

discussion will cover the two dominant types of poultry farming, egg and meat production.

Production and income

The poultry industry is one of the most important types of live-stock production on the West Bank. According to official income and output data, poultry products (meat and eggs) contributed around 7 percent of gross farm income during 1978-79. Its share was slightly smaller than that of sheep but larger than those of almonds and grapes combined.

It is very difficult to ascertain with reasonable precision the current number of poultry farms and their actual production.

Because the actual scale of operation varies so markedly in response to price fluctuations, it is rare to have a reasonably stable supply. However, according to the records of the Department of Agriculture there are about 557 farms of which 507 are specialized in broiler production and 50 in producing table eggs. Annual production for 1980 was estimated at 4610 tons of live broiler meat and 24.5 million eggs (see Table IX-12)

Table (IX - 12)

Number and production capacity of poultry farms, by district
(1980)

<u>District</u>	<u>No. of broiler farms</u>	<u>Meat output tons/year</u>	<u>No. of egg farms</u>	<u>No. of layers</u>	<u>Egg output ,000/year</u>
Total	507	4610	50	119,450	24,519
Jenin	128	958	2	20,400	4,284
Tulkarm	57	1325	10	26,800	5,360
Nablus	49	365	2	3,700	740
Ramallah	110	400	16	30,500	6,415
Jerusalem	3	24	1	2,500	450
Jericho	10	287	1	4,000	800
Bethlehem	21	171	9	15,850	3,300
Hebron	129	1080	9	15,700	3,140

Source: Files of the Department of Agriculture.

The geographic distribution of poultry farming reveals no significant regional specialization, except perhaps for a somewhat depressed production in Jerusalem and Jericho districts, the former for "sanitary" restrictions and the latter following massive demographic evacuation. Climate and other natural attributes bear very little on the prospects of altering poultry production in all West Bank regions, because of total dependence on imported feed ingredients and baby chicks.

Supply and consumption

The West Bank population derives its poultry meat and egg supply from two sources: local produce and imports from Israel. Imports from Jordan and other countries are forbidden. Table (IX-13) reveals a comparative analogy of poultry farming in the West Bank, Israel, and Jordan.