 compared with 1945, recent developments with respect to the feed situation probably will result in a greater decline. Since January 1 there has been a tightening in the feed situation, particularly on the West Coast where wheat is used extensively in feeding turkeys.

Demand for turkeys in the 1946 marketing season is not expected to be as strong as in 1945. Army requirements will be reduced substantially. In addition, the large cold-storage stocks of turkeys, amounting to 134 million pounds on March 1, will leave more turkeys available for civilians in 1946 than in 1945, even if production decreases 10 to 15 percent. However, prices received by farmers for small turkeys (under 16 pounds) are not expected to be much below the 1945 level. But, as in prewar years, there probably will be wide differentials between large and small turkeys, with prices of heavy-weight birds substantially below prices of light-weight birds. The high level of consumer purchasing power, however, will tend to keep turkey prices near 1945 levels.

A turkey price support program for the next few months was announced by the U. S. Department of Agriculture on March 22 in the event that there are heavy marketings of breeder hens. Purchases of dressed turkeys in carlots from processors, dealers, and cooperatives will be made, if necessary at prices so as to reflect 90 percent of parity with variations for type, weight, and location. Currently this would mean a United States average farm price of 23.2 cents per pound. The average price received by farmers for turkeys in mid-March was 30.6 cents, 119 percent of parity.

Turkey meat consumption has been trending upward. Consumption of turkey averaged 2 pounds per capita in the early 1930's. The 1935-39 average consumption was 2.6 pounds per person, and by 1942 consumption had reached 3.7 pounds. During 1943 and 1944 civilian turkey meat consumption remained at 3.3 to 3.4 pounds when non-civilian procurement was heavy, but in 1945 consumption set a new record of about 4-1/2 pounds.

Chicken Price Support Program Announced

The 1946 chicken price support program, announced by the U. S. Department of Agriculture March 8, will be effected through purchases of dressed chickens (except chickens weighing 3-1/2 pounds or less, live weight) at prices reflecting not less than 90 percent of parity. On the basis of the mid-March parity price, this would mean support at a United States average price of 18.4 cents per pound, with variations for type, weight, and location. In mid-March the average price received by farmers for chickens was 23.3 cents per pound, 114 percent of parity. Since mid-March wholesale chicken prices have increased.

Total production of chicken meat during 1946 will be substantially below 1945, because of a reduction in commercial broiler output and a decrease in the number of chickens raised. Commercial broiler production will be substantially smaller than last year. This reflects in part the reduced military procurement that was so important during the first half of 1945. Recently prices of broilers have averaged materially below those of last year.

Per capita civilian supplies of chicken meat in 1946 will be almost as large as the near-record consumption of 25 pounds per person in 1945, despite the decline in total slaughter. The large cold-storage holdings, amounting to 220 million pounds on March 1, plus a reduction in Army procurement, will about offset the prospective decrease in slaughter.

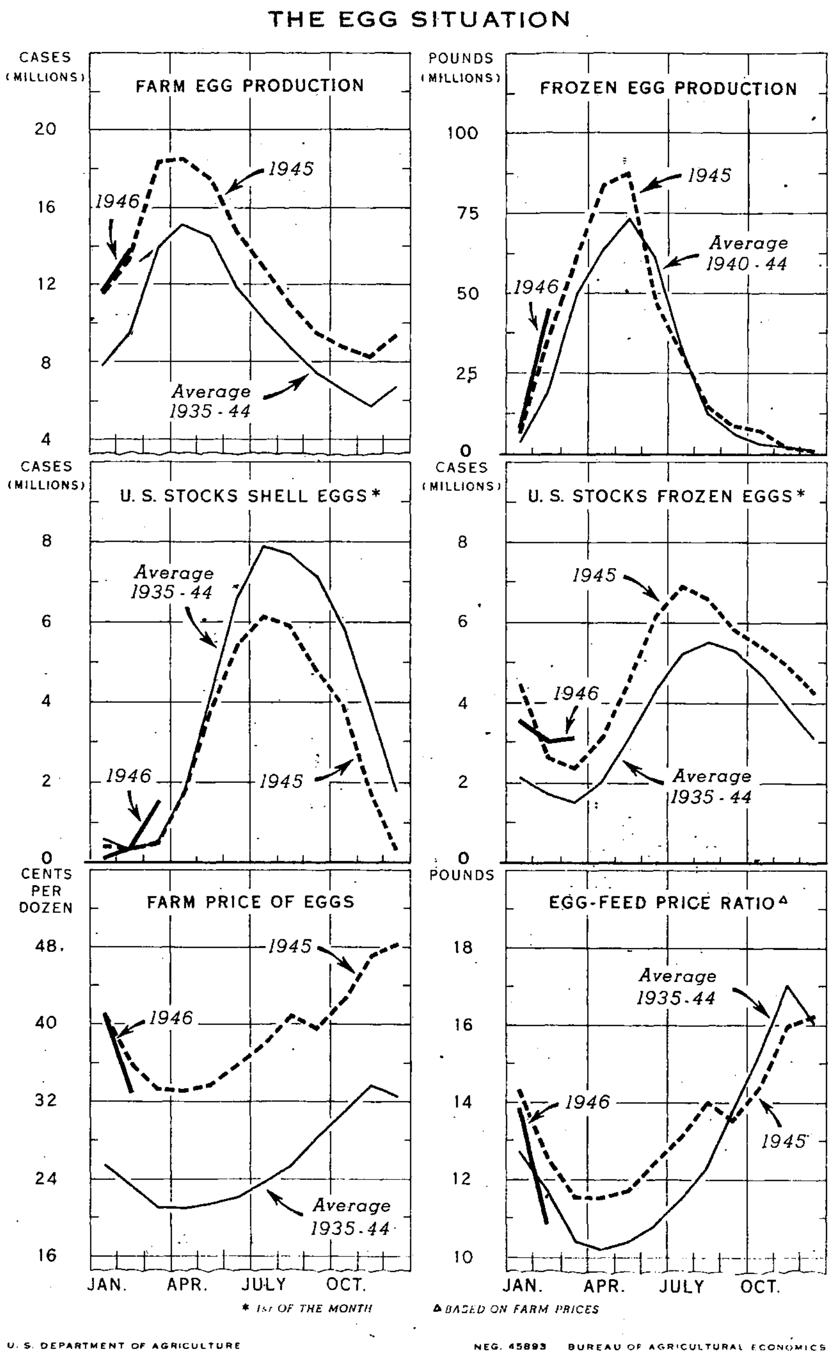


FIGURE 2

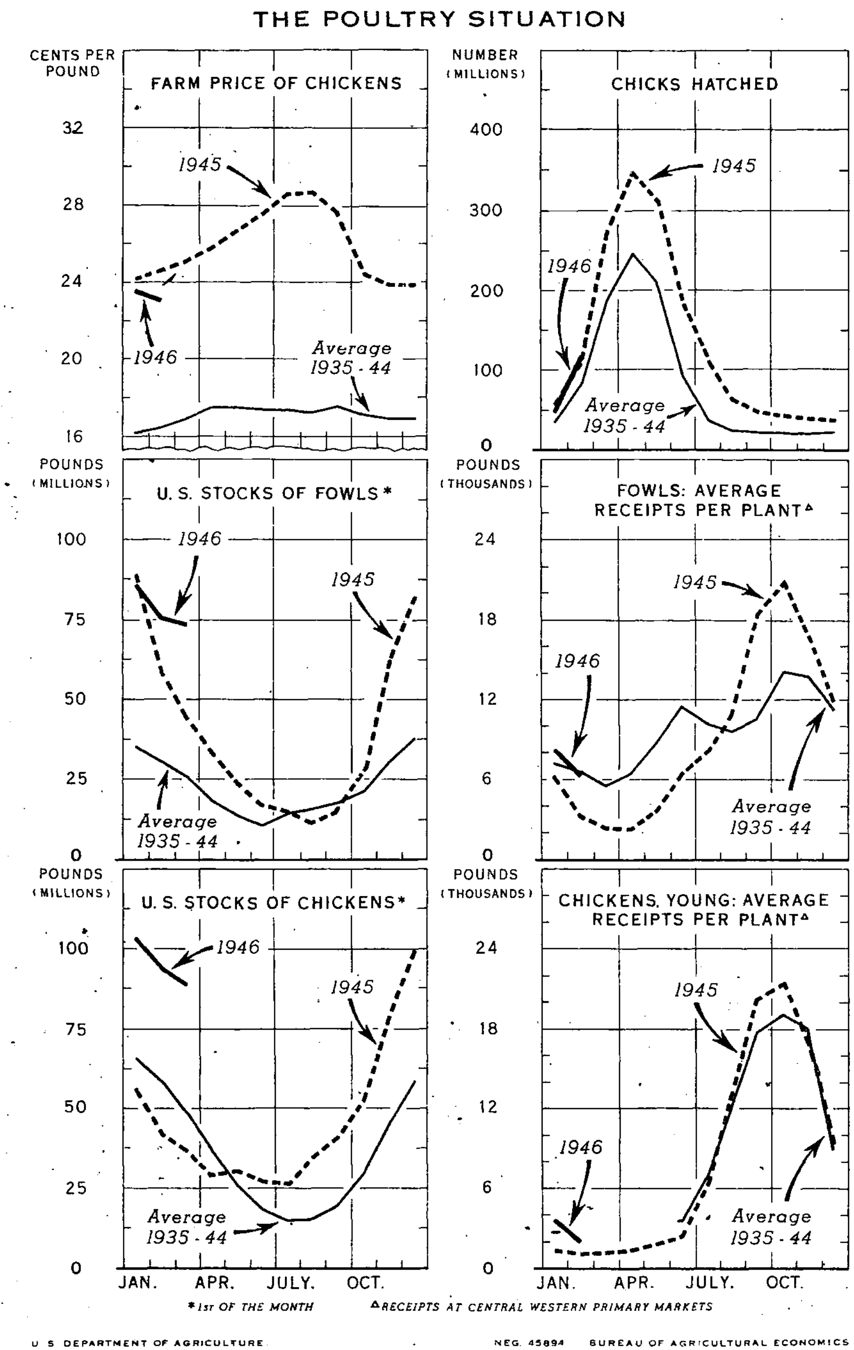


FIGURE 1

RECENT DEVELOPMENTS

Egg Production Per Layer Continues At Record

Farm egg production during February was 412.8 million dozen, 3 percent above last year, and 45 percent above the 1935-44 average for the month. A 4 percent increase in rate of lay over last year more than offset a 1 percent decrease in the average number of layers. The average number of layers on farms during February was 407 million head.

Despite reported feed scarcities, egg production per average layer for the twelfth consecutive month has exceeded any previous corresponding month on record. A factor responsible for the high rate of lay during February was the record proportion of pullets to hens. Also, mild weather may have had some effect. As of January 1, 1946 pullets accounted for 69 percent of the total laying flock compared with 64 percent the previous January 1 and a 10 year (1935-44) average of ~~55~~ percent. Long-run influences on the rate of lay include better types of birds (National Poultry Improvement Plan), better feeds, and improved poultry husbandry practices.

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Table 6.- Average number of eggs produced per layer, United States, 1935-39 average, 1941-46

Year	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec	Total
	No.	No.	No.	No.	No.	No.	No.	No.	No.	No.	No.	No.	No.
Average:													
1935-39	6.6	8.9	14.3	16.7	16.8	14.2	12.7	11.2	8.9	6.8	5.0	5.2	130.3
1941	8.7	10.3	15.0	16.9	17.4	15.1	13.8	12.2	10.0	8.2	6.5	7.3	141.4
1942	9.2	10.6	15.5	17.5	17.6	15.2	13.8	12.3	10.0	8.1	6.9	7.4	144.2
1943	9.0	11.0	15.7	17.0	17.3	15.0	13.7	12.3	10.0	8.1	6.7	7.5	143.4
1944	10.0	12.2	15.6	16.8	17.2	15.0	13.8	12.4	10.3	8.8	7.4	8.1	147.6
1945	9.9	11.7	16.6	17.7	17.6	15.6	14.5	13.0	10.6	8.8	7.6	8.3	151.9
1946	10.2	12.2											

February Into-Storage Movement of Eggs Exceeded Only in 1944

The into-storage movement of shell and frozen eggs in February this year was, with the exception of 1944, the earliest on record. This may be due partly to the changing seasonality in farm egg production. The total into-storage movement of shell eggs during February was 1 million cases and of frozen eggs, 6 million pounds. Except in 1944, this was the largest into-storage movement for that month. Stocks of eggs for commercial use probably increased even more than in 1944 when large inputs were being made for later processing into dried eggs for government account.

The high rate of into-storage movement has continued since March 1. Reports from 35 markets indicate that the March shell egg into-storage movement was more than double last year's, and for frozen egg about 50 percent higher.

Table 7.- Eggs: Cold storage stocks in the United States and net storage movement at 35 markets, specified dates

Year	United States stocks 1/		Net storage movement in 35 markets (Week ended as of 1946)			
	Feb. 1	Mar. 1	Mar. 2	Mar. 9	Mar. 16	Mar. 23
	1,000 cases	1,000 cases	1,000 cases	1,000 cases	1,000 cases	1,000 cases
Shell						
Av. 1937-41	255	231	28	94	122	81
1944	765	2,008	264	269	326	328
1945	296	521	41	82	168	222
1946	272	1,545	255	345	320	382
Frozen						
Av. 1937-41	1,574	1,338	- 19	8	32	55
1944	2,179	2,629	173	175	183	195
1945	2,640	2,280	- 15	36	75	144
1946	2,979	3,141	64	71	112	127
Dried						
1944	4,265	5,117				
1945	10,791	11,110				
1946	1,832	1,703				

1/ Government holdings included frozen and dried eggs converted to shell-egg equivalent on basis of 37.5 pounds of frozen egg and 10 pounds of dried egg to the case.

Marketings of Poultry Meat Large. Storage Withdrawals during February Second Smallest on Record

Marketings of poultry during February and early March, with the possible exception of the corresponding period of 1944, were the largest on record. Receipts of dressed poultry at 4 principal markets were about 50 percent above last year. Receipts of live poultry at Midwestern Primary Markets were also substantially above 1945. Large marketings of turkey breeders, probably a record, and the near-record number of chickens raised in 1945 were responsible for these large marketings.

Reflecting in part the large market movement of poultry, withdrawals from cold storage during February, except for 1924 and 1931, were the smallest on record for that month. Stocks of chicken meat declined about 7 million pounds, while turkey stocks remained unchanged from February 1 to March 1. Total stocks of chicken meat, of 220 million pounds were nearly double those of last year on March 1, and were almost 2 1/2 times the prewar March 1 average. Turkey stocks were 134 million pounds compared with 63 million pounds last year, and a prewar average of 42 million pounds. Most of the stocks on hand March 1, 1946 were commercially owned, while moderately large quantities were Government owned on March 1, 1945

Turkey Goals Revised

To make the most efficient use of feed and wheat, the Department of Agriculture revised certain production goals February 21. Among the revisions was a request for decrease in turkey production of about 15 percent from 1945 levels. The turkey goal as first issued January 16 called for a 10 percent decline.

Final 1946 production goals for poultry products, compared with 1945 production, are as follows:

	Unit	1946 goal	1945 production
Farm egg production	Mil. doz.	3,909	4,600
Chickens raised	Mil. head	679	821
Turkeys raised	Mil. head	37.9	45

The Department of Agriculture has also requested growers to decrease broiler production 30 percent from 1945 levels.