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EC1407 The Per Capita Consumption of Eggs

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COOPERATIVE EXTENSION WORK

IN AGRICULTURE AND HOME ECONOMICS

U. of N. Agr. College & U. S. Dept. of Agr. Cooperating
W. V. Lambert, Director, Lincoln

THE PER CAPITA CONSUMPTION OF EGGS

Changes in the per capita production and consumption of eggs reveal the effects caused by periods of depression and prosperity as well as the war time effort to produce maximum amounts of food. During the period of wide spread drouth and depression from 1932 to 1936, the average per capita production and consumption of eggs was 302 and 291 respectively. During these years the average farm egg prices were low (18.04 cents per dozen). Egg consumption was below the recommended dietary needs because of low incomes.

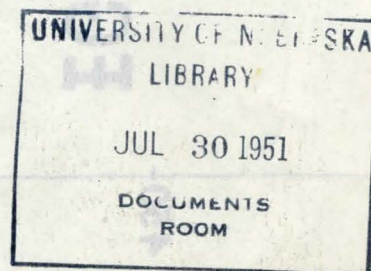
During the war period in 1944, the per capita production reached an all time high of 463 eggs with a five year average of 430 eggs. America was producing extra eggs as part of the war effort to help feed our allies. Because meat consumption was rationed egg consumption did go up to 356 eggs per person during the five year period.

From 1946 to 1950, the average per capita egg production of 422 was maintained. This high per capita production was partly due to the industry being geared to the war time needs and the fact that support prices were maintained to prevent egg prices going more than ten per cent below parity. Part of the increase may also be attributed to the increased efficiency in production. During the years of 1946 to 1950, producers were getting an average of 135 eggs for each hen on hand on January 1. This was 42 more eggs per hen than during the 1932 to 1936 period. Cost of producing eggs had definitely been lowered because of improved breeding, feeding and management practices.

The per capita consumption of eggs averaged 383 eggs during the 1946 to 1950 period. Egg prices remained relatively cheap in comparison to prices of other foods. People were fully employed. They have learned that eggs are an essential food. The recommendations of the dietitians regarding egg consumption have been quite closely followed during this period. This increase in per capita consumption of eggs was made possible because producers had adopted the more efficient and labor saving methods of production.

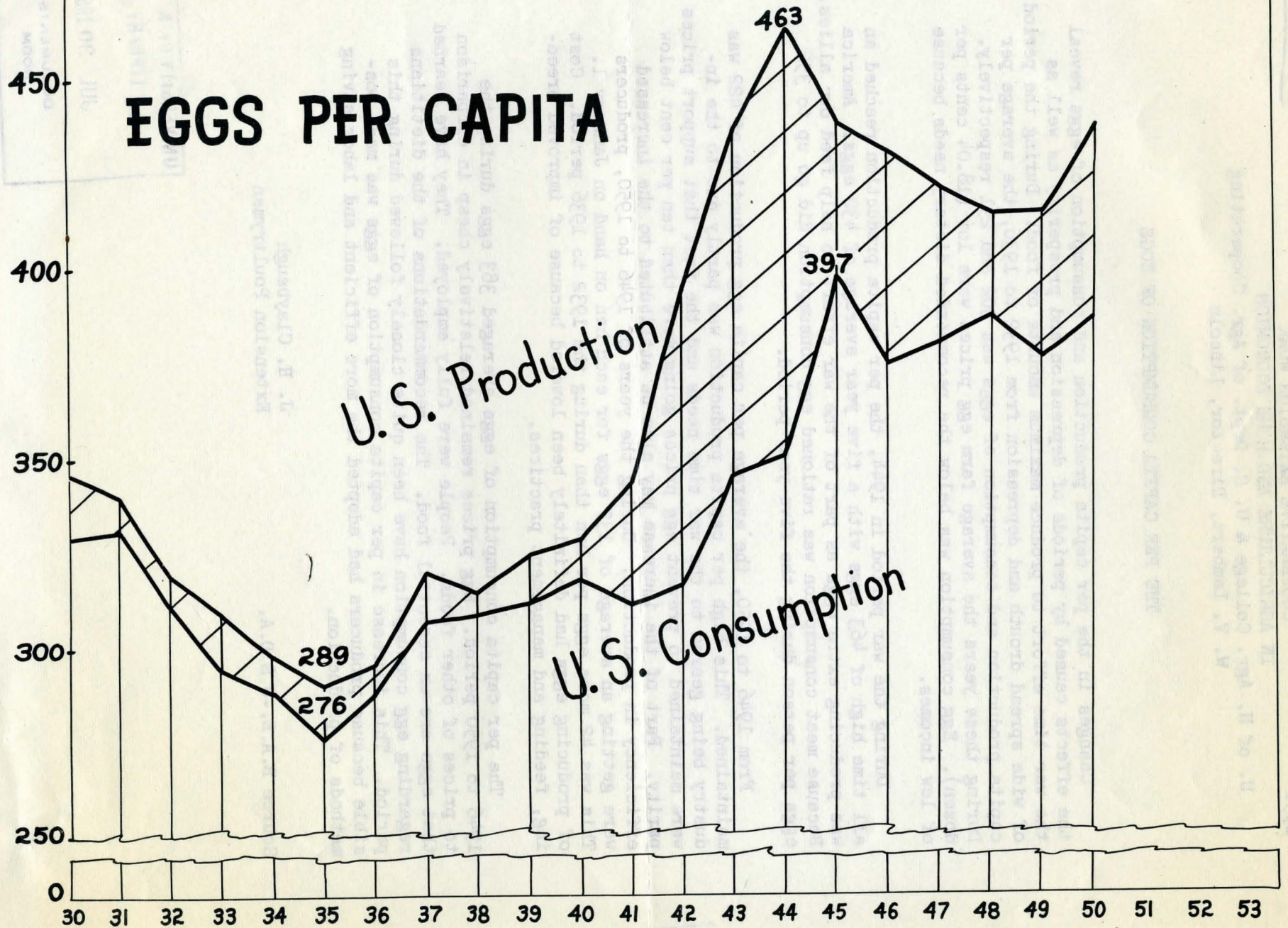
Source B.A.E.-U.S.D.A.

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PER CAPITA PRODUCTION OF EGGS

EGGS PER CAPITA



PER CAPITA CONSUMPTION BY YEARS