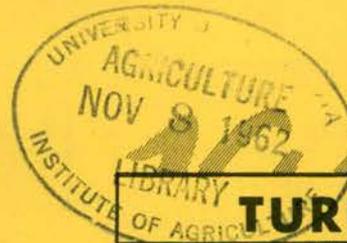


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What's AHEAD for Minnesota Farmers

SEPTEMBER 1962

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1962



TURKEYS

AGRICULTURAL EXTENSION SERVICE • UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA • INSTITUTE OF AGRICULTURE

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AT A GLANCE:

. For the first 7 months of 1962, the output of turkey poults in the United States, of all breeds, totaled 90,191,000. This was a bit over 14 percent less than in the same period of 1961. The number of heavy white breed poults was down over 7 percent, other heavy breed poults down almost 15 percent, and the number of light breed poults down nearly 30 percent.

. Indications are that the total tonnage of turkey meat will probably be about 14 percent below a year ago for the total marketing season, but down somewhat less than that during the Thanksgiving-Christmas season of 1961. This is expected to result in more favorable prices than a year ago, but even then the level of prices may not be especially favorable to producers.

. The number of turkeys raised in 1963 may be somewhat lower than the number raised in 1962.

Shifts and Trends in the Turkey Enterprise

A. Percentage of the United States Total Number of Turkeys which were Raised in the Different Regions (1955-1961).

Year	North Atlantic (9 states)	East North Central (5 states)	West North Central (7 states)	South Atlantic (8 states)	South Central (8 states)	Western (11 states)	United States (48 states)
1955	7.7	13.7	26.4	17.2	9.8	25.2	100.0
1956	6.0	13.1	28.1	16.5	11.4	24.9	100.0
1957	5.1	13.5	27.6	16.6	11.3	25.9	100.0
1958	4.6	14.3	30.1	15.1	10.4	25.5	100.0
1959	4.2	15.5	34.0	14.3	9.2	22.8	100.0
1960	4.0	14.9	35.6	10.7	9.8	25.0	100.0
1961	3.3	15.4	36.2	10.5	10.3	24.3	100.0

. There has been a considerable percentage decrease in United States turkey production in the South Atlantic and North Atlantic Regions, and a substantial increase in the West North Central Region. Although there have been some slight changes from one year to another, the other three regions have been at pretty much the same percentage, in United States turkey production for the listed period.

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B. The Turkey Enterprise in Minnesota in Comparison with the Total West North Central Region.

Year	Number of Turkeys Raised		Minnesota Percentage:		Index of Change	
	West North Central Region* (thousand)	Minnesota (thousand)	of the North Central Region	of the total United States	West North Central Region	Minnesota
1955	17,351	8,034	46.3	12.2	100.0	100.0
1956	21,603	9,560	44.3	12.4	124.5	119.0
1957	22,476	9,942	42.3	11.7	129.5	123.7
1958	23,918	10,539	44.1	13.3	137.8	131.2
1959	28,679	13,173	45.9	15.6	165.3	164.0
1960	30,163	14,541	48.2	17.2	173.8	181.0
1961	39,108	18,617	47.6	17.2	225.4	231.7

* Minnesota, Iowa, Missouri, North Dakota, South Dakota, Nebraska and Kansas.

Minnesota is the top state in the nation in the number of turkeys raised. Although there are seven states in the West North Central Region the number of turkeys raised in Minnesota is only slightly below one-half of the total number raised in the region.

There is also indication of a substantial increase in Minnesota turkey production in the last numbers of years. In 1955 about 12.2 percent of all of the turkeys in the United States were raised in Minnesota and in 1960 and 1961 it was about 17.2 percent.

SITUATION

The tonnage of turkey meat which will be placed on the market is not entirely in line with the number of turkey poults hatched, because it varies with the type of turkeys which are being raised. Furthermore, the heavy white turkey is actually a dual purpose bird, that can be sold as a heavy turkey at its mature weight, or can be sold as a light turkey at an immature weight.

The total output of turkey poults in the United States which was about 90,191,000 during the first 7 months of 1962, was slightly over 14 percent less than it was during the first 7 months of 1961. The decrease in the number of light breed poults was nearly 31 percent. The decrease in the number of all heavy breed poults (including the heavy whites) was about 12.5 percent. Although the percentage decrease in light breed poults was considerably larger than it was in heavy breed poults, the percentage of the light breed poults is only about 8 percent of the total. Therefore it appears as if the decrease in the available tonnage of turkey meat should be about the same as the decrease in the total number of turkeys (close to 14 percent). However, because

OUTLOOK

As indicated, there is considerable "flexibility" as to when, and at what stage of maturity, heavy white turkeys will be sold. A rather large percentage of heavy white turkeys may be sold at a lighter weight in the third and fourth quarter of 1962, because there will be a continuation of an abundant supply of turkey meat on the market, and although prices will be much more favorable than a year ago, they are not considered to be at a high level.

It is expected that the tonnage of turkey meat, which will be placed on the market in the remaining period of 1962 and the earlier period of 1963, will be quite a bit smaller than what it was in the same months of late 1961 and early 1962. It may be nearly as much smaller as the percentage reduction in the number of poults hatched which as indicated was slightly over 14 percent smaller for the first 7 months of 1962 compared to what it was for that period in 1961. However, because the number of poults hatched and the tonnage of turkey meat sold in 1961 was so extremely large, and even though the poult hatch was down

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SITUATION

32 percent of the heavy breed poults are of the heavy white breed, flexibility is added as to when the major number of turkeys will be placed on the market and what the seasonal and the final tonnage of turkey meat will be. Producers of heavy white turkeys are influenced by the price of turkeys at the time they could sell their birds at immature weights, in relation to what the prospects are for the prices of turkeys a few months later, when they could sell their birds as heavy breed turkeys.

. The total output of turkey poults in Minnesota during the first 7 months of 1962, was 17,266,000 which was 19 percent of the total for the United States. Percentage-wise the decrease in Minnesota was larger than what it was for the United States. The decrease in the total number of all types of poults was close to 19 percent. The number of light breed poults was down about 12.5 percent, regular heavy breed poults (other than heavy whites) down nearly 20 percent, and the number of heavy white poults was down 19 percent.

. There is merit in the storage of frozen turkey meat. It permits a more uniform consumption of turkey meat throughout the year, even though production is on a rather seasonal basis. Because of the very abundant production of turkeys in 1961 much turkey meat was put in storage beyond the normal storage supply. (This can be noted from the monthly storage stocks as indicated in the table in this report.) The turkey poult hatch was down ever since September 1961, and the resulting current supply of turkey meat was lower in the early part of 1962 than in 1961. However, because of the continued large storage stocks the total supply of turkey meat available for consumption has remained at a comparatively high level. This in turn has kept Minnesota prices for live turkeys in 1962 at a lower level than in 1961 until June and July, and at a much lower level than in 1960. (This can be noted from the monthly farm prices for live turkeys as listed in the table in this report.)

. There has been a rather substantial increase in the per capita consumption of poultry meats, including turkey meat, during the last number of years. Per capita consumption of turkey meat was below 4 pounds until 1950. In 1959 and 1960 it averaged 6.3 pounds and in 1961 it was about 7.5 pounds. Until 1956, the per

OUTLOOK

considerably in 1962, the supply of turkey meat is nevertheless going to be quite a bit larger for the latter part of 1962 and the earlier part of 1963 than what it was 2 years ago. Although the number of poults hatched in the first 7 months of 1962 was slightly over 14 percent smaller than in that period of 1961, it still was about 11 percent larger than the number of poults hatched in that period of 1960. Although the demand for turkey meat has increased, it is not considered to be sufficient to create a price situation which is very favorable to the turkey producers as long as the supply of turkey meat is still at a comparatively high level. Because of the abundant supply of chicken meat and red meats, there will also be strong competition from these items.

. There has been a good expansion in the export market for poultry meats. In 1961 exports were about a third more than in 1960 and about 4.5 times as much as in 1958. The major exports are still chicken broilers, but there have been rapid increases in exports of turkey meat. Exports in 1958 were slightly over 5 million pounds, in 1960 slightly over 24 million and in 1961 almost 28 million pounds. For the first 5 months of 1962 exports were more than four times as high as what they were for the same period of 1961. The countries in the Common Market area of Western Europe are by far the largest importers of turkey meat produced in the United States, and the one country within that area that is by far the largest importer is West Germany. There is a strong indication that there will be a further expansion in the exports of poultry meats and especially turkey meat in the years ahead. In 1960 and 1961 total exports were about 2 percent of total turkey meat production.

. The good potential for increased exports together with continued favorable consumer income in the United States and a resulting favorable and strong demand for poultry meats provides an over-all favorable market situation for turkey meat. However, even though the prices are expected to be more favorable in late 1962 and 1963 than they were in late 1961 and in 1962, the supply of turkey meat is still comparatively abundant, so that the prices for live turkeys are not expected to be at a level which will be very favorable to the turkey producers.

SITUATION

capita consumption of all poultry meat was 15 percent or less of the total per capita consumption of meat (red meats, poultry meat and fish). During the period of 1958-1960 it was about 18 percent and in 1961 it was over 19 percent of the total. The per capita consumption of turkey meat has been about 3.4 percent of the total during the last several years.

OUTLOOK

The monthly farm prices received for live turkeys by Minnesota producers are listed at the bottom of this page for the period of September through August, for 1959-1960, 1960-1961 and 1961-1962. It can be observed that there is considerable variation from month to month, as well as from season to season and from year to year.

With the prevailing situation it is expected that the number of turkeys raised in 1963 may be somewhat lower than the number raised in 1962.

STORAGE STOCKS OF TURKEY MEAT — FIRST OF THE MONTH

	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	June	July	Aug.
	(Million Pounds)											
Sept. 1959-Aug. 1960	87	134	220	183	149	142	124	105	87	74	67	71
Sept. 1960-Aug. 1961	113	186	282	210	160	172	152	126	108	94	106	128
Sept. 1961-Aug. 1962	189	270	382	318	263	251	219	191	156	132	122	122

MONTHLY FARM PRICES RECEIVED FOR LIVE TURKEYS

	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	June	July	Aug.
	(Cents)											
Sept. 1959-Aug. 1960	21	22	25	29	26	26	27	27	26	24	23	24
Sept. 1960-Aug. 1961	25	26	25	27	25	23	22	20	20	19	18	19
Sept. 1961-Aug. 1962	18	19	16	16	17	19	21	20	19	19	21	

