



Poultry.—The per capita consumption of poultry and eggs has increased markedly during the last half century. The per capita consumption of chickens and turkeys nearly doubled between 1909 and 1954. Consumption of eggs per person increased by 50 percent during the same period.

During the last 15 years, the output of poultry and eggs has risen much more rapidly than that of meat animals and dairy products. Significant gains in the efficiency of poultry production have contributed to this relatively greater output of poultry and eggs.

One of the accompanying charts shows the increases in efficiency that have occurred. Annual egg production per layer increased from 112 to 184 eggs between 1925 and 1954. Broiler meat production per 100 pounds of feed increased by 9 pounds between 1925 and 1952. Adoption of practices that are based on findings in genetics, nutrition, disease control, and poultry

management have led to more economical egg and poultry meat production.

The growing importance of broilers from specialized enterprises is one of the striking changes that has been taking place in the supply of poultry meat. In 1947, only a fourth of the chicken production was composed of broilers from specialized enterprises. In 1955, three-fifths of the chicken production came from broilers grown on specialized enterprises.

Production of broilers on specialized enterprises is concentrated in a relatively few areas. This is indicated by the accompanying chart and maps. The heaviest concentration of broiler production in a single area is found on the Delmarva peninsula of Delaware, Maryland, and Virginia. The Shenandoah Valley is another area in which heavy local concentration exists. Localized areas of concentrated broiler production are found in several of the Southern States where production of broilers has been on the increase.