

Thanksgiving Bird Is Becoming Fancy Item In North Carolina

State Poultrymen Produce Over 396,000 Turkeys This Year; Most Of Them Are Sold Ready For The Oven.

(By Thompson Greenwood)

Raleigh, November 27. — Although roasts, pork chops, and T-bone steaks have returned to market showcases, the turkey will again be North Carolina's most popular meat during the Thanksgiving and Christmas holidays.

Curtis Taxleton, poultry statistician with the State Department of Agriculture, says that poultrymen in North Carolina raised 396,000 turkeys this year—and now they are flooding the markets.

The producer has been receiving around 95 cents per pound, live weight, for these Thanksgiving birds. He took a terrific gamble when he bought them last spring. B. M. Hancock, who lives near Siler City, will sell approximately 5,000 turkeys between now and Christmas. The other day he told Ralph B. Kelly, poultry specialist with the State Department of Agriculture, that he had "soaked over 433,000 in those turkeys."

"The eat like a horse and have no sense at all," said Hancock in typical rural understatement. Meantime, the turkeys slowly strutted in a spacious manner over the old field and out-ways forest as their owners frowned and wondered how much more money he would have to "soak" in them before they would be ready for market.

A few moments later J. B. Wood, Siler City poultry processor, drove up and Hancock sold the entire lot. The gamble paid off, but not as well as it would have if the Office of Price Administration had stayed in the meat picture.

If you are a city dweller, the turkey you will eat for Thanksgiving will cost you in the neighborhood of 68 cents per pound—drawn, dressed, and ready for the oven.

In all probability it was processed in about eight minutes, under the most sanitary conditions, in one of a score of North Carolina poultry-processing plants which have been built within the past 10 years.

All are doing a thriving business, because housewives would rather buy their chickens and turkeys dressed than to wrestle with them over chopping blocks and in the kitchen.

J. B. Wood, for instance, will process approximately 25,000 turkeys for the Christmas and Thanksgiving holidays.

In 1946, a total of 360,000 turkeys was grown in North Carolina. Ten years ago North Carolina grew only 254,000.

Kelly attributes the recent increased demand for turkeys to the meat shortage and the ease with which they can be prepared for the table.

In 1936, farmers of the nation grew 27,424,000 turkeys. This year the figure will total 41,018,000.

The counties of Union, Anson, Alamano, Guilford, Iredell and Chatham have led the way in this State in the production and marketing of turkeys. Now Pamlico, which has a processing plant designed exclusively for turkeys, is going heavily into turkey production. The largest flock in the State, around 16,500, was produced this year in Pamlico by E. L. Gooding.

Turkeys in North Carolina have moved from backyard flocks, the chopping block, and the steam-filled dishpan to the broad range, special feeds, and the processing plant and canner grocery.

Small Pecan Crop Is Reported This Season

Raleigh, Nov. 27.—North Carolina's pecan crop this year is the smallest since 1939, the State Agriculture Department reports. Indications point to a production of 1,490,000 pounds, 53 per cent less than the 3,214,000 pounds harvested in 1945.

The Federal-State Crop Reporting Service said this year's crop would run about 24 per cent smaller than the 10-year average of 2,472,000 pounds.

NOTICE TO CREDITORS
Having qualified as Administratrix of the Estate of Elbert Moye, late of Pitt County, North Carolina, this is to notify all persons having claims against the Estate of the deceased to exhibit them to the undersigned at Farmville, North Carolina, on or before the 26th day of November, 1947, or this notice will be pleaded in bar of their recovery. All persons indebted to the said Estate will please make immediate settlement.
This the 26th day of November, 1946.

TURETHA MOYE, Admrx. of the Estate of Elbert Moye,
John B. Lewis, Atty. (N-23-61)



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