

FARMERS AND FARM PRODUCTION

AVERAGE RETAIL PRICE PER POUND OF BROILERS IN THREE CITIES BASED ON 3-MONTH MOVING AVERAGE: 1953 TO 1956

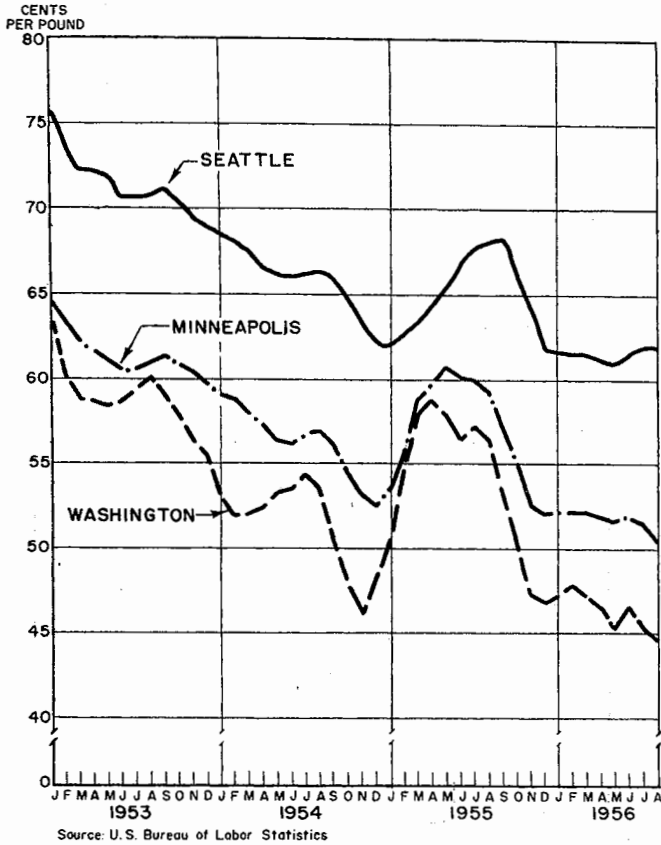


Figure 11

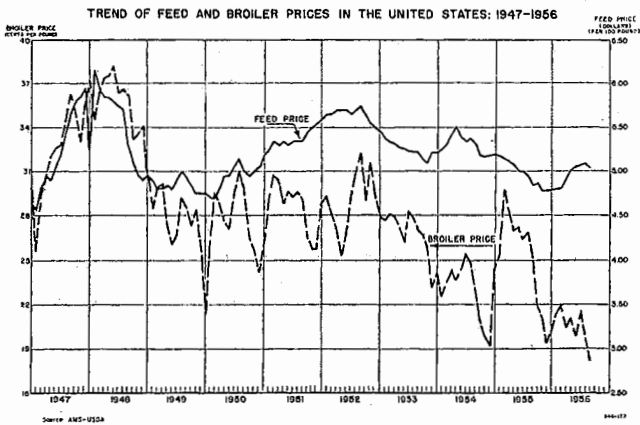


Figure 12

has been due to several factors, such as the development of better strains of birds through an effective breeding program, improved feeding and management practices, and a great improvement in the quality of feed.

In addition to the increase in feed efficiency there have been other gains in operation efficiency. Improvements have been made in sanitation and disease control. Increases in the size of broiler enterprises have made for more efficient use of labor and capital.

Table 15.—ESTIMATED AVERAGE POUNDS OF FEED FED TO BROILERS PER BIRD, UNITED STATES: YEAR BEGINNING OCTOBER 1, 1933 TO 1955

Year	Pounds of feed per bird	Year	Pounds of feed per bird
1933	12.3	1945	12.3
1934	12.0	1946	11.0
1935	12.5	1947	11.5
1936	11.8	1948	11.5
1937	12.7	1949	10.2
1938	11.7	1950	10.3
1939	11.9	1951	9.8
1940	12.3	1952	9.2
1941	12.0	1953	9.2
1942	12.5	1954	9.0
1943	11.8	1955	8.8
1944	12.0		

Source: Agricultural Research Service, United States Department of Agriculture.

Production of Turkeys and Other Poultry Products

Turkeys.—Turkeys constituted a small sideline enterprise on many farms in 1910. The growing of turkeys has now become a highly commercial affair. At that earlier date, 870,000 farmers reported 3½ million turkeys on hand, averaging 4 turkeys per farm. In 1954, 170,000 farmers raised 63 million turkeys, averaging 370 per farm. Some farmers reported as many as 20,000 turkeys in a single flock. The number of ducks raised each year has been continued at about some 11 million birds but there has been gradually distinct concentrations in specific areas.

Until about 25 years ago, a few turkeys could be found on about a tenth of our farms. They were used mainly to add to the family meat supply but some were sold locally. In 1929 there were 638,000 farms reporting turkeys raised, with an average of 26 turkeys raised per farm. By 1939 the number of farms with turkeys had decreased to 390,000 but the average number raised per farm had more than doubled.

After 1940 the number of farms raising turkeys continued to decline, but the number of birds raised increased rapidly. From 1944 to 1954 the number increased from 27 million to 63 million, and the average number raised per farm was 370 in 1954. This average does not fully indicate the size of the turkey enterprise on many farms. The tendency toward larger flocks has been general in all parts of the country. A large proportion of the turkey crop

Table 16.—NUMBER OF TURKEYS RAISED IN 16 LEADING STATES: 1954

State	Number farms reporting	Number turkeys raised	Average per farm reporting
California	6,125	9,911,034	1,618
Minnesota	2,029	7,055,003	2,684
Virginia	5,550	5,104,489	920
Iowa	2,163	4,265,787	1,972
Texas	25,356	2,805,988	111
Ohio	3,198	2,532,026	792
Missouri	4,427	2,394,903	541
Pennsylvania	5,380	2,361,410	438
Utah	1,001	2,303,637	2,301
Indiana	2,167	2,033,179	943
Wisconsin	1,504	1,660,672	1,042
West Virginia	2,280	1,702,836	747
Oregon	2,386	1,501,596	629
Arkansas	5,213	1,392,286	267
South Carolina	5,023	1,353,799	270
Michigan	2,336	1,107,880	474
Total	76,827	49,486,524	644