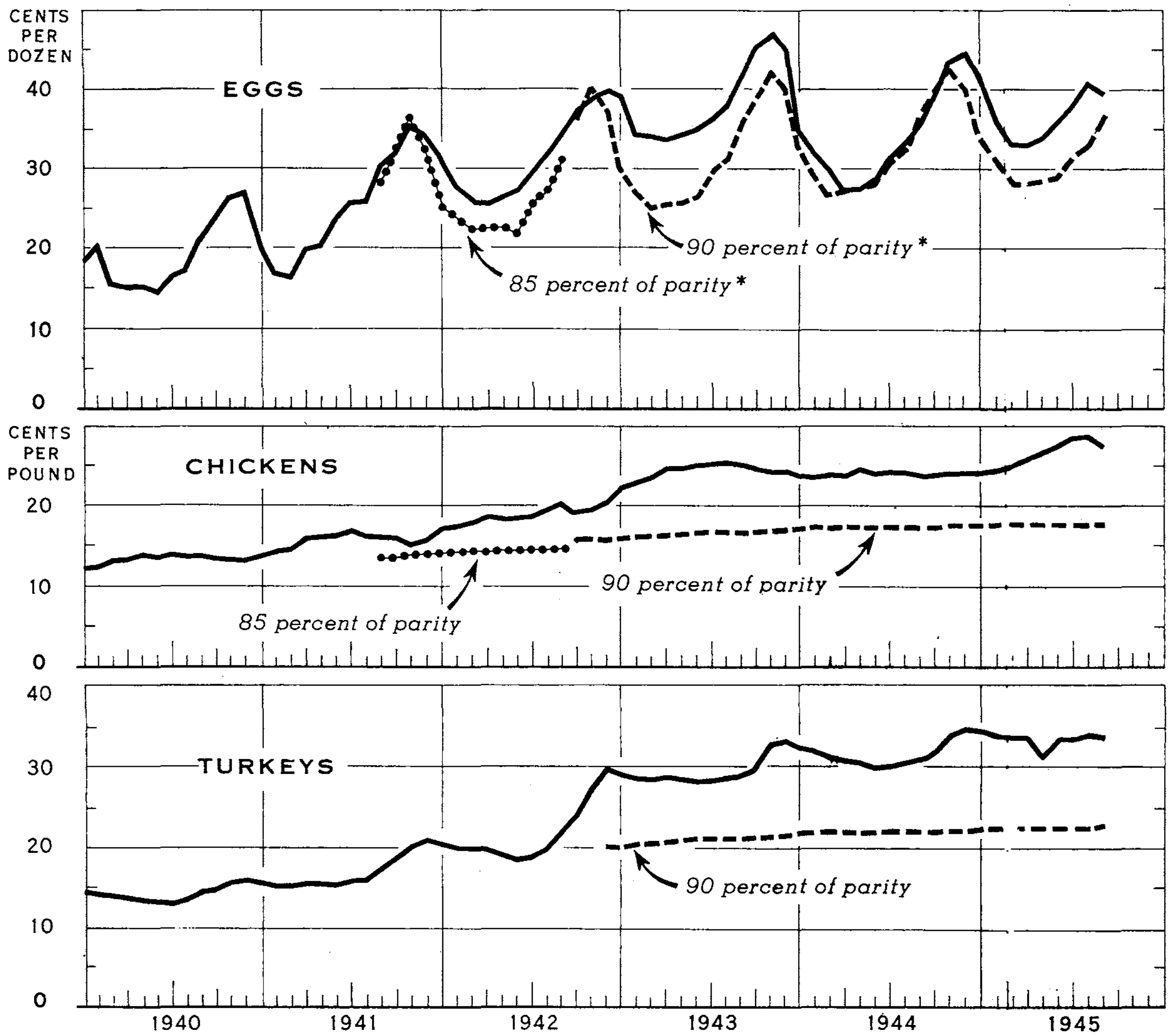
1946 OUTLOOK ISSUE

THE Poultry and Egg SITUATION

BUREAU OF AGRICULTURAL ECONOMICS
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

PES - 105 BAE OCTOBER 1945

PRICES RECEIVED BY FARMERS FOR EGGS, CHICKENS, AND TURKEYS, UNITED STATES, 1940-45, AND PRICES AT 85 PERCENT AND 90 PERCENT OF PARITY FOR SELECTED PERIODS



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Prices received by farmers in 1946 for poultry products are expected to decline from the near-record levels achieved in 1945, because of increased meat supplies, smaller non-civilian takings of poultry products, and reduced consumer purchasing power. Price declines probably will be material for eggs but moderate for chickens and turkeys.

Under the Steagall amendment to the Price Stabilization Act, eggs, chickens (except broilers), and turkeys must be supported at not less than 90 percent of parity during 1946 and 1947.

The Poultry and Egg Situation at a Glance

Item	Unit	Month	Average 1934-43	1944	1945	Comments about 1945
			Eggs			
Farm production	Million dozen	Sept.	208.5	294.7	285.2	Second highest on record.
Average number of layers on farms	Million	"	267.4	342.2	322.1	Increase from August equal to last year, but above average.
Rate of lay per hen	Number	"	9.3	10.3	10.6	A record for the seventh consecutive month.
Apparent civilian per capita consumption	Number	"	24	27	29	Continues at a high level.
Farm price	Cents per dozen	"	26.9	35.5	39.6	Contraseasonal decline from August of 1.2 cents
Farm price as percentage of parity	Percent	"	82	88	98	
Retail price (B.A.E.)	Cents per dozen	Aug.	32.0	49.1	53.3	
Egg-feed ratio	Pounds feed	Sept.	13.7	12.2	13.5	
Stocks: 1/						
Shell	1,000 cases	"	5,915	5,427	3,763	Lowest ever reported. Commercial stocks only 2.8 million cases.
Frozen	1,000 cases	"	4,078	8,868	5,416	Withdrawals are averaging below normal.
Dried	Million pounds	"	---	100.9	19.9	
Chicks hatched	Million	"	18.6	24.4	47.0	A record!
Potential layers on farms 1/	Million	"	467.5	572.7	582.9	Based on past relationships, hens and pullets on farms January 1, 1946 will be slightly larger than on January 1, 1945.
Hens 1 year old or older	Million	"	181.5	227.8	213.4	
Pullets	Million	"	286.1	344.9	369.5	
Farm price of laying mash	Dollars per cwt.	"	2.66	3.62	3.62	
			Poultry			
Farm price, chicken	Cents per pound	Sept.	16.4	23.7	27.5	Declined 1.1 cents per pound from August all-time peak.
Farm price as percentage of parity	Percent	"	106	122	139	
Retail price, chicken (BAE)	Cents per pound	Aug.	31.2	40.2	42.9	
Farm price, turkeys	Cents per pound	Sept.	2/19.6	31.1	33.6	
Farm price as percentage of parity	Percent	"	97	127	134	
Stocks: 1/						
Poultry, excluding turkey	Million pounds	"	75.1	165.6	130.7	Large portion Government-owned. Commercial stocks about average.
Turkeys	Million pounds	"	7.6	22.3	25.7	
Chicken-feed ratio	Pounds feed	"	8.4	8.1	9.4	Continues favorable to producers of chicken and turkey.
Turkey-feed ratio	Pounds feed	"	8.7	10.7	11.5	
Receipts of poultry at Central Western Primary Markets, per plant	Thousand pounds	"	27.4	38.6	38.9	

1/ End of month. 2/ Average is for 1939-43.

THE POULTRY AND EGG SITUATION

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SUMMARY

Over-all demand for poultry products in 1946 will decline from the high levels reached in 1945. This will be due to increased supplies of meat for civilians, smaller non-civilian takings of poultry products, and reductions in consumer income. Prices received by farmers for eggs will decline materially and may be near support levels during most of the year; the extent of the decline will depend in large part on export demand. Prices received for chickens and turkeys, on the other hand, probably will be only moderately below the all-time peaks reached in 1945, as the supply of poultry meat will be somewhat less plentiful than eggs, in relation to demand.

There will be at least as many hens and pullets on farms January 1, 1946 as a year earlier, on the basis of past relationships between the number of potential layers on hand in the early fall and the number on January 1 following. Farm egg production during the first half of 1946 is likely to be approximately the same as in the corresponding period of 1945, but egg production in the second half of the year probably will be smaller than a year earlier, reflecting heavier culling of layers and a reduction in the number of chickens raised.

With lower egg prices in prospect next winter and spring, 10 to 20 percent fewer chickens will be raised in 1946 than in 1945. However, a substantial reduction in the number of layers and potential layers from farm flocks could result in total farm chicken meat output not much different from that in 1945. Commercial broiler production probably will decline in 1946, largely as a result of reduced military requirements. On the other hand, turkey prices are likely to continue high, and the number of turkeys raised in 1946 may be nearly the same as the record number raised in 1945.

Increased consumption of poultry meat over prewar levels is in prospect, so long as consumer income remains substantially above prewar. Other factors leading to gains in poultry-meat consumption include improvement in packaging and other marketing methods, and more efficient techniques in broiler production. The long-time trend in broiler output is likely to continue upward, although at a decreasing rate.

Since the end of the war in mid-August, egg prices have fluctuated widely. Prices received by farmers showed a contraseasonal decline of 1.2 cents per dozen from mid-August to mid-September. Since mid-September, however, under the impetus of a well-maintained civilian consumption, markets have strengthened and, except for the lower grades, eggs are at ceiling levels. Prices of chickens, especially light weight and lower-quality birds, have declined and are moderately below ceilings.

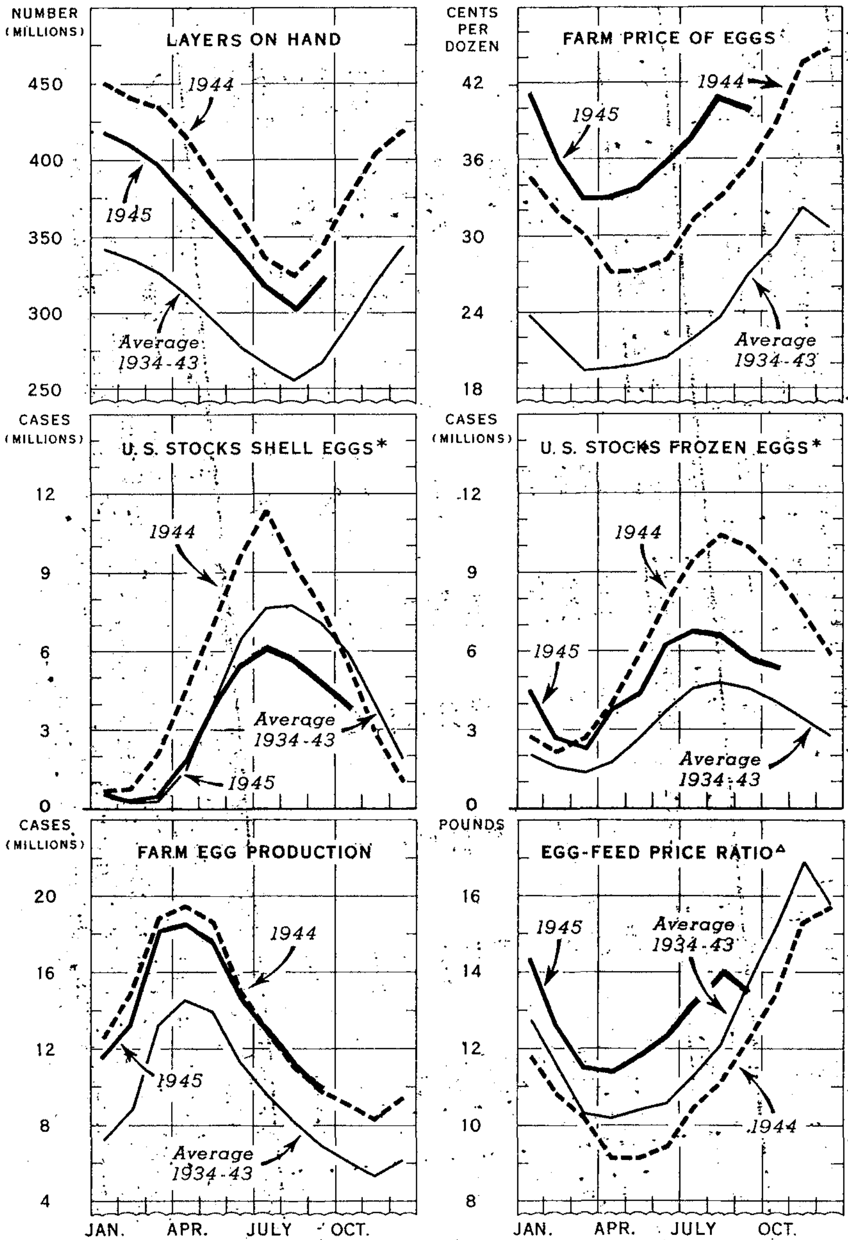
-- October 22, 1945

Outlook for 1946

Demand for Eggs to Weaken in 1946; Prices Probably Near Support Levels

Prices received by farmers for eggs will decline more than seasonally during the first part of 1946, and may be at or near support levels during most of the year. Egg production is likely to be slightly smaller than in 1945. But if noncivilian takings are reduced by half, there will be nearly as many eggs available to civilians, per capita, as in 1945 when consumption has been at an all-time record rate. The civilian demand for eggs per capita will be materially less in 1946 than in 1945. With reduced incomes, consumer expenditures for food may be 5 to 10 percent smaller. Moreover, supplies of

THE EGG SITUATION



*1st OF THE MONTH △BASED ON FARM PRICES

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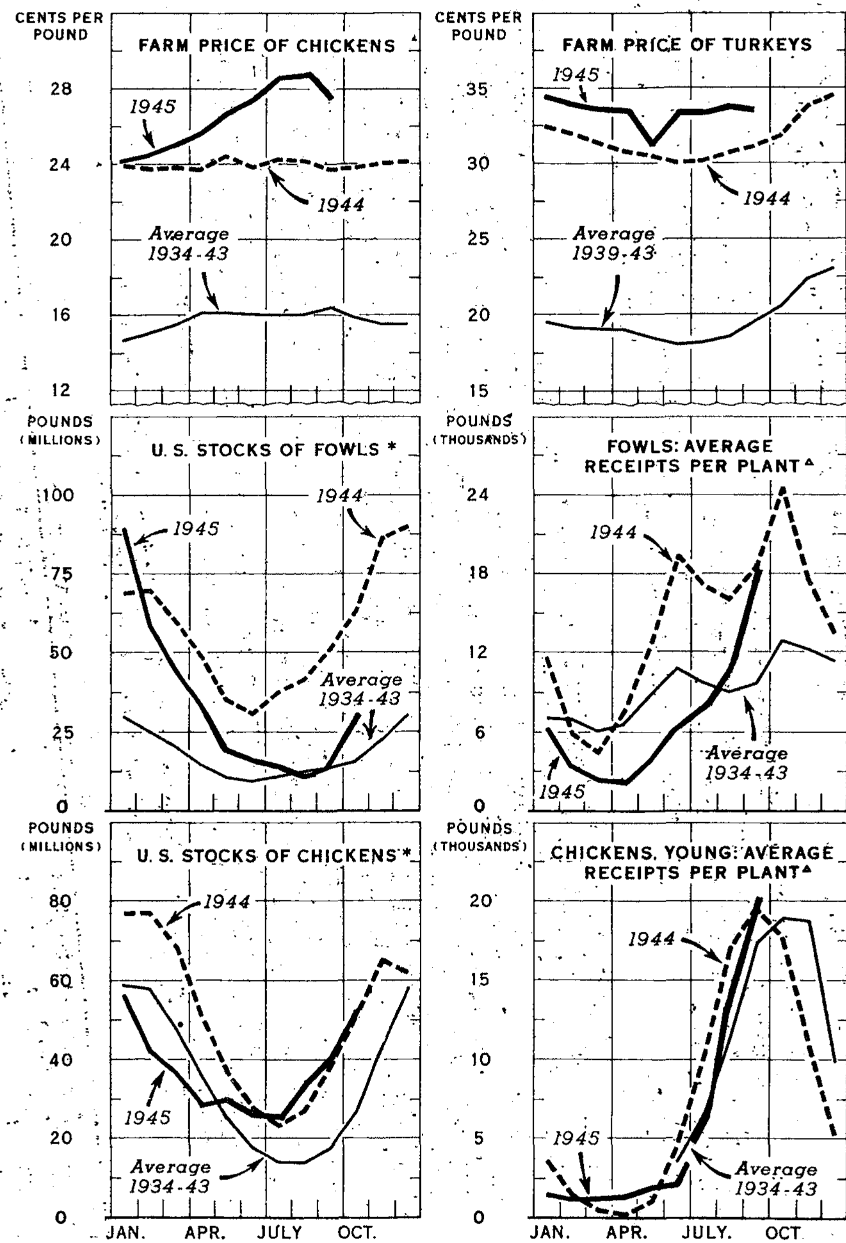
FIGURE 1

THE POULTRY SITUATION



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

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FIGURE 2

red meat will be about in balance with demand next year. This will result in reduced civilian requirements for eggs. During the past 2 years, eggs have been used fairly extensively to supplement other protein foods in short supply, principally meat.

The reduction in military procurement of eggs in 1946 will not result in an equivalent reduction in over-all demand, since demobilized military personnel will add to civilian requirements. Military procurement per capita, however, has been more than a third greater than civilian consumption per capita.

The major change in noncivilian demand probably will occur in exports. Exports of eggs, mostly in the form of dried eggs, have averaged about 550 million dozen annually (more than 10 percent of the total supply) in the past 4 years. Almost all of these exports have gone out under lend-lease. Some increases in egg production are now taking place in Europe, but it will be at least a year before European production will be restored to normal levels. A substantial need for imports of eggs into Europe will exist in 1946. However, the volume of imports from the United States will depend on the arrangement of satisfactory financing and on the relative importance to Europeans of the various commodities to be imported. The United States supply of and demand for eggs at support prices probably would be about in balance in 1946 if 400 million to 600 million dozen eggs were exported.

Table 1. - Eggs: Supply and disposition in the United States, 1935-39 average, 1940-45

(Shell egg equivalent)

Period and year	Total egg production 1/	Stocks at beginning of year 2/	Imports	Commercial exports	Eggs used for hatching 3/	Stocks at end of year 2/	Lend-lease shipments	Military procurement	Civilian consumption: Total	Civilian consumption: Per capita
	Mil. doz.	Mil. doz.	Mil. doz.	Mil. doz.	Mil. doz.	Mil. doz.	Mil. doz.	Mil. doz.	Mil. doz.	No. of eggs
1925-29 av.	~~3,124~~	69	48	23	144	72			3,313	334
1930-34 av.	~~3,064~~ 33%	84	19	2	136	86			3,248	311
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	141	62	3,434	311
1942	4,430	124	3	13	168	310	416	218	3,432	311
1943	4,972	310	1	17	203	308	637	388	3,732	345
1944	5,305	308	1	19	176	460	674	497	3,784	351
1945 4/	5,050	460			200	Less	Less	About Same		About 390

Complete data for 1945 cannot be published. All data for 1942-45 are preliminary.

1/ Includes nonfarm production estimated at 10 percent of farm production.

2/ Since 1941, includes estimated USDA stocks of dried, frozen, 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.

4/ Preliminary indications, October 15, 1945.

In 1947, egg consumption, with prices at 90 percent of parity and assuming a fairly high level of national income and sufficient meat supplies, probably will be significantly below the 1945 level of 390 eggs per capita, but materially above the prewar average of about 300 eggs per capita. Production would have to be reduced to about 360 eggs per capita in 1947, if supply and civilian demand at support prices are to reach a reasonable balance in that year.

Price Supports for Eggs Under the Steagall Amendment

Since prices received by farmers for eggs probably will be close to support levels next spring, price-supporting commitments under the Steagall Amendment will become increasingly important. Under sections 8 and 9 of the Stabilization Act approved October 2, 1942, prices of so-called Steagall commodities are to be supported at not less than 90 percent of parity (or in the case of feed crops, 85 percent) until 2 years after the January 1 following the date upon which Congress or the President shall proclaim hostilities to have ended. Among the Steagall commodities are eggs, chickens (excluding broilers), and turkeys.

Parity prices for eggs are computed as follows: The average price received by farmers during the base period (Aug. 1909-July 1914), 21.5 cents per dozen, is multiplied by the current monthly index number of prices paid by farmers including interest and taxes (1910-14 = 100), and divided by 100. For 1945-46, the monthly index numbers used in making adjustments for seasonal variation are those published in the July issue of *Agricultural Prices*, and are as follows:

1945						1946					
July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	June
94	98	108	116	125	123	102	93	85	84	85	87

The present annual parity price for eggs is 37.2 cents ($21.5 \times \frac{173}{100} = 37.2$). The parity price in mid-September, with seasonal adjustment, was 40.4 cents per dozen. This parity price applies to the average of all grades and weights of eggs sold by farmers in the United States. It should be noted, however, that differentials exist for the various grades and weights of eggs and for markets. Prices in the surplus-producing areas, of course, are lower than the national average. (See Table 2.)

Egg Production in 1946 to be Nearly as Large as in 1945

Assuming little change in the rate of lay, egg production during the first half of 1946 would be about the same as in the first half of 1945. But with weakening in demand and sharp declines in prices during the first half of the year, heavier-than-usual culling of flocks probably will occur. For the second half of 1946, egg production probably will be below the same period in 1945.

Preliminary estimates of the number of chickens raised in 1945 indicate an output of 821 million birds, 10 percent above 1944. The number of potential layers on farms October 1, 1945 was 583 million, slightly above the previous October 1. Based on past relationships, the number of potential layers on farms at the beginning of 1946 would be about the same as or slightly larger than on January 1, 1945.

Table 2. - Eggs: Average prices received by farmers, parity price, and farm price as percentage of parity price, 1930-45

Year	Farm price	Parity price	Farm price as percentage of parity	Year	Farm price	Parity price	Farm price as percentage of parity
	Cents	Cents	Percent		Cents	Cents	Percent
1930	25.1	34.4	73	1939	18.4	26.7	69
1931	18.6	30.3	61	1940	19.1	26.9	71
1932	16.0	26.7	60	1941	25.0	28.4	88
1933	15.3	25.8	59	1942	31.4	32.2	98
1934	18.4	27.7	66	1943	38.7	34.8	111
1935	24.1	28.0	86	1944	33.4	36.5	92
1936	23.0	27.3	84	1945 1/	38.0	37.0	103
1937	21.7	28.6	76				
1938	21.3	27.1	79				

1/ Preliminary indications.

1946 Chicken-Meat Production Likely to be Little Changed from 1945 Prices to Decline.

Demand for chicken meat is expected to remain fairly strong in the first part of 1946, in spite of some improvement in the over-all meat supply and substantial reduction in procurement of chicken by the armed forces. With consumer incomes remaining at a fairly high level, though declining, civilian demand for poultry meat is not expected to decline greatly. Prices received by farmers will decline from the all-time peaks reached in 1945, but such declines probably will not be substantial before the latter half of 1946, when sharp declines may occur.

The number of chickens raised in any year is determined to a large extent by the price situation for eggs and for feed, as reflected in the egg-feed price relationship, especially during the late winter and early spring. Because of a weakening in demand, prices received by farmers for eggs during the 1946 hatching season will be below those of a year earlier. Feed prices probably will not be greatly changed. The egg-feed price ratio will be distinctly less favorable to egg producers than in 1945. Hence, the number of chickens raised during 1946 may be 10 to 20 percent smaller than in 1945.

For 1945, it is tentatively indicated that about 2,500 million pounds of chicken meat (dressed-weight basis) from farm flocks will be available. This would compare with 2,589 million pounds in 1944 and the 1935-39 average of 1,952 million pounds. The quantity of chicken meat available from chickens raised on farms in 1946 will be substantially less than in 1945. However, during the latter part of 1946, heavy liquidation of layers and potential layers from flocks probably will occur. This may nearly offset the decrease in the quantity of chicken meat available from the chickens raised.

Commercial broiler production in 1946 probably will decline from the unprecedented levels reached this year. Tentative indications are that output in 1945 will reach 825 million pounds (dressed weight), about one-third above 1944. A large portion, 25 to 35 percent, of this year's commercial broiler production was used by the armed forces.

Total output of chicken meat in 1946 is expected to be moderately below 1945. Civilian consumption of chicken per capita in 1946 would be somewhat smaller than in 1945, when close to 25 pounds will be taken, but not greatly different from the consumption of 23.6 pounds per capita in 1944. The 1935-39 average was 17.9 pounds per capita.

Demand for chicken meat after 1946 is expected to be considerably stronger than in 1935-39, as consumer income probably will be substantially higher than prewar. Besides the effect of higher incomes, changes in the marketing of chicken meat may bring about higher per capita consumption. Per capita consumption of chicken probably will remain well above the prewar level of about 18 pounds.

Increased demand for poultry meat would bring about an increase in production of poultry, mainly in commercial broilers. If production of eggs declines 10 to 20 percent from wartime levels by 1947, output of farm chicken meat also will decline. This would make necessary futher increases in commercial broiler production to provide the rest of the chicken meat demanded.

There were 3 developments in marketing of chicken meat which were retarded by the war. These were increased sales of chicken meat in retail channels in cut-up form, in eviscerated form, and as canned boned chicken. Many objections which consumers have had to purchasing dressed chicken (New York style) are overcome by marketing the poultry meat in cut-up or eviscerated form. Improvements in the distribution of frozen foods and further expansion in the use of freezers by retail stores will undoubtedly give impetus to increased sales of eviscerated and cut-up poultry. Canned boned chicken, although set aside largely for army use during the past 2 years, will probably show further increases in consumption by civilians.

Table 3.- Quantities of canned and eviscerated ~~chicken~~ poultry inspected by the United States Department of Agriculture, 1939-45

Fiscal year ending June 30	Certified for canning	Other than canning
	Millon pounds	Million pounds
1939	36.4	10.6
1940	49.4	23.0
1941	50.3	27.8
1942	73.8	41.3
1943	89.4	79.4
1944	94.7	83.9
1945	163.0	1/

1/ Not available.

Commercial broilers have accounted for an increasing proportion of total chicken meat output in recent years. In the early 1930's, less than 5 percent of the chicken meat produced came from commercial broilers. During the past decade, the percentage increased sharply. In 1945, commercial broilers will provide about 23 percent of the total chicken meat produced.

Table 4.- Production of commercial broilers, total chicken (farm and nonfarm) and production of commercial broilers as a percentage of total, 1934-45

Year	Commercial broilers 1/	Total chicken (farm and nonfarm)	Commercial broilers as a percentage of total
	Million pounds	Million pounds	Percent
1934	85	2,392	3.6
1935	108	2,297	4.7
1936	134	2,392	5.6
1937	172	2,272	7.6
1938	211	2,214	9.5
1939	261	2,449	10.7
1940	337	2,422	13.9
1941	445	2,642	16.8
1942	534	2,988	17.9
1943	648	3,806	17.0
1944	610	3,460	17.6
1945 2/	825	3,575	23.1

1/ Commercial broilers include all young chickens of the heavy or crossbreeds 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/ Tentative indication, October 1945.

Record Civilian Turkey Supplies to be Available in 1946

Production of turkey meat in 1946 is likely to be nearly as large as the record output in 1945. Civilian demand probably will continue relatively strong, despite some declines in consumer purchasing power. Prices may decline, but such declines are not expected to be material. For the past 2 years, civilian demand has exceeded supply by a wide margin. Reductions in military procurement, which took about one-fifth of the total output in 1944 and about one-tenth in 1945, will close this gap in 1946. Civilians may receive 4.5 to 5 pounds of turkey per capita in 1946, a new record supply. For 1945, turkey output is tentatively indicated at 650 million pounds (dressed-weight basis), about 20 percent above the 1944 production and 85 percent above the prewar (1935-39) average. The record 1945 output is a reflection of favorable returns for the past 3 years, ample feed supplies, and a strong demand from the armed forces. Turkey production has been on a steady upward trend since the 1930's.

Civilian consumption of turkey has also shown an upward trend, although restrained in 1943 and 1944 by large army procurement. The record output in 1945 probably will provide about 4.5 pounds of turkey meat per capita for civilians, compared with 3.3 pounds in 1943 and 1944, and an average of 2.6 pounds in the prewar period.

Processing of Eggs to Decline

The war years witnessed tremendous increases in the freezing and dehydrating of eggs. Under the impetus of large requirements for lend-lease, dried egg production increased more than 30-fold from prewar levels. In the 1930's dried egg production was less than 10 million pounds annually; in 1944 it reached 320 million pounds. Annual capacity for egg drying rose in the past 5 years, from 40 or 50 million pounds to approximately 400 million pounds.

Frozen egg production in 1944 was more than double the prewar average, with a subsequent large use of frozen eggs for drying in months of seasonally small egg production. In 1943 and 1944, almost one-half of the frozen egg produced was used in drying. In addition, especially in 1944 and 1945, large quantities of frozen eggs were utilized by the armed forces in many of their rations. In the years 1943-45, about 250 million pounds of frozen eggs were used annually by civilians. This high level of consumption was due to large increases in use by the bakery industry, which normally accounts for the major portion of the frozen eggs used in this country.

Dried egg production may continue large in 1946 but will decline sharply after 1946. Some increases in the domestic consumption of dried eggs from prewar levels may occur in prepared foods like flour mixes and pancake mixtures. Consumer acceptance of dried whole egg has not been favorable, and little, if any, direct consumption by housewives is expected. Consumption of dried eggs in the United States in the next few years may amount to 25 to 35 million pounds, most of which will be domestically produced. In earlier years, imports from China amounted to about 10 million pounds annually.

Decreases in egg processing, which will take place in coming years, will make it more difficult to find suitable outlets for low-quality eggs. Most of the eggs utilized in freezing and drying have been of lower grades, not greatly desired for consumption in shell form.

Table 5.- Frozen egg production, 1937-45

Year	Frozen egg production	Total shell egg equivalent
	Million pounds	Million cases
1937 1/	200	5.3
1938	116	3.1
1939	177	4.7
1940	190	5.1
1941	237	6.3
1942	258	6.9
1943	413	11.0
1944	512	13.7
1945 2/	375	10.0

1/ 1937 estimate from "Production of Frozen Eggs in 1937," Poultry Section, AAA. Estimates since 1937 are from BAE.
2/ Tentative indication.

Table 6.- Dried egg production, 1927-45

	Dried egg production		Dried egg production
	1,000 pounds		1,000 pounds
1927	556	1936	1,486
1928	218	1937	2,391
1929	202	1938	6,002
1930	489	1939	10,039
1931	553	1940	7,487
1932	2,286	1941	45,280
1933	3,796	1942	235,649
1934	4,300	1943	261,972
1935	3,000	1944	320,742
		1945 1/	115,000

1/ Tentative indication.

RECENT DEVELOPMENTS

Egg Prices Fluctuate Widely

Prices received by farmers in mid-September for eggs--39.6 cents per dozen--showed a contraseasonal decline of 1.2 cents from mid-August. This was largely a reflection of the cutbacks in Army procurement, especially dried eggs, and prospective increases in the civilian meat supply Especially pronounced were declines in the West North Central States, where the mid-September average farm price was 7 cents below that of mid-August. In other areas, however, prices increased, though much less than usual.

From August 15 to September 15, prices of better grades increased very slightly, but wholesale prices of lower grades, especially current receipts, declined contraseasonally about 2 cents per dozen. Since mid-September, because of a well-maintained civilian consumption, wholesale quotations have increased sharply, especially on the lower grade. From September 15 to October 20, current receipts at Chicago increased 10 cents per dozen and are now only 2 cents below ceilings. Quotations on extra grades have been at ceiling levels all this time.

Indications are that consumption of eggs, especially in the larger markets, is being well maintained. Retail sales in Chicago during September and October are running about 5 percent above last year. Receipts of the four terminal markets during the first half of October were about 4 percent ahead of corresponding period last year.

September Egg Production Only 3 Percent Below Last Year's Record

Egg production on farms during September totaled 285.2 million dozen, 3 percent below the previous September 1944 record, but 37 percent above the 1934-43 average. Although the average number of layers on farms was 6 percent below last year, a record rate of lay of 3 percent above last year kept egg production at only 3 percent below record. For the first 9 months of this year, farm egg production totaled 3,809 million dozen, 5 percent below the 1944 record, but 36 percent above the 10-year (1934-43) average.

Shell Egg Stocks Lowest on Record

The into-storage movement of shell eggs during the flush production season this year was far below normal, reflecting the strong current demand which existed at that time. Stocks reached a peak on July 1 but were 46 percent below the previous July 1, the lowest July 1 on record. The rate of withdrawals of shell eggs since July 1 has been above the prewar average, and stocks are well depleted. Commercial stocks of shell eggs on October 1 were only 2.8 million cases, the lowest for that date in 3 decades. Government-owned stocks are estimated at about 1 million cases.

Frozen egg holdings this year were at the seasonal peak the earliest ever reported—July 1, in contrast to the usual seasonal peak on August 1. From July 1 through the middle of August withdrawals were very heavy. However, with cancellation of dried egg contracts by the armed forces, withdrawals of storage shell eggs which to some extent were converted into frozen form and the freezing of lower grades of fresh eggs, the out-movement of frozen eggs in the last 2 months has been far below average. Total holdings on October 1 of approximately 203 million pounds are below October 1 in any of the previous 3 years, but above prewar.

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

Year	United States stocks 1/		Net storage movement in 35 markets (week ended as of 1945)		
	September 1	October 1	October 6	October 13	October 20
	1000 cases	1000 cases	1000 cases	1000 cases	1000 cases
Shell					
Ave. 1937-41	6,860	5,747	- 233	- 258	- 287
1944	7,653	5,427	- 386	- 352	- 323
1945	4,771	3,763	- 296	- 323	- 398
Frozen					
Ave. 1937-41	4,058	3,675	- 65	- 70	- 67
1944	9,910	8,868	- 159	- 220	- 193
1945	5,814	5,416	- 22	- 44	- 77
Dried					
1944	10,957	10,086			
1945	2,451	1,986			

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.

Poultry Prices Decline Sharply

The large decrease in army procurement of chicken meat and the increase in civilian meat supplies at a time when marketings of chickens increase seasonally resulted in chicken prices declining sharply from mid-August to mid-September. The average farm price in mid-September was 27.5 per pound, 1.1 cent below that of the previous month. Declines were especially pronounced in the West North Central Area where farm chicken marketings were reaching a seasonal peak. In the West North Central Area, prices received by farmers in mid-September averaged 3 cents below that in mid-August.

Since mid-September, wholesale price quotations have become fairly well stabilized. Quotations on light weight classifications (1-1/2 to 3-1/2 pounds) are about 4 cents below ceilings. However, birds weighing more than 3-1/2 pounds, especially heavy fowl, are only about 2 cents below ceilings. The gap between demand and supply for chicken meat, which was very wide during the summer because of large Army procurement, has vanished.

Commercial Poultry Storage Holdings About Average

On October 1 total cold storage holdings of poultry (excluding turkeys) were 130 million pounds. However, a large portion of the holdings, about one-half, was Government owned. Commercial holdings are about equal to the prewar (1937-41) average of 65 million pounds. Stocks of fowl were about one-third of last year and twice the prewar average.

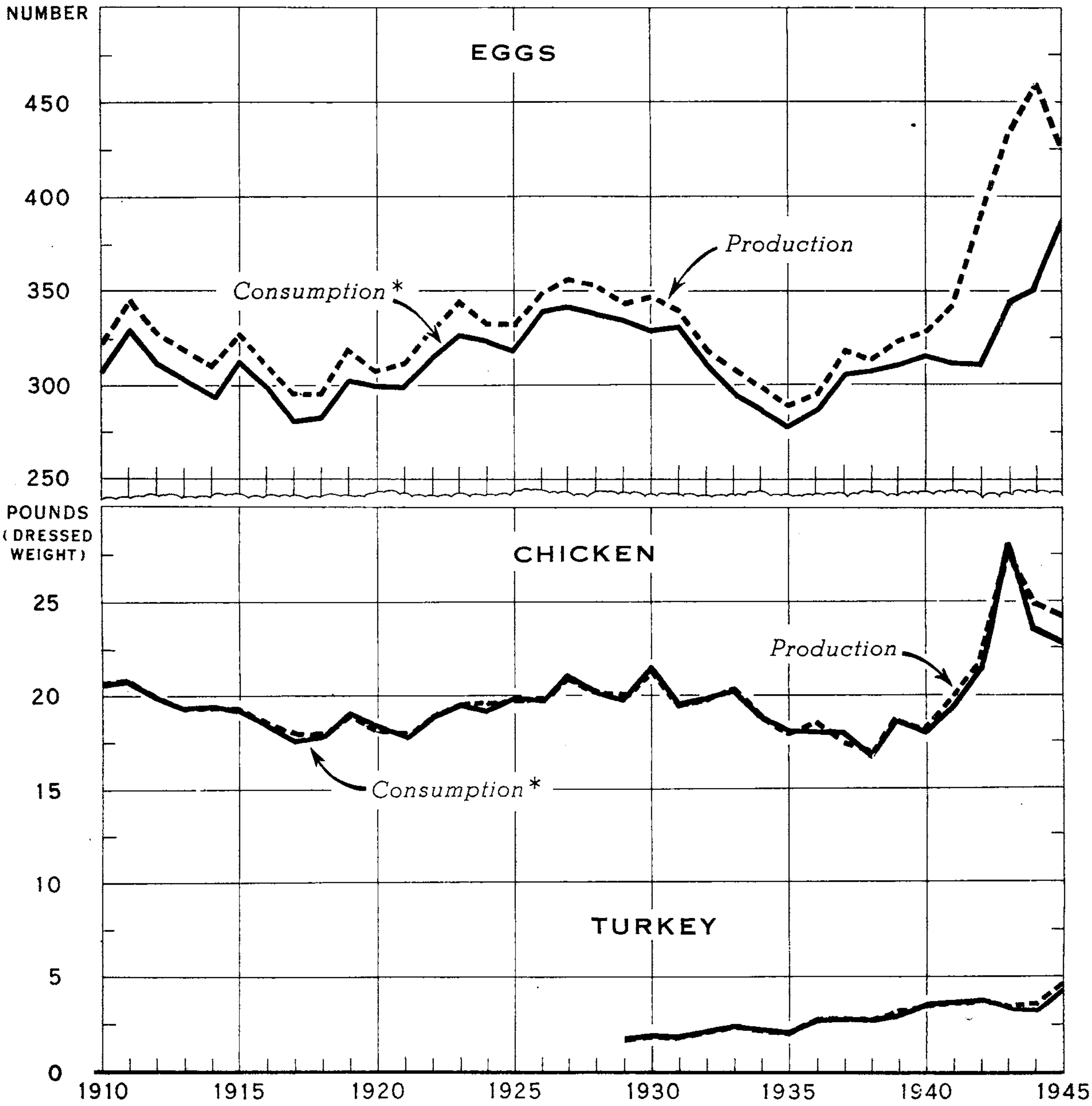
Turkey stocks on October 1 totaled 25 million pounds. A large part of this was also held by the armed forces, so that commercial holdings on October 1 were probably not much different from the prewar average of about 10 million pounds.

Table 8.- Prices received by farmers for eggs, chickens, and turkeys, United States, 1940-45, and prices at 85 percent and 90 percent of parity (for selected periods).

(Data for Cover Chart)

Year	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.
	Cents	Cents	Cents	Cents	Cents	Cents	Cents	Cents	Cents	Cents	Cents	Cents
	Eggs, price received by farmers, per dozen											
1940	18.3	20.2	15.4	15.0	15.1	14.4	16.4	17.2	21.0	23.7	26.2	26.8
1941	19.7	16.8	16.4	19.7	20.1	23.2	25.6	26.8	30.3	31.8	35.5	34.1
1942	31.3	27.5	25.8	25.6	26.5	27.4	29.5	32.2	34.7	37.4	33.9	39.7
1943	39.0	34.2	34.0	33.7	34.2	35.2	36.3	38.8	41.6	45.2	47.1	44.9
1944	34.6	31.9	30.1	27.1	27.2	28.1	31.2	33.0	35.5	38.8	43.4	44.5
1945	41.0	35.8	33.1	33.0	33.7	35.8	37.9	40.8	39.6			
	Eggs, price at 85 percent of parity, September 1941-September 1942 and 90 percent of parity October 1942-September 1945											
1941									28.3	32.3	36.3	32.1
1942	25.0	23.5	22.2	22.3	22.4	21.6	25.4	26.8	31.1	36.4	40.2	37.4
1943	29.9	26.9	24.9	25.4	25.6	26.5	29.5	31.1	35.6	38.7	42.1	39.8
1944	32.5	29.1	26.5	26.8	27.4	28.4	30.6	32.3	36.3	39.2	42.4	39.8
1945	33.7	30.6	28.1	28.1	28.4	28.8	31.5	32.8	36.4			
	Chickens, price received by farmers, per pound											
1940	12.0	12.2	12.8	12.9	13.6	13.3	13.6	13.4	13.7	13.3	13.1	13.0
1941	13.7	14.0	14.4	15.7	16.2	16.3	16.8	16.3	16.3	16.0	15.5	15.8
1942	17.0	17.4	18.0	18.4	18.4	18.5	18.7	19.6	20.3	19.5	19.6	20.5
1943	22.1	22.8	23.5	24.6	24.7	25.1	25.3	25.6	25.2	24.6	24.3	24.4
1944	23.9	23.7	23.8	23.7	24.4	23.8	24.2	24.1	23.7	23.8	24.0	24.1
1945	24.2	24.5	25.0	25.7	26.6	27.5	28.5	28.6	27.5			
	Chickens, price at 85 percent of parity September 1941-September 1942 and 90 percent of parity October 1942-September 1945											
1941									13.3	13.4	13.7	13.8
1942	13.9	14.1	14.4	14.4	14.5	14.5	14.6	14.6	14.7	15.7	15.8	15.9
1943	16.0	16.2	16.3	16.4	16.6	16.7	16.8	16.8	16.8	16.9	17.0	17.1
1944	17.3	17.4	17.4	17.4	17.4	17.5	17.5	17.5	17.5	17.5	17.6	17.6
1945	17.6	17.6	17.7	17.7	17.7	17.7	17.7	17.7	17.8			
	Turkeys, price received by farmers, per pound											
1940	14.2	14.0	13.7	13.5	13.2	12.9	12.9	13.4	14.3	14.7	15.5	15.9
1941	15.5	15.1	15.2	15.5	15.4	15.4	15.8	16.1	17.5	18.3	20.2	20.9
1942	20.5	20.0	19.9	19.8	19.1	18.6	18.9	19.9	21.7	23.9	27.0	29.7
1943	29.2	28.7	28.7	28.8	28.6	28.6	28.5	28.8	29.0	29.9	32.7	33.3
1944	32.4	32.0	31.3	30.7	30.5	30.0	30.1	30.7	31.1	31.8	33.8	34.6
1945	34.4	33.9	33.6	33.6	31.2	33.4	33.4	33.8	33.6			
	Turkeys, price at 90 percent of parity, December 1942-September 1945											
1942												20.1
1943	20.2	20.5	20.6	20.7	21.0	21.2	21.2	21.2	21.2	21.4	21.5	21.6
1944	21.8	21.9	21.9	21.9	21.9	22.0	22.0	22.0	22.0	22.0	22.1	22.1
1945	22.3	22.3	22.4	22.4	22.4	22.4	22.4	22.4	22.6			

PER CAPITA PRODUCTION AND CONSUMPTION OF EGGS, CHICKEN, AND TURKEY, UNITED STATES, 1910-45



* CONSUMPTION 1941-45 APPLIES TO CIVILIAN POPULATION ONLY
DATA FOR 1945 ARE BASED ON PRELIMINARY INDICATIONS

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Large supplies of eggs and turkeys will be available for civilians in 1946. But per capita consumption of eggs is expected to be below 1945. The 1946 per capita supply of chicken meat may not be much different from that of 1945.

Table 9.- Total per capita production and civilian per capita consumption of eggs, chicken, and turkey, United States, 1910-1945.

Year	Eggs Per capita Consumption 2/	Eggs Per capita Production	Chicken 1/ Per capita Consumption 2/	Chicken 1/ Per capita Production	Turkey 1/ Per capita Consumption 2/	Turkey 1/ Per capita Production
	Number	Number	Pounds	Pounds	Pounds	Pounds
1910	306	321	20.6	20.6	---	---
1911	329	345	20.8	20.8	---	---
1912	311	327	19.9	19.9	---	---
1913	303	318	19.4	19.4	---	---
1914	295	310	19.3	19.2	---	---
1915	313	327	19.2	19.2	---	---
1916	299	311	18.4	18.4	---	---
1917	281	295	17.7	18.0	---	---
1918	284	295	17.8	18.1	---	---
1919	303	319	19.0	18.8	---	---
1920	299	307	18.3	18.1	---	---
1921	299	312	17.8	18.0	---	---
1922	316	330	18.9	18.9	---	---
1923	327	344	19.4	19.4	---	---
1924	324	333	19.2	19.5	---	---
1925	318	332	19.8	19.7	---	---
1926	339	349	19.7	19.9	---	---
1927	342	357	21.0	20.8	---	---
1928	338	353	20.2	20.1	---	---
1929	334	343	19.8	20.1	1.7	1.7
1930	329	347	21.5	21.2	1.8	1.7
1931	331	340	19.4	19.4	1.7	1.7
1932	311	318	19.7	19.6	2.1	2.1
1933	295	309	20.3	20.4	2.4	2.4
1934	287	298	18.8	18.8	2.2	2.2
1935	278	289	18.1	17.9	2.1	2.1
1936	287	295	18.1	18.6	2.7	2.8
1937	306	319	18.0	17.5	2.7	2.7
1938	308	314	16.8	16.9	2.7	2.7
1939	311	324	18.6	18.6	3.0	3.2
1940	316	328	18.0	18.2	3.6	3.6
1941	311	343	19.4	19.7	3.6	3.5
1942	311	392	21.5	22.0	3.7	3.7
1943	345	434	28.0	27.7	3.4	3.4
1944	351	458	23.6	24.9	3.3	3.6
1945 3/	385-390	431	24.5-25.0	25.3	4.3-4.5	4.6

1/ Dressed weight.
2/ Consumption 1941-45 applies to civilian population only.
3/ Tentative, based on preliminary indications as of October 1945.

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