

Commercial Chick Hatcheries in North Dakota

North Dakota had 55 hatcheries with 1,775,000 egg capacity in 1938. These hatcheries hatched 2,470,000 chicks. By 1943 North Dakota had 65 hatcheries with a 3,243,000 egg capacity, and the hatcheries turned out 5,646,000 chicks.

In 1938 North Dakota hatcheries had a percentage hatch of 66 percent and in 1943, 65.9 percent. The comparable U. S. figures were 68.2 percent for 1938 and 68.3 percent for 1943.

The number of eggs set by commercial hatcheries by years was as follows for North Dakota:

1938	3,742,000
1939	3,883,000
1940	4,672,000
1941	5,615,000
1942	7,774,000
1943	8,565,000

The average price paid by North Dakota farmers to hatcheries with-

in the State per hundred chicks was \$14.30 in 1943; the comparable U. S. figure was \$13.86. North Dakota hatcheries sexed 410,000 of all chicks hatched, or 7 percent; the comparable U. S. figure was 16 percent. (Data from U.S.D.A. Statistical Bulletin No. 81, "Commercial Hatchery Chick Production," by E. S. Kimball, R. F. Moore, and P. W. Smith, February, 1945.) (H.L.W.)

In a study of 35 years of farm prices received by Idaho farmers, A. N. Nybrotten, Associate Agricultural Economist of the Idaho Agricultural Experiment Station, has pointed out that potato prices received by Idaho farmers have fluctuated more than the prices of other products. The high of \$2.37 a bushel was received in 1920, and the low occurred in 1932, when it was 26 cents a bushel. The 1944 price was \$1.09 per bushel. Idaho potato prices have dropped as much as 70 percent from one year to the next. This enormous drop took place when the price fell from \$2.37 in 1920 to 64 cents in 1921.

The author points out that the fluctuation in potato prices to Idaho farmers has been due both to the long haul to market and to erratic production. He notes that the disturbances in the farmers' potato market in that state are so great that in 13 out of 34 years the price was higher in November than in March.

The author comes to the conclu-

sion that if the Idaho farmer had held his potatoes from November to March every year, he would have received a lower price in 13 of the 34 years, a higher price in 21 years, but enough higher in that 21 years to have averaged a price 17 percent higher in March. Government payments have been omitted in this Idaho price study. (H.L.W.)