

LOCAL MARKET SALES OF CHEESE FOR YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH, 1943

				U.S. Forces.	
1942				lb.	lb.
April	..	..	648,685	..	648,685
May	..	..	876,014	..	876,014
June	..	..	743,827	..	743,827
July	..	..	483,338	58,800	542,138
August	..	..	563,725	59,000	622,725
September	..	..	634,066	57,500	691,566
October	..	..	679,307	60,000	739,307
November	..	..	887,584	59,000	946,584
December	..	..	777,101	57,500	834,601
1943					
January	..	..	679,937	236,600	916,537
February	..	..	715,036	237,000	952,036
March	..	..	815,683	238,000	1,053,683
				8,504,303	9,567,703
				1,063,400	

EGG MARKETING SECTION

All wartime Administrations have found that eggs are the most difficult of the primary products to organize into steady, sufficient, and equitably-distributed supply. New Zealand's difficulty may be gauged from the fact that only 7,000,000 to 8,000,000 dozen of our total estimated annual production of 30,000,000 dozen pass through the controlled areas of Auckland, Wellington, Christchurch, Dunedin, and Hawke's Bay, and it is from this small proportion that the Division has had to maintain priority deliveries to hospitals, young children, invalids, nursing mothers, shipping, and Armed Forces, while still maintaining a rationed distribution to civilians in the main centres. Producers in other areas have since elected to come under the Egg Marketing Emergency Regulations 1942—namely, Tauranga, New Plymouth, Wanganui, Palmerston North, North and South Wairarapa, Blenheim, Timaru, and Invercargill. In these "emergency areas" surpluses have been created by directing all eggs into one central depot and rationing the local populations. These surpluses have then been forwarded to Wellington and Auckland for essential needs. Under the policy of stabilization it was not possible to generally increase egg-prices in order to attract eggs to market areas, which had been the past method of ensuring city supplies. In fact, in scattered country districts where prices, unpoliced, in some instances had risen as much as 10d. a dozen over previous years, this process has been reversed. Therefore a grant was made available from the War Expenses Account to pay freights and extra handling charges on eggs consigned to Wellington and Auckland, which ports were bearing the brunt of shipping and Armed Forces demands. At the same time a comprehensive Dominion-wide Price Order fixed prices in marketing areas and country areas at their near equivalents. As a result of discussions between the Division, the Department of Agriculture, the Building Controller, and the New Zealand Poultry Board, building-materials and cash advances were made available to encourage increased production.

The 1943 season's production is unlikely to be much greater than that of 1942, but these measures taken should lead to a noticeable improvement in 1944—as the considerable sale of chicks already indicates. Nevertheless, the demand for egg and egg commodities will far exceed supply. To alleviate this position, egg-pulp manufacture in New Zealand will be kept to a minimum, and an arrangement has been made with the Australian Government for New Zealand to import 110 tons of egg-powder and 125,000 28 lb. tins of egg-pulp. The experiment of importing Australian eggs in shell was not, however, successful, owing largely to conditions in transit. Importations of egg products from Australia in 1942 comprised—

Egg-pulp	..	..	..	..	71,000 28 lb. tins.
Egg-powder	..	..	..	..	116½ tons bulk.
					12 tons ½ lb. packets.
Eggs in shell	..	..	..	..	5,402 cases each 30 dozen.

Without these imports we could not have forwarded the following supplies :—

				Eggs and Egg-powder.	
				Dozen.	
United States Forces (August to December, 1942)	..	..	..	701,460	
New Zealand Forces (January to December, 1942)	..	..	..	969,979	
Shipping (January to December, 1942)	..	..	..	234,000	
					1,905,439

Co-operation from the New Zealand Poultry Board has helped the Department in the overcoming of many difficulties throughout the year.