

November 19, 1976

Meat Prices

(1:08)

Turkey, beef, pork and chicken will be plentiful and reasonably priced as consumers begin their holiday food shopping. Minnesota Extension Economist Ken Egertson says supplies of these meats are all above last year's levels. Turkey supplies have increased by about twenty percent and the meat is selling for about twelve cents less per pound than it did in 1975.

For those who prefer ham over turkey for Thanksgiving and Christmas, pork supplies are up by over twenty-five percent from a year ago and retail prices average about thirty cents a pound less.

Beef supplies are up five percent and more of this is higher quality beef than we saw last year. Choice grade costs about twenty cents a pound less than it did late in 1975. Chicken supplies are up by fifteen percent and the meat is selling for about fifteen cents less per pound than a year ago, Egertson says.

Consumers are benefitting from good returns to farmers in 1975, which caused increased cattle placements, farrowing and hatches. Low prices this fall bode well for holiday feasting and for replenishing supplies in the home freezer. Choice beef prices will likely rise in 1977 along with turkey and chicken. Good buys on pork might last a little longer.

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