

Report Studies Integration In Turkey Industry

The turkey industry is moving toward more integration of the stages of production and marketing, according to a recent report published by the U S Department of Agriculture.

The Economic Research Service report is based on a survey of 53 firms — processors, feed suppliers, and others — and on information from a 1962 referendum for a proposed marketing order for turkeys. The report estimates that about 60 to 70 percent of all turkeys produced in 1961-62 were grown under some integrating arrangement between growers and other types of firms in the industry or produced by firms that had both growing and other facilities.

Feed firms were the major integrators. Integration was achieved chiefly in one of three ways: Ownership, agreements, or contracts. It was practiced at all stages of production and, to some extent, in the various stages of marketing.

About 25 percent of all turkey production was under risk-sharing contracts, ranging from as much as 39 percent in the West to as little as 4 percent in the North Atlantic, the report says.

Under risk-sharing contracts, the contractors usually maintain ownership and assume most key decisions about production. The producers select a contractor and the type of contract and handle the day-to-day management of production.

Most risk-sharing contracts are one of three types: (a) Profit-sharing; (b) a minimum guarantee of payments to producers with profit sharing; (c) a minimum guarantee of payment to producers without profit-sharing. Some minimum-guarantee contracts include incentive payments for efficiency. In fact, the trend is away from profit sharing and toward plans that guarantee minimum payments plus incentives, the report says.

The use of risk-sharing contracts for turkey production and production on company-owned or leased farms are expected to increase, with possibly fewer turkey production operations financed by

banks and more by firms in the industry.

Group Studies Waste Disposal Problems

Greater research emphasis on disposal of farm wastes was strongly recommended by the Farm Resources and Facilities Research Advisory Committee at its annual meeting, in Ames, Iowa, recently.

This problem is becoming more and more urgent, the committee pointed out. New techniques and methods are needed to handle the situation. Satisfactory handling of organic wastes, dusts, odors, and smoke should be considered a part of the job, committee members said.

Research on two major farm resources — soil and water — requires increased attention if maximum conservation of the national water supply is to be achieved, the advisory group declared. Cited as an example was the need for full understanding of how water is lost from the soil through vegetative cover and of other soil-water-plant relationships as the basis for developing both rural and urban water conservation practices.

The committee toured research facilities at the Iowa State Agricultural Experiment Station at Ames, where farm research is conducted cooperatively with the U S Department of Agriculture. Members also visited 3 Iowa farms to view mechanized livestock feeding, modern layout for corn-soybean-hog op-

(Continued on Page 7)

Farmers' Union

(Continued from Page 1)

ard Hoover, county supervisor for Farmers Home Administration, who explained the variety of FHA loans available to family farms and to rural communities for water and sewage plans.

The talks were followed by

discussion from the floor with many of the audience of approximately 40 persons participating.

Plans for reorganization of the county association were deferred to a later meeting.

The meeting was presided over by Dean Roland, vice-president, in the absence of President Fred Frey.



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