

INTRODUCTION

This is the first annual report of the Riverside Turkey Meat Study covering the 1949 production season. The study was conducted by the Agricultural Extension Service in cooperation with a group of local producers. The purpose of the study was to help the growers solve their management problems and to develop a body of information valuable to the industry.

The number of records is small and the results are not presented as averages for the industry in Riverside County. The results should be representative of the practices being followed there however.

Most of the producers in the study had difficulty marketing their turkeys. Many had turkeys on hand at the end of the record year. Some who had not disposed of their birds during the holiday season, slaughtered, quick froze, and placed them in storage. In order to complete the study so that the producers could study their management problems, those birds on hand at the end of the year were valued at the support level and considered as sold.

OUTLOOK FOR 1950

During February, March, and April, 4 percent more poults were hatched than during the same period in 1949. Cold storage holdings on May 1 were nearly 92 million pounds, as compared to 36 million in 1949. Stocks of other poultry are also up from 53 million to 75 million pounds. The government announced no price support program for turkeys in 1950. Government purchases in 1949 were only $1\frac{1}{2}$ percent of the production however, so did not exert much influence.

Stocks of corn, oats, and barley on April 1 were 4 percent larger than on the same date in 1949, and 43 percent larger than the 1943-47 average. Planting intentions for the 1950 crop indicate increased acreages of most of the feed grains. Even with this increase in supplies during the coming feeding season, the feed grain supply in relation to the number of livestock expected to be fed will be smaller than either of the last two seasons.

These conditions indicate weaker turkey prices in 1950 and feed prices down some, but not in proportion to the turkey price. The Turkey-Feed ratio in April was 6.2, as opposed to 10.8 a year ago. Net Income from turkey production will undoubtedly be lower than in 1949.

The records in this study show wide variations in the factors affecting profit. No one factor was responsible for the results obtained. The combination of conditions on each farm determine the outcome of that particular enterprise. Mortality was one of the more important factors causing low management income because of higher feed and poult costs resulting from high mortality. Results would no doubt have been more uniform if satisfactory selling conditions had been encountered. Conditions could probably be improved by an industry approach to the problems involved.

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SUMMARY 1949 RIVERSIDE TURKEY MEAT STUDY

| | S E R I A L N U M B E R S | | | | | | | | | |
|-----------------------|---------------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|---------------------------|------------------|--------------------|------------------|-------|------|
| | 12 | 8 | 1 | 6 | 4 | 2 | 5 | 3 | | |
| | Bronze St.Run | Bronze St.Run | Bronze St.Run | Bronze St.Run | Belts. White St.Run | Bronze St.Run | Bronze Sexed T. | Bronze St.Run | Avg. | |
| Number Sold | 1,150 | 2,998 | 4,186 | 7,744 | 815 | 1,765 | 133 | 2,858 | 2,706 | |
| % Mortality | 2 | 17 | 8 | 4 | 18 | 12 | 56 | 32 | 13 | |
| Price per lb. Sold | 39.7 | 53.4 | 29.9 | 38.5 | 38.6 | 29.2 | 28.0 | 34.1 | 23.6 | 27.0 |
| Net Cost per lb. | 27.2 | 45.7 | 23.4 | 34.9 | 38.9 | 32.7 | 40.0 | 51.7 | 22.5 | 35.4 |
| Mgt. Income | 12.5 | 7.7 | 6.5 | 3.6 | -.3 | -3.5 | -12.0 | -17.6 | 1.1 | 1.6 |
| Avg. Weight per Bird | 21 | 19 | 22 | 13 | 12 | 22 | 25 | 18 | 17.5 | |
| Hours Labor per Bird | 1.1 | 1.0 | .3 | .4 | .8 | .9 | 1.8 | 1.2 | .7 | |
| Lbs. Feed per Bird | 78 | - | 95 | 77 | 57 | 115 | 107 | 130 | 92 | |
| Lbs. Feed per lb Meat | 3.7 | - | 4.3 | 5.9 | 4.6 | 5.2 | 4.3 | 7.3 | 5.3 | |
| % Mash | 68 | - | 35 | 74 | 72 | 72 | 68 | 53 | 60 | |
| Feed Cost per Cwt. | | | | | | | | | | |
| Mash & Pellets | 5.35 | - | 6.75 | 4.65 | 5.71 | 4.75 | 5.66 | 5.95 | 5.27 | |
| Grain | 3.09 | - | 2.67 | 3.25 | 2.97 | 2.66 | 3.22 | 3.01 | 2.92 | |
| Average | 4.63 | - | 4.09 | 4.28 | 4.96 | 3.69 | 4.87 | 4.55 | 4.33 | |
| Income per Bird Sold | | | | | | | | | | |
| Meat Sold | 8.34 | 10.17 | 6.58 | 5.05 | 4.78 | 6.50 | 6.92 | 6.09 | 6.48 | |
| Misc. | .01 | - | .22 | .16 | - | - | - | .15 | .12 | |
| Total Income | 8.35 | 10.17 | 6.80 | 5.21 | 4.78 | 6.50 | 6.92 | 6.24 | 6.60 | |
| Expense per Bird Sold | | | | | | | | | | |
| Mash | 2.86 | 2.96 | 2.22 | 2.65 | 2.34 | 3.96 | 4.11 | 4.06 | 2.91 | |
| Grain | .77 | 1.53 | 1.65 | .65 | .48 | .84 | 1.11 | 1.85 | 1.14 | |
| Other Feed | .07 | .22 | .26 | .10 | .11 | .28 | .29 | .22 | .18 | |
| Feed | 3.70 | 4.71 | 4.13 | 3.40 | 2.93 | 5.08 | 5.51 | 6.13 | 4.23 | |
| Poults | .51 | 1.07 | .67 | .71 | .67 | 1.08 | 2.14 | 1.05 | .82 | |
| Labor | .99 | 1.00 | .24 | .41 | .86 | .79 | 1.58 | 1.13 | .64 | |
| Misc. | .03 | 1.70 | .08 | .10 | .05 | .04 | .08 | .79 | .40 | |
| Depreciation | .16 | .16 | .09 | .07 | .12 | .11 | .22 | .19 | .11 | |
| Interest | .34 | .05 | .15 | .05 | .19 | .18 | .35 | .09 | .11 | |
| Total Cost | 5.73 | 8.69 | 5.36 | 4.74 | 4.82 | 7.28 | 9.88 | 9.38 | 6.31 | |
| Management Income | 2.62 | 1.48 | 1.44 | .47 | -.04 | -.78 | -2.96 | -3.14 | .29 | |
| Farm Income | 3.78 | 1.53 | 1.68 | .52 | 1.01 | .19 | -1.03 | -2.40 | .68 | |

The high price per pound received by No. 8 resulted from selling dressed turkeys. The high cost per pound reflects the extra cost of dressing and packing.

Management Income is Total Income minus Total Expense.

Farm Income is the Management Income plus Value of Family Labor and Interest on Investment. It is the amount available to the operator. UC COOPERATIVE EXTENSION

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