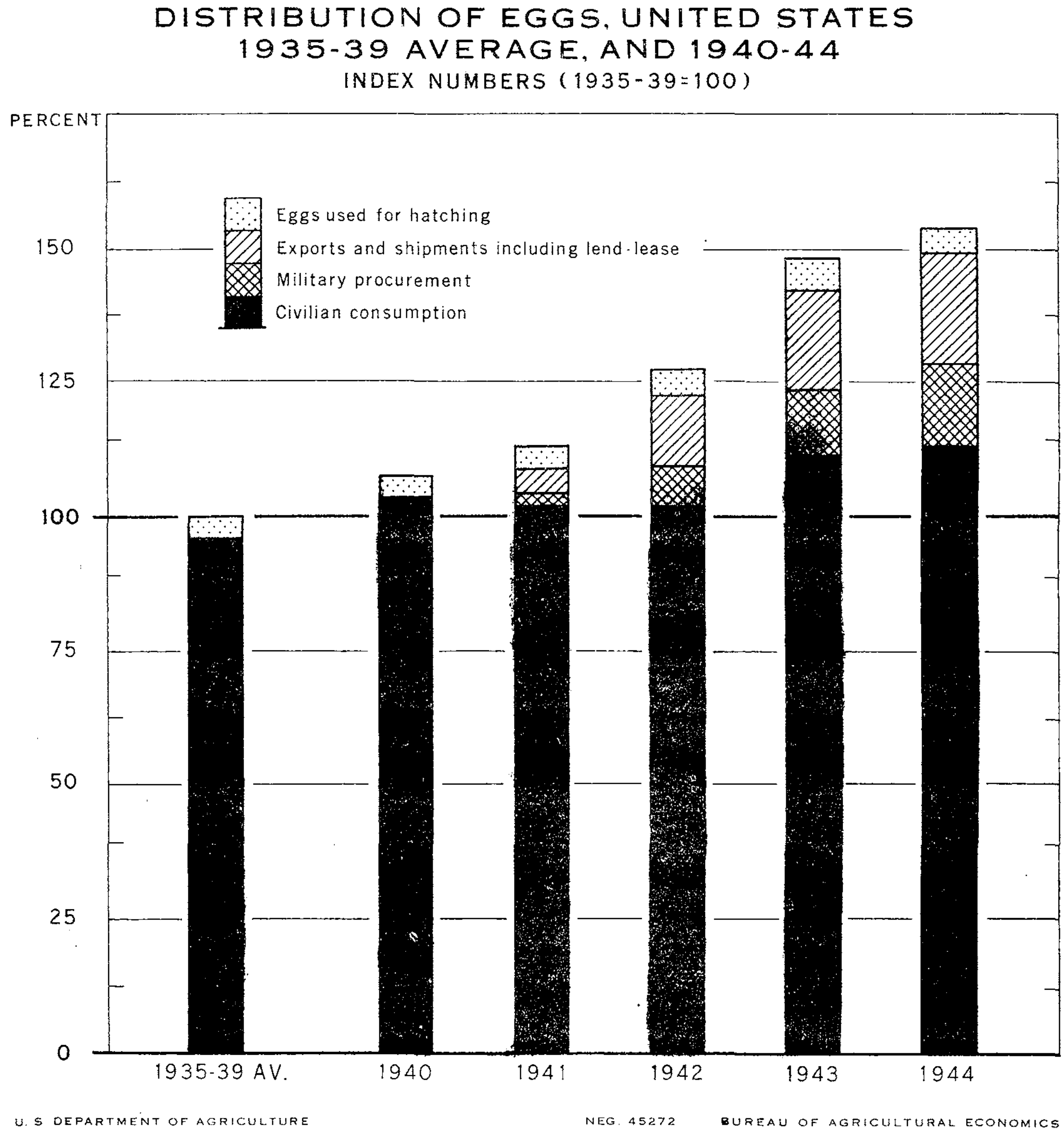
THE Poultry and Egg SITUATION
BUREAU OF AGRICULTURAL ECONOMICS
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
PES - 101 BAE MAY 1945



Production of eggs during 1944 was 59 percent above the 1935-39 average. Civilian consumption during 1944 totaled 351 eggs per capita, 18 percent more than the pre-war average of 298 eggs per capita. Of the 1944 total distribution, civilians absorbed 73 percent. Export and military takings were 23 percent of the total, and 4 percent was utilized in hatchings.

Egg production during 1945 will probably be 8 to 10 percent below 1944. But civilians, primarily because of a decline in use of eggs for dehydrating, will probably receive 5 percent more eggs than in 1944. Per capita civilian consumption in 1945 is expected to average about an egg a day, or 366 eggs for the year.

STATISTICAL SUMMARY

ITEM	UNIT	AVERAGE			1944		1945		CURRENT MONTH AS PERCENT OF	
		PERIOD	MARCH	APRIL	MARCH	APRIL	MARCH	APRIL	YEAR EARLIER	AVERAGE
Layers on farms, number	Million	1934-43	325.3	311.6	437.8	417.9	396.4	377.8	90	121
Number of eggs laid per hen	Number	1934-43	14.57	16.78	15.58	16.83	16.54	17.66	105	105
Total farm production of eggs	Mil. doz.	1934-43	396.0	523.4	568.4	586.2	546.5	555.8	95	106
Stocks, eggs, U. S.:[1]										
Shell	1,000 case	1934-43	1,427	3,970	4,453	6,963	1,784	3,829	55	96
Frozen	1,000 case	1934-43	1,733	2,660	3,962	5,814	3,062	4,496	77	169
Total, shell and frozen	1,000 case	1934-43	3,060	6,630	8,415	12,777	4,846	8,325	65	126
Dried whole eggs	Mil. lb.	---	---	---	---	---	100.0	77.9	---	---
Apparent egg disappearance, civilian:										
Total shell egg equivalent	Mil. doz.	1934-43	344.2	309.7	352.3	332.3	419.8			
Dried egg production	Mil. lb.	---	---	---	32.0	32.1	17.8			
Commercial hatchery operations:										
Eggs set	Million	---								
Chicks hatched	Million	1934-43	167.2	230.6	293.6	317.6	268.8	346.6	109	150
Receipts:										
Poultry, dressed, four markets	Mil. lb.	1934-43	16.3	15.6	17.6	19.7	20.2	18.0	91	115
Poultry, live, Chicago	Mil. lb.	1939-43	3.7	3.8	1.6	2.2	.6	.7	32	18
Poultry, live, New York	Mil. lb.	1939-43	10.3	10.9	13.3	12.6	11.0	8.7	69	80
Poultry, live, Midwest, per plant	1,000 lb.	1934-43	7.0	7.8	5.3	8.5	3.6	3.7	44	47
Fowl (hens), live, Midwest, per plant	1,000 lb.	1934-43	6.0	6.6	4.5	7.5	2.2	2.2	29	33
Young stock, live, Midwest, per plant	1,000 lb.	1934-43	---	---	.4	.2	1.2	1.3	65	---
Stocks, poultry:[1]										
Broilers	Mil. lb.	1934-43	7.9	5.6	9.2	6.4	2.1	2.1	33	38
Fryers	Mil. lb.	1934-43	8.0	5.2	12.9	9.1	8.9	5.5	60	106
Roasters	Mil. lb.	1934-43	19.9	13.9	28.6	20.8	17.8	22.5	108	162
Fowls (hens)	Mil. lb.	1934-43	14.7	10.6	45.8	35.0	33.2	23.8	68	225
Turkeys	Mil. lb.	1934-43	29.0	22.7	36.6	30.3	46.5	32.7	108	144
Ducks	Mil. lb.	1934-43	1.3	1.0	1.1	1.2	.6	.3	25	30
Miscellaneous and unclassified	Mil. lb.	1934-43	14.9	11.3	34.2	27.2	32.7	30.8	113	273
Total poultry	Mil. lb.	1934-43	95.8	70.2	168.5	130.0	141.7	117.7	91	168
Prices received by farmers:										
Eggs, per dozen	Cent	1934-43	19.4	19.6	30.1	27.1	33.1	33.0	122	168
Eggs, parity price per dozen[2]	Cent	1934-43	23.1	22.9	29.4	29.8	31.2	31.2	105	136
Eggs, percentage of parity	Percent	1934-43	83	84	102	91	106	106	116	126
Chickens, per pound	Cent	1934-43	15.5	16.1	23.8	23.7	25.0	25.7	108	160
Chickens, parity price per pound	Cent	1934-43	15.1	15.2	19.3	19.3	19.7	19.7	102	130
Chickens, percentage of parity	Percent	1934-43	102	105	123	123	127	130	106	124
Turkeys, per pound	Cent	1939-43	19.0	18.9	31.3	30.7	33.6	33.6	109	178
Turkeys, parity price per pound	Cent	1939-43	19.6	19.7	24.3	24.3	24.9	24.9	102	126
Turkeys, percentage of parity	Percent	1939-43	97	96	129	126	135	135	107	141
All farm commodities (1910-14 = 100)	Index no.	1934-43	118	120	196	196	198	203	104	169
Chickens and eggs (1910-14 = 100)[2]	Index no.	1934-43	117	119	184	169	195	194	115	163
Wholesale prices, Chicago:										
Eggs, standards, per dozen[3]	Cent		---	---	31.9	31.5	35.3	35.3	112	---
Live heavy hens, per pound	Cent	1939-43	19.6	19.7	25.4	25.9	26.9	27.3	105	139
Live broilers, per pound	Cent	1939-43	22.1	22.5	28.9	29.4	[3]	[3]	---	---
Live fryers, per pound	Cent	1939-43	23.0	23.3	28.9	29.4	30.4	30.8	105	132
Live roasters, heavy, per pound	Cent	1939-43	25.2	25.6	28.9	29.4	30.4	30.8	105	120
Wholesale prices, New York:										
Dressed broilers, 25-30 pounds per dozen, per pound	Cent	1934-43	23.7	24.2	37.5	38.4	38.9	39.3	102	162
Dressed roasters, 48-54 pounds per dozen, per pound	Cent	1934-43	26.2	26.6	37.5	38.4	38.9	39.3	102	148
Dressed fowls, 48-54 pounds per dozen, per pound	Cent	1934-43	23.5	24.7	33.5	34.4	34.9	35.3	103	143
Cash farm income:										
Total marketings	Mil. dol.	1939-43	791	816	1,433	1,402	1,450	1,420	101	174
Poultry and eggs	Mil. dol.	1939-43	102	113	194	181	203	214	118	189
Price ratios:										
Chicago, broiler-feed	Lb. feed	1939-43	15.7	15.7	12.8	13.0	---	---	---	---
Chicago, light roaster-feed	Lb. feed	1939-43	17.0	16.5	12.8	13.0	13.4	13.7	105	83
Farm, egg-feed	Lb. feed	1934-43	10.3	10.2	10.2	9.1	11.5	11.5	126	113
Farm, chicken-feed	Lb. feed	1934-43	8.3	8.5	8.1	8.0	8.7	9.0	112	106
Farm, turkey-feed	Lb. feed	1934-43	9.3	9.1	10.6	10.3	11.7	11.7	114	129
Farm, egg-laying mash	Lb. feed	---	---	---	8.4	7.5	9.3	9.3	124	---
Laying mash, cost per cwt.	Dollar	---	---	---	3.60	3.61	3.55	3.54	98	---
Feed cost per cwt., farm poultry ration	Dollar	1934-43	1.37	1.42	228	2.28	---	---	---	---
Wholesale food prices (1935-39 = 100)	Index no.	1934-43	102.3	102.9	132.9	132.6	132.2			
Retail food prices (1935-39 = 100)	Index no.	1934-43	103.8	104.6	134.1	134.6	135.9			
Prices paid by farmers including interest and taxes (1910-14 = 100)	Index no.	1934-43	133	133	169	169	173	173	102	
Retail prices (BLS):										
Roasters, dressed, per pound	Cent	1934-43	33.1	33.7	44.9	45.0	46.2			
Eggs, strictly fresh, per dozen	Cent	1934-43	33.1	32.6	47.8	45.0	49.9			
Nonagricultural employees compensation (1935-39 = 100)	Index no.	1934-43	121.8	122.9	263.8	263.7	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 for the remainder of 1945 will contine unusually strong, and prices received by farmers for eggs will be materially higher than in 1944. Civilian egg consumption during the latter half of 1945—restrained by the limited supplies available--may be about the same as in the latter half of 1944. But with a record consumption in the first half of the year, egg consumption for 1945 as a whole will be about 4 percent greater than last year.

Prices received by farmers for eggs in early 1946 probably will be about the same as in early 1945, reflecting a continued strong demand. Demand for eggs may weaken during 1946, however, and prices may drop below 1945 levels during the year. A decline in exports of eggs probably will occur in 1946, as feed supplies and egg production are increased in Europe.

Egg production for the remainder of 1945 will be moderately below that of 1944. For 1945 as a whole, egg production probably will be about 8 percent below that of last year. Egg output in 1946 probably will be about the same as in 1945. Production of eggs in the first quarter of 1946 probably will be slightly smaller than in the first quarter of 1945. But in succeeding quarters of 1946 egg production is likely to equal or exceed production in corresponding periods this year, reflecting a delayed hatch but an increase in the total number of chickens raised in 1945 compared with 1944. The number of chicks and young chickens on farms May 1, 1945 was 2 percent below May 1, 1944. But a

late hatch will probably result in a larger number of pullets on farms January 1946 than on January 1, 1945, slightly more than offsetting the prospective reduction in the number of hens.

Egg production during April was 5 percent below April 1944, but otherwise was the highest on record for the month. An all-time high in the rate of lay--17.7 eggs per average layer--partly offset the 10 percent decrease in the number of layers. The average price received by farmers for eggs in mid-April was 33 cents per dozen, 6 cents above last year. Higher egg prices and somewhat lower feed prices compared with last year resulted in a favorable egg-feed price ratio. At 11.5, the April egg-feed price ratio was 13 percent above the 1934-43 April average.

An unusual situation existed during early May, the flush production season. Up-grading of eggs was taking place in many markets. This was a reflection of the record rate of civilian egg consumption (partly as a result of the scarcity of meats), large army procurements, and a strong demand for storage for later use.

Demand for poultry continues to be unusually strong. The margin between demand and supply recently has widened. WFA reports above-ceiling quotations for live poultry in some wholesale markets, with prices ranging from 30 to 50 percent higher than ceilings. Per capita consumption of poultry in 1945 will be about 20 pounds, 2 pounds more than the 1935-39 average but 3 pounds below the 1944 consumption, and 8 pounds less than the previous record in 1943. Consumption of poultry in large northeastern metropolitan areas is running below the national average, as a result of heavy Government procurement in the Del-Mar-Va Peninsula and the Shenandoah Valley, important sources of poultry supplies for northeastern cities.

-- May 21, 1945

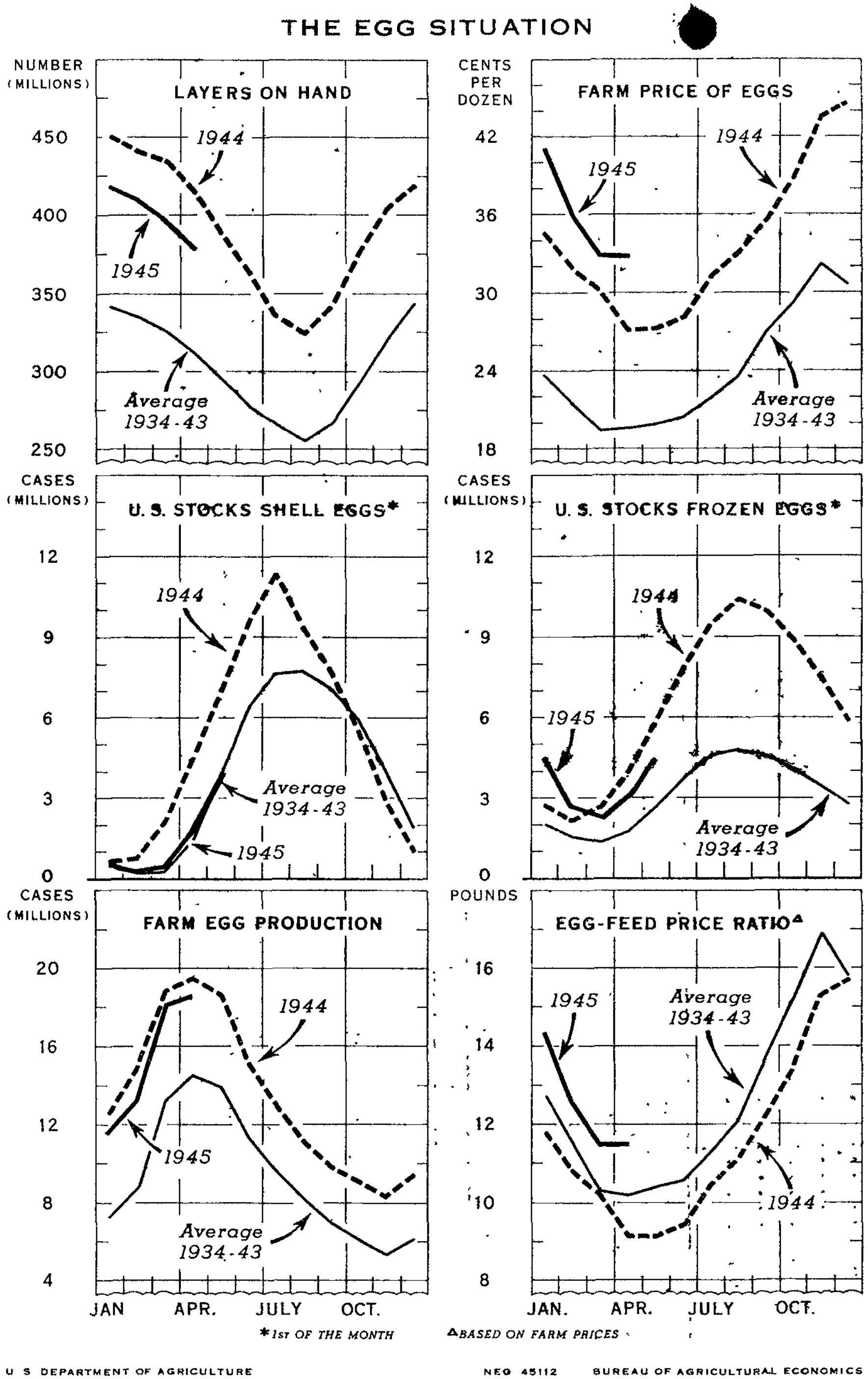


FIGURE 1

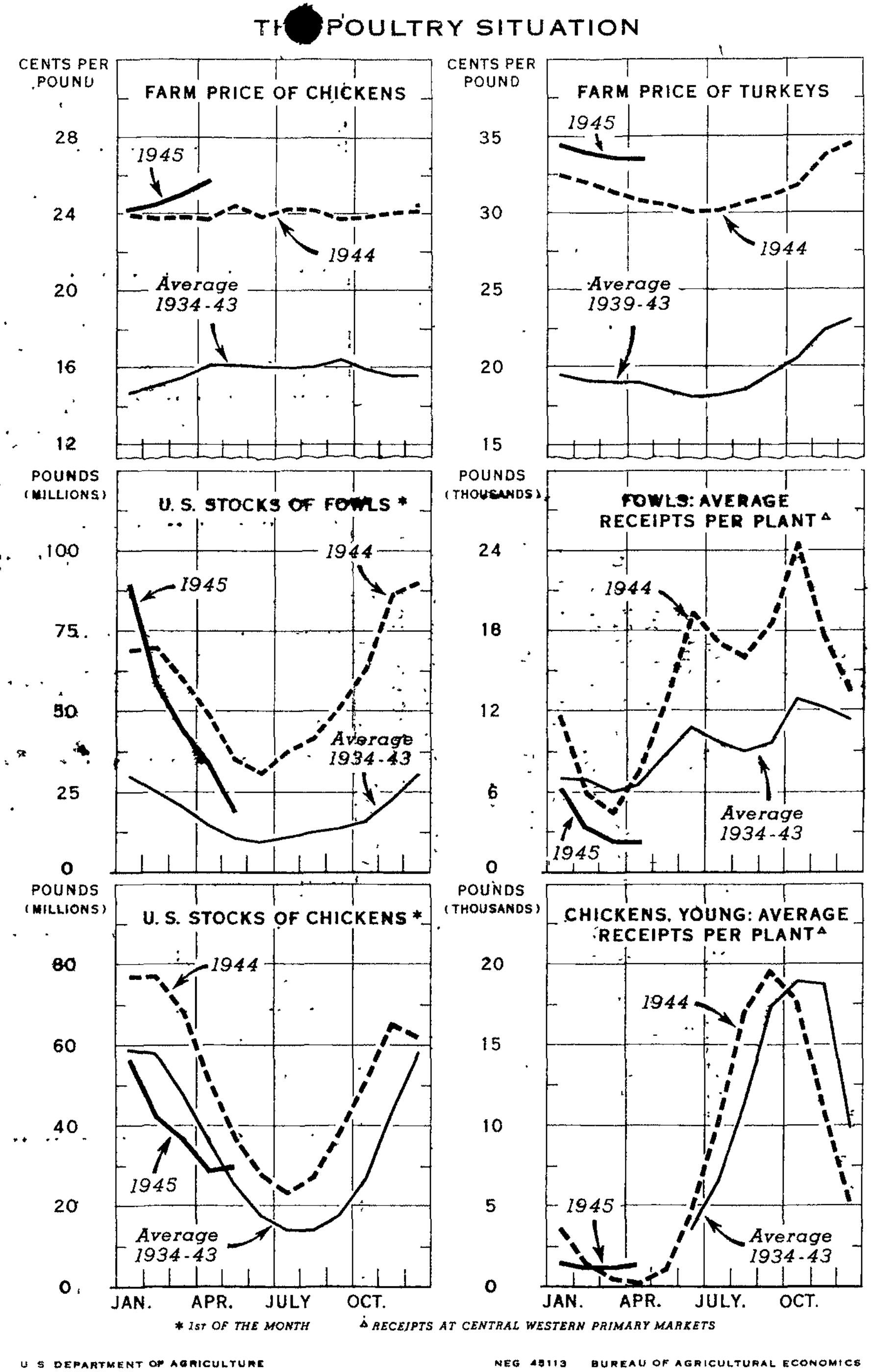


FIGURE 2

OUTLOOK

BACKGROUND: Prior to the war the principal outlet for eggs was the civilian market. About 4 percent of total production was used for hatching. Wartime conditions brought large exports and also large military requirements. In 1942, 1943, and 1944, exports, including lend-lease shipments, accounted for 10 to 15 percent of total egg production. Military takings accounted for 8 to 9 percent of production in 1943 and 1944.

Table 1.- Eggs: Supply and disposition in the United States, 1935-39 average and 1940-44
(Shell egg equivalent)

Period and year	Total egg production 1/	Stocks at beginning of year 2/	Imports 3/	Commercial exports 3/	Eggs used for hatching 4/	Stocks at end of year 2/	Military procurement and WFA lend-lease shipments	Civilian consumption: Total	Civilian consumption: Per capita
	Mil. doz.	Mil. doz.	Mil. doz.	Mil. doz.	Mil. doz.	Mil. doz.	Mil. doz.	Mil. doz.	No. of eggs
1935-39 av.	3,335	78	18	2	126	78	--	3,225	298
1940	3,629	74	7	5	125	77	--	3,503	316
1941	3,828	77	15	12	147	124	203	3,434	311
1942	4,430	124	3	13	168	310	634	3,432	311
1943	4,972	310	1	19	203	308	1,021	3,732	345
1944	5,305	308	1	19	176	460	1,175	3,784	351

1/ Includes nonfarm production estimated at 10 percent of farm production.
2/ Since 1941, includes estimated WFA stocks of dried and shell eggs.
3/ Estimated from the total number of chickens raised in the United States and the average number of eggs required per bird raised.

Strong Demand for Eggs in Prospect for Remainder of 1945

For the remainder of 1945, the demand for eggs probably will continue strong, reflecting (1) continuation of a high level of consumer income, (2) scarcity of red meat, (3) large military requirements.

Civilian demand for eggs is closely associated with consumer incomes. Some reduction in consumer incomes may occur during 1945, but the decline probably will not change the demand for eggs materially.

The scarcity of meat has contributed to the current strong demand for eggs. For example, during the first quarter of 1944 when both meat and egg supplies were large, egg consumption per person was only about 90 eggs. In the first quarter of 1945, when meat supplies were reduced and egg prices were increased, consumption amounted to 100 to 105 eggs per capita. Civilian consumption of meat during 1945 is expected to be in the neighborhood of 120 to 125 pounds per capita (wholesale dressed weight) compared with 150 pounds in 1944 and the 1935-39 average of 126 pounds.

WFA procurement of dried eggs thus far this year has been the smallest since purchase programs were inaugurated. No dried eggs were purchased during the 2 weeks ended May 19. This is the first time during the flush production season in over 3 years that WFA made no purchases of dried eggs.

Table 2.- Purchases through May 19, 1945, of dried whole egg by the War Food 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	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	9.8	10.6	3.6	0.5							

In order to make eggs more freely available to civilians and the Armed Forces, WFA further reduced the top paying price for dried eggs by 3 cents per pound, effective May 14. This was in addition to the 3 cent reduction effective April 1. The top paying price for the period May and June delivered New York City is $1.06 per pound compared with the $1.12 ceiling price, and the $1.15 purchase price during the same months of 1943 and 1944.

Despite the reduction in WFA procurements, supplies of eggs available to civilians probably will be far short of the demand at ceiling prices for the remainder of 1945. The decline in WFA purchases probably will about offset the moderate reduction in egg production from 1944 and the smaller commercial storage stocks. About as many eggs will be available to civilians and the military in the second half of 1945 as in the second half of 1944.

Prices of Eggs May Decline in 1946

Civilian demand for eggs during the first quarter of 1946 may be nearly as strong as in the first quarter of 1945. Production of eggs will be slightly less than in the first quarter this year, reflecting a delayed hatch in 1945 and a smaller number of hens on farms January 1 next year than this. Prices received by farmers for eggs probably will be about the same as in the first quarter of 1945.

Demand and prices for eggs may decline after the first quarter of 1946, depending largely on the level of consumer income and the availability of meats. Civilian meat supplies are likely to continue relatively small in the first part of 1946, but the meat-supply position probably will improve during the year. A considerable increase in the fall pig crop is expected in 1945, which would result in increased hog marketings, compared with those of this year, beginning in the spring of 1946. With large numbers of men in military service, military requirements for eggs probably will continue relatively large during most of 1946. On the other hand, exports of eggs may decline as feed supplies and egg production are increased in Europe. Reports from Britain indicate that egg producers during the coming months will receive larger allocations of feeds than heretofore.

Egg production for 1946 as a whole probably will total about the same as in 1945. First-quarter output will be smaller, but in succeeding quarters output will be equal to or greater than in corresponding periods of 1945. Present indications are that the number of chickens raised in 1945 will be slightly larger than in 1944.

<u>January 1, 1946, Laying Flocks Expected to be About the Same as on January 1, 1945</u>

From January 1, 1945, through April 1945, the percentage decline in the average number of layers and potential layers on farms was about average, and the same as in the corresponding period of 1944. The average number of layers on farms during April was 378 million birds, 91 million less than the January 1 number of hens and pullets, a decline of 19 percent. In 1944, during the same period, there was a reduction of 100 million layers and potential layers--19 percent--while in the 1940-44 period there was an average decrease of 20 percent from January 1, through April. Reports indicate however, that because of high prices obtained for poultry, there has been some liquidation of laying flocks in the North Atlantic States where the poultry-meat shortage is acute. The number of layers and potential layers in the North Atlantic area decreased 27 percent from January 1 through April, compared with a usual decline of about 20 percent.

Although laying flocks during 1945 may decline more than in 1944 because of high poultry prices, a larger number of young chickens for replacement purposes probably will be available. This will offset the decline in the average number of layers, so that the number of hens and pullets on farms January 1, 1946, will probably be about the same as on January 1, 1945, or slightly larger. On May 1, 1945, chicks and young chickens on farms from this year's hatch numbered 457 million birds, 2 percent fewer than on May 1, 1944. However, last year, from May 1 through June 30, the number of young chickens on farms increased 118 million head, compared with the usual increase of about 200 million head. The number of eggs set in April was 15 percent larger than in April 1944, and orders for baby chicks as of May 1 were 131 percent above those of last year. This year, because of relatively high egg prices and a favorable egg-feed price ratio, a late hatch probably will occur, similar to that in 1943. During June and July 1943, commercial hatching operations were 17 percent of the total for the year. Usually (1935-39 average) about 11 percent of the total hatch takes place during June and July.

Commercial hatchery operations during April were 9 percent above April 1944. Hatchings this year were off to a late start. In February and March, commercial hatchings were 16 and 8 percent below the same months of the previous year. However, with the improved demand outlook and higher prices for eggs, hatching operations gained impetus and are above last year's level.

Large increases in hatching this April compared with last occurred in the New England and Atlantic States, where a large proportion of chicks hatched are used for commercial broiler production. However, the East North Central States in April, for the first time this year, showed an increase in hatchings (11 percent) compared with last year. Hatchings were about the same as last year in the West North Central States. Hatching operations in the North Central area are primarily for flock replacement purposes, and large increase compared with last year probably will occur during the next 2 months.

Present indications are that feed supplies for the coming feed year will be ample. Based on farmers' intentions as of March 1, the output of the 4 principal feed grains--corn, oats, barley, and sorghum grains--will probably be at near record levels. The carry-over of feed grains will be relatively large this year. Supplies of feed grain per grain-consuming animal unit for the 1945-46 feeding year, if average yields are obtained, will probably be near the 1942-43 record. Egg prices during the latter half of 1945 are expected to be above those of a year earlier, and prices paid for feed slightly lower, if grain crops are as large as now seems likely. The egg-feed price ratio thus would continue favorable to a high level of egg production.

RECENT DEVELOPMENTS

Rate of Lay at All-Time High

The April 1945 rate of lay--17.7 eggs per average layer--was the highest ever reported for any month. The seasonal peak in the rate of lay is usually reached in May. The April rate of lay this year was 5 percent above a year earlier, and exceeded the previous record in April 1943 by 4 percent. High returns, ample feed supplies, and an extremely warm and early spring were probably important factors in this record rate of lay. Also this year, with 10 percent fewer layers on farms, there is less crowding in houses than there was a year ago. There has probably been a steady improvement in type of bird raised in recent years, primarily because of the influence of the National Poultry Improvement Plan, introduced in 1935. There was a steady increase in the rate of lay, from 121 eggs per average layer in 1936 to 144 eggs in 1942. In 1943, the rate declined slightly, to 143 eggs, but in 1944 it reached a record of 147 eggs per average layer.

There has also been a flattening out of the seasonality of the rate of lay. In the late 1920's, the November rate was about 1/4 of the May peak. In the 1940's, the November rate has been about 2/5 of the peak rate reached in May. Hens and pullets are laying a larger proportion of the eggs in the fall than they did in the early 1920's.

Table 3.-Average number of eggs produced per layer, United States, 1935-45

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	12.1	15.6	16.8	17.2	15.0	13.8	12.4	10.3	8.8	7.4	8.1	147.5
1945	9.9	11.7	16.5	17.7									

Egg production during April--556 million dozen--was 5 percent less than April 1944, but otherwise the highest April on record. The number of layers on farms was 10 percent smaller than in April 1944, but the record rate of lay was an offsetting factor.

Demand for Eggs Strong

A very unusual situation has arisen with respect to the demand for eggs for this time of the year--the flush production season. Indications are that the supply available has not been sufficient to meet the demand at ceiling prices. Recent reports indicate that upgrading is taking place at many markets. WFA has discontinued reporting quotations for current receipts, because trading in that grade no longer is taking place. Many stores in large metropolitan centers especially in the Northeast have not had sufficient eggs to satisfy all customers, and have either sold out early in the day, or were rationing sales.

Besides a strong civilian demand, Army requirements are large and thus far have not been completely filled. Priorities on shell and frozen eggs were instituted during April to aid in satisfying the needs of the armed forces.

There has also been a very strong demand for eggs for storing purposes, since commercial storage stocks are far below average. An indication of the present strong storage demand is the quotation for October egg futures, which, as of May 21, was 44.85 cents, only 0.35 cent below the ceiling price.

Prices received by farmers for eggs in mid-April averaged 33 cents per dozen, the same as in the previous month but 6 cents above that of April 15, 1944. The April 15, 1945, price received by farmers was 106 percent of parity. With egg prices significantly higher than last year and feed prices slightly lower, the egg-feed price ratio was very favorable for egg producers. At 11.5, the egg-feed price ratio was 26 percent above a year earlier and 13 percent above the 1934-43 average for mid-April.

Commercial Stocks of Shell Eggs Far Below Average

Reflecting strong current demands for immediate consumption, the total into-storage movement of shell and frozen eggs of 3.3 million cases during April was about 40 percent below April last year. Total stocks of shell and frozen eggs on May 1 were the equivalent of 8.3 million cases, far below last year's record May 1 holdings of 12.8 million cases, but slightly above the 5-year (1937-41) average for May 1. However, a good portion of this year's holdings--about 15 to 20 percent--were Government owned. Shell egg stocks totaled 3.8 million cases, of which one million cases were Government owned, primarily by the armed forces. In the 1937-41 period, commercially-owned stocks on May 1 averaged about 3-1/2 million cases.

Since May 1, the rate of into-storage movement has declined significantly. Into-storage movement of shell eggs in the 35 markets during early May was about 1/2 of the pre-war average, and about 4/5 of last year. Frozen-eggs inputs for the first 3 weeks in May were running behind last year's levels. Stocks of dried eggs during April declined approximately 20 million pounds. This was due to large lend-lease shipments of dried eggs.

Table 4.- Eggs: Storage stocks in the United States, and net into-storage movement at 35 markets, selected dates

Year	United States stocks 1/		Into-storage movement in 35 markets (week ended as of 1945)			
			May			
	April 1	May 1	5	12	19	26
	1,000 cases	1,000 cases	1,000 cases	1,000 cases	1,000 cases	1,000 cases
Shell:						
Av. 1937-41	1,153	3,468	493	486	462	399
1944	4,453	6,963	299	327	347	225
1945	1,784	3,829	334	232	234	
Frozen:						
Av. 1937-41	1,694	2,517	132	138	148	132
1944	3,962	5,814	287	296	290	262
1945	3,062	4,496	303	180	255	
Dried:						
1944	6,748	7,049				
1945	9,996	7,792				

1/ Government holdings included in 1944 and 1945. 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.

Above Ceiling Prices Quoted for Poultry

Recently, the margin between demand and supply for poultry meat has become very wide. WFA market reporters are quoting above ceiling wholesale prices for live poultry at New York City. Favorable consumer income, large military requirements, and scarcity of meat are the important factors contributing to the strong demand.

Although poultry meat supplies are far short of demand, civilians during 1945 probably will receive an average of 20 pounds per capita, 2 pounds above the 1935-39 average, but 3.5 pounds below the estimated 1944 disappearance and about 8 pounds less than the record 1943 consumption. Civilians in the large metropolitan areas, especially in the Northeast, will probably receive significantly smaller quantities than the average for the United States.

Large sources of supplies for the northeastern metropolitan centers of New York, Philadelphia, and Boston are the commercial broiler producing areas of the Del-Mar-Va Peninsula and the Shenandoah Valley of Virginia and West Virginia. War Food Order 119 virtually prohibits the sale of broilers produced in those areas, except to governmental agencies. In 1944, New York received about 36 percent of live poultry receipts from the Del-Mar-Va Peninsula and the Shenandoah Valley and Philadelphia received 79 percent of its receipts from those areas. In addition to the above mentioned areas, War Food Order 119 has been applied to the important commercial broiler producing centers in Georgia, Oklahoma, Missouri, Arkansas. The order was further extended, effective May 14, to 10 important producing counties in North Carolina. The States in which the order is operative at present produced about 65 percent of the total 1944 commercial broiler output.

Prices received by farmers for chickens in mid-April were 25.7 cents per pound and were the second highest ever reported for that month, being exceeded only in mid-April 1920. The supply of poultry meat, although now increasing seasonally, is below last year. Receipts from the midwest primary markets during May were running about 70 percent behind those of last year.

Commercial cold storage stocks of poultry on May 1, 1945, except for May 1, 1943, were at the lowest levels reported since 1921. Total stocks of frozen poultry (excluding turkeys, ducks, geese and other types of poultry) were 118 million pounds. Of this quantity, 76 million pounds were Government-owned, so that only 41 million pounds were commercial stocks.

Table 5.- Poultry storage stocks: United States, April 1 and May 1, 1934-43 average, 1944-45

Month and year	Total	Government holdings	Non-government holdings
	1,000 pounds	1,000 pounds	1,000 pounds
Apr. 1, 1934-43 average	95,764	---	95,764
May 1, 1934-43 average	70,244	---	70,244
Apr. 1, 1944	168,478	---	1/168,478
May 1, 1944	130,044	---	1/130,044
Apr. 1, 1945	141,708	82,671	59,037
May 1, 1945	117,668	76,217	41,451

1/ Includes Government holdings, for which data are not available.