

[C. 1947]

POULTRY FACTS

Chickens on South Carolina farms January 1, 1915 2,697,000.
Chickens on South Carolina farms January 1, 1943 5,476,000.
Observations show that when tenants are provided with adequate housing, equipment, chickens and supervision, some of them develop into good poultry men and make money for the land owner and for themselves. South Carolina is one of the greatest deficit egg producing states in the Union. From the best information, it seems that the State is producing only about 50% of the eggs that are consumed. Average number of chickens per farm U. S. 55.4, South Carolina 24.6; Average number of chickens raised per person- U.S. 4.3, S. C. 4.4; average no. of chickens per farm in S. C. is less than half that for the U.S. and the no. of eggs produced per person is slightly than half. In regard to the number of chickens raised, it appears that sufficient poultry meat is being produced to meet the needs of the population, as compared with the average for the remainder of the country. From the standpoint of egg production, the poultry industry in South Carolina is inadequate to meet the needs of the population. The average farm flock is not only small in number, but insufficient in production. Indication is that there is ample room for the expansion of poultry business in the State to the extent of at least supplying the State's needs for eggs. The State has some disadvantages as well as advantages in competing with other sections of the country in the poultry business. The chief disadvantage is that feed prices are high compared with feed prices in the midwestern farm pays. A South Carolina farmer receives a higher price for his eggs and poultry than the midwestern farmer. In case a surplus were produced, the State is closer to the eastern market than most of the midwestern states, so the South Carolina farmer has an advantage in shipping costs. The big advantage the South Carolina farmer has over the midwestern farmer is the mild climate which affords out door range the entire year and does not necessitate expensive housing costs. Poultry raising is a highly specialized type of farming. The need for a reserve farm for tiding over an

occasional bad year is of paramount importance in specialized poultry farming. South Carolina is primarily a State of small farm flocks. Chickens of some kind are kept on 88% of the farms of the State, which means that chickens are represented on more farms than any other farm enterprise except corn. Amount and value South Carolina Poultry and Poultry products 1942: chickens on farms January 1 numbered 4,978,000, value each \$.75, total value \$3,733,500. The number of chickens kept by town and city people is approximately 25% of the volume kept by farmers. The poultry industry of the State exceeded \$20,000,000 in 1942. At the present prices September 1, 1943 it would about double this amount today. The ^{feed} cost is the largest expense item in keeping chickens. Poultry can be made possible in South Carolina when practices and management are followed. In general a heavy breed will earn the greatest profit. Flocks with high egg production make the greatest profit. Flocks with 75% or more of the hens replaced each year with pullets are more profitable than those in which a smaller percent of the hens are replaced. 100 hens have returned a larger gross income than five acres of cotton at average prices for the past 15 years. South Carolina's poultry industry is now third in rank among the State's six leading producers of gross farm income. Figures compiled by the Production and Marketing administrators poultry branch from 1945 data show ^{that only} cotton first and tobacco second outranked poultry in gross farm income in South Carolina. Taking the South Atlantic group as a whole, poultry ranks second in gross farm income production.