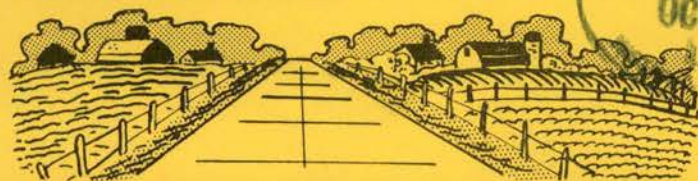


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3  
**WALK AHEAD for**  
**Minnesota Farmers**



4  
**TURKEYS**

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2  
AT A GLANCE:

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- For the first seven months of 1961, the output of turkey poults in the United States totaled 101,330,000, which was 24 percent more than in 1960. The number of heavy white breed poults was up 49 percent, the number of other heavy breed poults was up 17 percent and the number of light breed poults was up 17 percent.
  - Indications are that the total tonnage of turkey meat will be about 25% above a year ago and especially during the Thanksgiving-Christmas season of 1961. This will very likely result in prices considerably lower than a year ago.
  - The number of turkeys raised in 1962 is expected to be lower than in 1961.

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 101,330,000 during the first 7 months of 1961, was 24% more than it was during the first 7 months of 1960. The increase in the number of light breed poults and in the number of regular heavy breed poults (other than heavy whites) was the same; up 17 percent from a year ago. The large increase in the number of poults was in the heavy white breed poults; up 49 percent from a year ago. Generally speaking it would appear as if the increase in the available tonnage of turkey meat should therefore be about the same as the increase in the total number of turkey poults, namely about 24%. However as long as the major increase in the number of poults is of the heavy white breed it adds to the flexibility as to when the major number of tur-

OUTLOOK

• As indicated there is considerable "flexibility" as to when, and at what stage of maturity, heavy white turkeys will be sold. A somewhat larger percentage of heavy white turkeys may be sold at a lighter weight in the third and fourth quarter of 1961, compared to a year ago, because of the comparatively lower prices which very likely will prevail. However, it is expected that the total tonnage of turkey meat which will be placed on the market, and especially during the fourth quarter Thanksgiving-Christmas sales period, will be at least 25 percent larger than in the same period of 1960. Because of a rather heavy storage supply of turkey meat in the early fall period of 1961 together with the large potential supply which will be coming on to the market, the supply of available turkey meat in the first quarter of 1962 will also be far above what it was in the first quarter of 1961. Because of the abundant supply of chicken meat and red meats, there will also be strong competition from these items.

• There has been a further expansion in the export market for poultry meats in 1961, and there may be a fairly good potential for a still further expansion. This together with continued favorable consumer income in the United States and a resulting favorable and strong demand for

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## SITUATION

keys will be placed on the market. 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 seven months of 1961, was 21,270,000 which was 21 percent of the total for the United States. Percentagewise the increase in Minnesota was far beyond the increase in the United States as a whole. The increase in the total number of all types of poults was 34 percent. The increase in the number of light breed poults was 25 percent, the increase in the number of regular heavy breed poults (other than heavy whites) was 20 percent and the increase in the number of heavy white poults was 51 percent.

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. Until 1956, the per capita consumption of all poultry meat was 15 percent or less of the total per capita consumption of meat (red meats, poultry meats and fish). During the years of 1958, 1959 and 1960 it was 18 percent of the total. The per capita consumption of turkey meat has been about 3.2 percent of the total during the last several years.

## OUTLOOK

poultry meats provides an overall favorable market situation for turkey meat. However, this is not sufficient to take care of the substantial increase in the available supply of turkey meat, and to maintain prices to turkey producers at a favorable level.

The timing and nature of government purchase programs can have an effect on the movement of prices during the season. The government has purchased turkeys during the past several years. However, because of the extremely heavy increase in supplies this year, it is doubtful whether a government purchase program during the latter part of 1961 and early part of 1962 would help sufficiently to raise prices to a level favorable to the turkey producers.

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 1959-60 and 1960-61. 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.

Although farm prices received for turkeys may rise seasonally from the August level into the Thanksgiving and Christmas period the increase is expected to be small. Indications are that prices may range from 5 to 7 cents per pound less during the last quarter of 1961 compared to what they were during the same period of 1960. Although monthly prices received for live turkeys decreased to a considerably lower level during the first half of 1961 compared to what they were a year earlier, all indications are that they will be as low and maybe even lower, and especially during the first several months of 1962, than what they were in 1961.

With the prevailing situation it is expected that the number of turkeys raised in 1962 will be somewhat lower than the number raised in 1961.

## MONTHLY FARM PRICES RECEIVED FOR LIVE TURKEYS

	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	June	July	Aug.
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¢

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