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Adjusting Agricultural Production and Distribution in the Beckley Area to Meet Home Market Demands

W. W. Armentrout

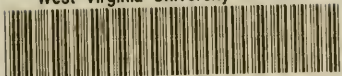
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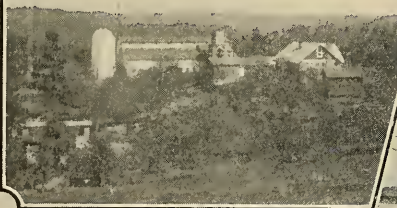
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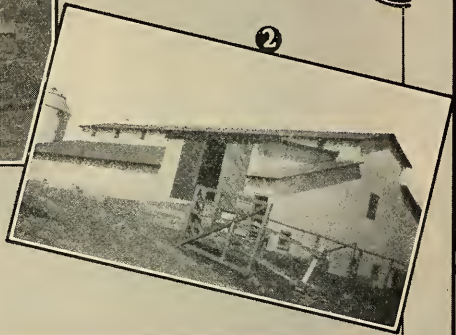
*Adjusting Agricultural Production and
Distribution in the Beckley Area
to Meet Home Market Demands*

by W. W. ARMENTROUT

AGRICULTURAL EXPERIMENT STATION
COLLEGE OF AGRICULTURE, WEST VIRGINIA UNIVERSITY
F. D. FROMME, Director
MORGANTOWN



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1. Bird's-eye view of Raleigh Dairy Company farm at Daniels, W. Va.
2. New fire-proof dairy barn of the Raleigh Dairy Company.
3. A typical farming section in Raleigh County, well adapted to dairying and trucking.
4. Poultry and truck farm owned by C. D. Pittman, Glen White, W. Va. A profitable business particularly in this section.
5. Poultry farm and hatchery of N. L. Sonders, Beckley, W. Va.

*Adjusting Agricultural Production and Distribution to Meet Home Market Demands in the Beckley Area**

by W. W. ARMENTROUT

THE PRESENT report of a study of the Beckley area is the third of a series of reports dealing with the consumption of food commodities in West Virginia cities and with the production of these commodities in adjacent farming territory.

Studies have been made of the Charleston and Clarksburg areas, reports of which have been published as West Virginia Agricultural Experiment Station Bulletins 188 and 212, respectively.¹

Beckley was included in the "Charleston Trade Area" in the study made of that area in 1924. It was selected for the present study as a town representative of conditions in the smaller towns of the southern West Virginia coal fields.

Beckley, a town of 4,149,² is the county seat of Raleigh County. It is the center of the business activities of the Winding Gulf coal region, as well as the trading center for the people in a number of mining towns of that section. It is not, however, a distributing center for food products, since company stores in the mining towns and hucksters provide this service.

The population of Raleigh County increased 341 percent during the twenty-year period from 1900 to 1920. This increase was due chiefly to the development of coal mining in the region. The 1920 census shows that in Raleigh County 8,524 persons were employed in mines, 1,518 as farm operators, and 592 in other industries. Some of the number listed as farm operators do little more than make their home on a small farm, deriving their main income from employment in mines nearby. Agriculture has been pushed aside in the march of industry, which now predominates in the area.

*Submitted for publication September, 1927.

¹See also Bulletin 228 of this Station for report of Wheeling study.

²Fourteenth Census of the United States (1920).

Good agricultural land is scarce in Raleigh County, and for that reason the county cannot now be regarded as a potential agricultural section. But there are small areas of land which can be made productive enough to supply a larger part of the local food demands than is being provided at present.

RAILROADS AND HIGHWAYS

Beckley is located on branch lines of the Chesapeake & Ohio and Virginian Railways. Service is less satisfactory than on the main lines of these roads, and rates are somewhat higher.

Until the fall of 1926 Beckley had but one outlet over a hard-surfaced road, a very mediocre road leading to Charleston. Recently roads have been opened up leading to Hinton and Bluefield, but even yet the better farming sections of Raleigh County are not tapped by improved roads. The road to Hinton opened up a trucking section along the New River in Summers County which promises to supply much of the local demand for seasonal vegetables. In the fall of 1926 a hard-surfaced road was completed which connects Beckley with Bluefield. There is some good farm land in Mercer County, in which Bluefield is located, and there is an excellent farming section in Tazewell County, Virginia, which joins Mercer County. The new road has made this whole region available to consumers in Beckley and other coal towns.

There is need for an early completion of a road from Hinton to Alderson and into Greenbrier and Monroe Counties. Such a road would put the coal fields within easy reach of these good agricultural regions.

Hucksters buy vegetables and produce on the Huntington markets and bring them into Beckley and the Winding Gulf coal fields by motor truck. The amount of commodities brought in by truck was not ascertained, but from reports of retail grocers the impression was gained that perhaps as much as one-half of the vegetables and produce consumed were brought to market in this way. Along with the opening of improved roads, freight receipts showed a decrease.

SOURCES OF DATA

The data on freight shipments were obtained for a twenty-four months' period from station records of the Chesapeake & Ohio and Virginian Railways at their Beckley stations. Records of express receipts for a corresponding period were taken directly from express way-bills in the district accounting offices of the Southeastern Express Company in Washington. Express charges for the various commodi-

ties were not obtained because of the great number of mixed shipments, with only total charges given.

Records of express receipts for the month of November and December, 1926, and January, 1927, were not available because of an experiment in accounting then under trial by the express company.

Data on local production were not obtained.

RECEIPTS OF COMMODITIES

The present study concerns those commodities which were being produced to some extent in the farming sections of the Beckley area.

Potatoes

Table 1 shows the receipts of potatoes on the Beckley market for a two-year period beginning April, 1925, and ending March, 1927, together with carrying charges and origin of shipment. No potatoes were received by express. Large quantities were shipped from wholesale markets, as is evident from shipments made from Hinton, Charleston, Cincinnati, and Columbus.

The receipts of potatoes during the period of April, 1926, to March, 1927, amounted to about 64 percent of the receipts during the previous year. This may be accounted for partially by the recent opening of roads through some of the better agricultural land in neighboring counties, permitting the trucking to market of more locally grown potatoes. Such potatoes, trucked in, have taken the place of many which formerly had been shipped in. There was no indication of decreased consumption.

Considerable expansion in the potato acreage has developed in Summers, a neighboring county, during the past four years, but as indicated by the data in Table 1, there still is room for expansion before the demands of the market are met.

The average carrying charges were about 52c per hundred pounds, but on potatoes shipped from wholesale markets there was an additional first transportation cost not included in this figure.

Tomatoes

Table 2 shows the quantity of tomatoes received in Beckley by freight, the origin of shipment, and the carrying charges for two twelve-months' periods. The receipts for the year of April, 1926, to March, 1927, amounted to only about 8½ percent of the receipts of the previous twelve months. There was an expansion in tomato production in the New River section along with the opening of the road

State or City from Which Shipped	February, 1926		March, 1926		April, 1926		May, 1926		June, 1926		July, 1926		August, 1926	
	Pounds	Carrying Charges	Pounds	Carrying Charges	Pounds	Carrying Charges	Pounds	Carrying Charges	Pounds	Carrying Charges	Pounds	Carrying Charges	Pounds	Carrying Charges
Total	2700	\$7.38	2400	\$6.25	3510	\$11.26	10498	\$41.90	9521	\$41.63	28840	\$113.38	11835	\$50.81
Mich.	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---
N. Y.	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---
Wis.	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---
S. Car.	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---
Va.	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---
Hinton	2400	6.00	2300	5.75	2210	5.50	4800	12.00	2400	8.40	10810	27.00	3845	9.50
Charleston	---	---	---	---	---	---	600	2.04	1350	4.59	---	---	---	---
Ky.	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---
Ohio	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---
Cincinnati	300	1.38	100	.45	700	3.00	615	3.56	---	---	1800	8.28	---	---
Columbus	---	---	---	---	600	2.76	4483	24.30	1821	9.83	2880	13.65	3180	18.24
Md.	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---
Ind.	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---
N. Car.	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---
State or City from Which Shipped	September, 1926		October, 1926		November, 1926		December, 1926		January, 1927		February, 1927		March, 1927	
	Pounds	Carrying Charges	Pounds	Carrying Charges	Pounds	Carrying Charges	Pounds	Carrying Charges	Pounds	Carrying Charges	Pounds	Carrying Charges	Pounds	Carrying Charges
Total	50280	\$204.35	47412	\$222.58	27235	\$129.28	90650	\$501.60	67875	\$424.25	117000	\$666.90	114240	\$700.09
Mich.	---	---	---	---	---	---	39000	222.30	39000	222.00	---	---	78000	444.60
N. Y.	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	36240	255.49
Wis.	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---
S. Car.	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---
Va.	40960	170.74	40942	200.57	21570	103.12	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---
Hinton	6140	15.37	4670	11.75	900	2.25	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---
Charleston	---	---	1500	5.10	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---
Ky.	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---
Ohio	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---
Cincinnati	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---
Columbus	3180	18.24	1800	10.26	3265	18.81	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---
Md.	---	---	---	---	---	---	15650	93.90	---	---	---	---	---	---
Ind.	---	---	---	---	---	---	36000	185.40	28875	202.25	---	---	---	---
N. Car.	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---

TABLE 2.—Receipts of Tomatoes in Beckley by Freight: State or City from Which Shipped, Quantity, and Carrying Charges by Months, April, 1925, to March, 1927, Inclusive*

Month	Year	Total		State or City from Which Shipped			
				Hinton		Charleston	
		Pounds	Carrying Charges	Pounds	Carrying Charges	Pounds	Carrying Charges
Total -----	{ 1925	156675	\$1753.72	7935	\$37.86	-----	-----
	{ 1926	10340	61.14	8740	48.98	1600	\$12.16
April -----	{ 1925	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----
	{ 1926	300	1.52	300	1.52	-----	-----
May -----	{ 1925	41580	480.25	-----	-----	-----	-----
	{ 1926	700	3.94	700	3.94	-----	-----
June -----	{ 1925	90455	1062.43	3455	18.34	-----	-----
	{ 1926	2460	12.78	2460	12.78	-----	-----
July -----	{ 1925	24500	210.28	4340	18.76	-----	-----
	{ 1926	5200	30.30	5200	30.30	-----	-----
August -----	{ 1925	140	.76	140	.76	-----	-----
	{ 1926	80	.44	80	.44	-----	-----
September -----	{ 1925	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----
	{ 1926	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----
October -----	{ 1925	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----
	{ 1926	1600	12.16	-----	-----	1600	12.16

Month	Year	State or City from Which Shipped					
		Mississippi		Texas		Tennessee	
		Pounds	Carrying Charges	Pounds	Carrying Charges	Pounds	Carrying Charges
Total -----	{ 1925	84420	\$975.05	24000	\$354.60	40320	\$386.21
	{ 1926	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----
April -----	{ 1925	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----
	{ 1926	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----
May -----	{ 1925	41580	480.25	-----	-----	-----	-----
	{ 1926	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----
June -----	{ 1925	42840	494.80	24000	354.60	20160	194.69
	{ 1926	-----	-----	-----	-----	20160	191.52
July -----	{ 1925	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----
	{ 1926	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----
August -----	{ 1925	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----
	{ 1926	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----
September -----	{ 1925	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----
	{ 1926	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----
October -----	{ 1925	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----
	{ 1926	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----

*No receipts in months of November, December, January, February, and March.

connecting Beckley with that section. This accounted for much of the decrease in freight receipts of tomatoes during the latter period.

Caution should be observed by local growers to avoid a glutted market such as often happens to the tomato market when the local product is in season.

Cabbage

Tables 3 and 4 show the receipts of cabbage by freight on the Beckley market. It will be noted that the receipts amounted to more during the twelve-months' period of 1926-27 than for the previous period, while most of the commodities were showing a decrease in quantity of receipts. Cabbage has not been produced on a commercial

TABLE 3.—Receipts of Cabbage in Beckley by Freight: State or City from Which Shipped, Quantity, and Carrying Charges by Months, April, 1925, to March, 1926, Inclusive

Month	Total		State or City from Which Shipped					
			Hinton		Charleston		Cincinnati	
			Pounds	Carrying Charges	Pounds	Carrying Charges	Pounds	Carrying Charges
Total	71260	\$567.37	13500	\$45.78	300	\$1.23	100	\$0.50
1925								
April	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----
May	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----
June	59440	525.63	2080	5.77	-----	-----	-----	-----
July	400	1.08	400	1.08	-----	-----	-----	-----
August	900	2.43	900	2.43	-----	-----	-----	-----
September	900	2.43	900	2.43	-----	-----	-----	-----
October	520	1.82	220	0.59	300	1.23	-----	-----
November	1200	3.24	1200	3.24	-----	-----	-----	-----
December	2500	6.75	2500	6.75	-----	-----	-----	-----
1926								
January	3400	9.18	3400	9.18	-----	-----	-----	-----
February	1900	5.13	1900	5.13	-----	-----	-----	-----
March	3500	9.63	3400	9.18	-----	-----	100	0.50

Month	State or City from Which Shipped					
	Tennessee		Kentucky		North Carolina	
	Pounds	Carrying Charges	Pounds	Carrying Charges	Pounds	Carrying Charges
Total	21360	\$163.28	14000	\$100.38	22000	\$256.20
1925						
April	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----
May	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----
June	21360	163.28	14000	100.38	22000	256.20
July	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----
August	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----
September	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----
October	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----
November	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----
December	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----
1926						
January	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----
February	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----
March	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----

TABLE 4.—Receipts of Cabbage in Beckley by Freight: State or City from Which Shipped, Quantity, and Carrying Charges by Months, April, 1926, to March, 1927, Inclusive

Month	Total		State or City from Which Shipped			
			Hinton		Charleston	
	Pounds	Carrying Charges	Pounds	Carrying Charges	Pounds	Carrying Charges
Total -----	94189	\$454.32	13625	\$37.22	120	\$5.60
1926						
April -----	5258	16.01	4475	12.51	-----	---
May -----	3506	10.87	3300	8.91	-----	---
June -----	3700	9.99	3700	9.99	-----	---
July -----	5600	25.57	1800	4.86	-----	---
August -----	50	.14	50	.14	-----	---
September -----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	---
October -----	1300	4.91	300	.81	1000	4.10
November -----	24000	120.00	-----	-----	-----	---
December -----	24585	122.93	-----	-----	-----	---
1927						
January -----	25890	142.40	-----	-----	-----	---
February -----	300	1.50	-----	-----	300	1.50
March -----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	---

Month	State or City from Which Shipped					
	Cincinnati		Columbus		New York	
	Pounds	Carrying Charges	Pounds	Carrying Charges	Pounds	Carrying Charges
Total -----	4583	\$24.21	206	\$1.96	74475	\$385.33
1926						
April -----	753	3.50	-----	-----	-----	---
May -----	-----	-----	206	1.96	-----	---
June -----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	---
July -----	3800	20.71	-----	-----	-----	---
August -----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	---
September -----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	---
October -----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	---
November -----	-----	-----	-----	-----	24000	120.00
December -----	-----	-----	-----	-----	24585	122.93
1927						
January -----	-----	-----	-----	-----	25890	142.40
February -----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	---
March -----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	---

scale in this area, but reports from its production in gardens indicate that it would grow well.

Onions

Tables 5 and 6 show the receipts of onions by freight on the Beckley market. The receipts for the latter twelve months amounted to only about 70 percent of those for the year preceding.

Farmers in the New River section might well investigate the

adaptability of their soil to this crop. There was a market for onions every month in the year, and a local product might displace some of the varieties now shipped in.

Vegetables

Tables 7 and 8 show the quantity of receipts of vegetables (unclassified) by freight and express. Data of such vegetables as lettuce, corn, beans, and some of the vegetables listed in previous tables are included. It was not possible in the course of the study to classify

TABLE 5.—Receipts of Onions in Beckley by Freight: State or City from Which Shipped, Quantity, and Carrying Charges by Months, April, 1925, to March, 1926, Inclusive

Month	Total		State or City from Which Shipped			
	Pounds	Carrying Charges	Hinton		Charleston	
			Pounds	Carrying Charges	Pounds	Carrying Charges
Total -----	96912	\$1105.55	29085	\$83.71	900	\$4.10
1925						
April -----	33824	517.51	-----	-----	-----	-----
May -----	30123	483.31	-----	-----	-----	-----
June -----	1680	5.05	1680	5.05	-----	-----
July -----	2050	6.05	2050	6.05	-----	-----
August -----	2670	8.03	2670	8.03	-----	-----
September -----	2935	9.40	2935	9.40	-----	-----
October -----	6750	24.06	4250	11.59	900	4.10
November -----	3200	9.81	2850	7.90	-----	-----
December -----	2825	8.72	2600	7.49	-----	-----
1926						
January -----	3950	12.16	3700	10.80	-----	-----
February -----	3600	12.03	3250	9.03	-----	-----
March -----	3300	9.42	3100	8.37	-----	-----

Month	State or City from Which Shipped			
	Cincinnati		Texas	
	Pounds	Carrying Charges	Pounds	Carrying Charges
Total -----	2975	\$16.92	63952	\$1000.82
1925				
April -----	-----	-----	33824	517.51
May -----	-----	-----	30123	483.31
June -----	-----	-----	-----	-----
July -----	-----	-----	-----	-----
August -----	-----	-----	-----	-----
September -----	-----	-----	-----	-----
October -----	1600	8.37	-----	-----
November -----	350	1.91	-----	-----
December -----	225	1.23	-----	-----
1926				
January -----	250	1.36	-----	-----
February -----	350	3.00	-----	-----
March -----	200	1.05	-----	-----

TABLE 6.—Receipts of Onions in Beckley by Freight: State or City from Which Shipped, Quantity, and Carrying Charges by Months, April, 1926, to March, 1927, Inclusive

Month	Total		State or City from Which Shipped					
			Hinton		Charleston		Cincinnati	
	Pounds	Carrying Charges	Pounds	Carrying Charges	Pounds	Carrying Charges	Pounds	Carrying Charges
Total ----	68726	\$315.24	21395	\$60.52	8100	\$34.57	6710	\$36.63
1926								
April ----	2765	10.07	2015	5.97	-----	-----	750	4.10
May ----	3345	13.54	2430	7.97	-----	-----	-----	-----
June ----	2924	10.31	2250	6.09	-----	-----	350	1.91
July ----	5310	25.13	1750	5.05	-----	-----	3250	17.78
August --	2450	9.07	1650	4.47	-----	-----	700	3.83
September	3250	11.21	2600	7.25	-----	-----	100	.55
October -	42050	207.87	7400	20.21	4000	17.68	1550	8.46
November	2000	7.43	1300	3.51	200	.82	-----	-----
December	432	2.68	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----
1927								
January -	3300	14.16	-----	-----	3000	12.30	-----	-----
February	900	3.77	-----	-----	900	3.77	-----	-----
March ---	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----

Month	State or City from Which Shipped					
	Columbus		Indiana		New York	
	Pounds	Carrying Charges	Pounds	Carrying Charges	Pounds	Carrying Charges
Total -----	3921	\$25.10	24100	\$128.94	4500	\$29.48
1926						
April -----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----
May -----	915	5.57	-----	-----	-----	-----
June -----	324	2.31	-----	-----	-----	-----
July -----	300	2.30	-----	-----	-----	-----
August -----	100	.77	-----	-----	-----	-----
September -----	550	3.41	-----	-----	-----	-----
October -----	500	3.10	24100	128.94	4500	29.48
November -----	500	3.10	-----	-----	-----	-----
December -----	432	2.68	-----	-----	-----	-----
1927						
January -----	300	1.86	-----	-----	-----	-----
February -----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----
March -----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----

these receipts; nor was it possible to separate the express charges for these vegetables from charges on other commodities in the same shipment. Total receipts for the year 1926-27 show a marked decrease from receipts for the previous corresponding period, while express receipts show a slight decrease, with a three-months' record missing.

Apples

Tables 9 and 10 show the quantity of apples received on the Beckley market for the period under consideration. It may be noted that

the receipts for the second period amounted to 82 percent of the receipts of the first year. The carrying charges, however, were about the same because of the receipt of a carload of Washington apples, bearing high freight charges.

Mixed Fruits

Table 11 shows the express receipts of fruits on the Beckley market. It was not possible to separate the records by commodities, since

TABLE 7.—Receipts of Vegetables (Unclassified) in Beckley by Freight and Express: State or City from Which Shipped, Quantity, and Carrying Charges by Months, April, 1925, to March, 1926, Inclusive

Month	Total		State or City from Which Shipped by Freight			
			Hinton		Cincinnati	
	Pounds	Carrying Charges	Pounds	Carrying Charges	Pounds	Carrying Charges
Total -----	259895	\$704.95	10585	\$45.02	33620	\$202.93
1925						
April -----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----
May -----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----
June -----	55230	475.89	5230	18.89	-----	-----
July -----	55757	205.67	550	2.74	33620	202.93
August -----	10166	.11	20	.11	-----	-----
September -----	13666	.07	25	.07	-----	-----
October -----	25595	no r'c'rd	-----	-----	-----	-----
November -----	23125	.32	60	.32	-----	-----
December -----	16545	2.15	390	2.15	-----	-----
1926						
January -----	18637	6.39	1520	6.39	-----	-----
February -----	15595	8.21	1505	8.21	-----	-----
March -----	25579	6.14	1285	6.14	-----	-----

Month	State from Which Shipped by Frt.		Express	
	Virginia			
	Pounds	Carrying Charges	Pounds	Carrying Charges
Total -----	50000	\$457.00	165990	no record
1925				
April -----	-----	-----	-----	-----
May -----	-----	-----	-----	-----
June -----	50000	457.00	-----	-----
July -----	-----	-----	21587	no record
August -----	-----	-----	10146	no record
September -----	-----	-----	13641	no record
October -----	-----	-----	25595	no record
November -----	-----	-----	23065	no record
December -----	-----	-----	16155	no record
1926				
January -----	-----	-----	17117	no record
February -----	-----	-----	14090	no record
March -----	-----	-----	24294	no record

TABLE 8.—Receipts of Vegetables (Unclassified) in Beckley by Freight and Express: State or City from Which Shipped, Quantity, and Carrying Charges by Months, April, 1926, to March, 1927, Inclusive

Month	Total		City from Which Shipped by Freight			
			Hinton		Charleston	
	Pounds	Carrying Charges	Pounds	Carrying Charges	Pounds	Carrying Charges
Total -----	173481	\$99.14	5166	\$34.93	6300	\$41.93
1926						
April -----	39893	4.88	945	4.88	-----	-----
May -----	30732	6.41	1216	6.41	-----	-----
June -----	21605	20.76	2515	20.76	-----	-----
July -----	20485	24.46	360	2.18	-----	-----
August -----	21954	no r'e'rd	-----	-----	-----	-----
September -----	3506	no r'e'rd	-----	-----	-----	-----
October -----	10886	13.54	-----	-----	2150	13.54
November -----	1880	12.25	130	.70	1750	11.55
December -----	1200	8.42	-----	-----	1200	8.42
1927						
January -----	1200	8.42	-----	-----	1200	8.42
February -----	8688	no r'e'rd	-----	-----	-----	-----
March -----	11452	no r'e'rd	-----	-----	-----	-----

Month	City from Which Shipped by Frt.		Express	
	Cincinnati		Pounds	Carrying Charges
	Pounds	Carrying Charges		
Total -----	2325	\$22.28	159690	no record
1926				
April -----	-----	-----	38948	no record
May -----	-----	-----	29516	no record
June -----	-----	-----	19090	no record
July -----	2325	22.28	17300	no record
August -----	-----	-----	21954	no record
September -----	-----	-----	3506	no record
October -----	-----	-----	8736	no record
November -----	-----	-----	no record	no record
December -----	-----	-----	no record	no record
1927				
January -----	-----	-----	no record	no record
February -----	-----	-----	8688	no record
March -----	-----	-----	11452	no record

the quantity was not given for each separate commodity. These fruits included apples, peaches, pears, plums, and grapes.

Canned Milk

Table 12 shows the receipts of canned milk on the Beckley market for the twenty-four months under consideration. The second twelve-months' period showed an increase in receipts over the first period.

Beckley consumers are not well supplied with dairy products, especially fluid milk. Several families keep one or two cows which supply them with milk. In general the dairy situation is not satisfactory. There appears to be justification for an expansion in dairying sufficient to meet the needs for whole milk. Some of the demand for canned milk might be turned to a demand for whole milk if the latter could be supplied at a reasonable price and with reasonably good service.

TABLE 9.—Receipts of Apples in Beckley by Freight: State or City from Which Shipped, Quantity, and Carrying Charges by Months, April, 1925, to March, 1926, Inclusive

Month	Total		State or City from Which Shipped					
	Pounds	Carrying Charges	Hinton		Ronceverte		Cincinnati	
			Pounds	Carrying Charges	Pounds	Carrying Charges	Pounds	Carrying Charges
Total	353169	\$1427.91	52505	\$180.14	5050	\$15.66	750	\$6.95
1925								
April								
May								
June	7560	26.95	7560	26.95				
July	24640	177.17	640	2.17				
August								
September	6200	26.53	6200	26.53				
October	78610	236.01	5140	19.30	3450	10.70		
November	126965	449.56	2445	10.55	800	2.48		
December	33720	160.02	6740	26.64	800	2.48		
1926								
January	5545	20.86	5545	20.86				
February	62609	318.93	11215	28.90			450	4.31
March	7320	20.83	7020	18.24			300	2.64

Month	State or City from Which Shipped by Freight					
	Virginia		Delaware		New York	
	Pounds	Carrying Charges	Pounds	Carrying Charges	Pounds	Carrying Charges
Total	166740	\$498.54	24000	\$175.00	104124	551.62
1925						
April						
May						
June						
July			24000	175.00		
August						
September						
October	70020	206.01				
November	96720	292.53			27000	135.00
December					26180	130.90
1926						
January						
February					50944	285.72
March						

TABLE 10.—Receipts of Apples in Beckley by Freight: State or City from Which Shipped, Quantity, and Carrying Charges by Months, April, 1926, to March, 1927, Inclusive

Month	Total		State or City from Which Shipped					
			Hinton		Charleston		Cincinnati	
	Pounds	Carrying Charges	Pounds	Carrying Charges	Pounds	Carrying Charges	Pounds	Carrying Charges
Total	292491	\$1469.62	55945	\$108.18	27980	\$126.33	1215	\$6.60
1926								
April	10535	33.62	8575	22.52			1215	6.60
May	13465	52.40	11450	31.40				
June	8080	23.36	7330	15.68				
July	2120	4.80	2120	4.80				
August								
September	25055	118.19			24000	112.80		
October	67992	711.84	25550	31.52	1500	5.10		
November	1560	5.21	920	2.26				
December	23744	171.72			2000	6.80		
1927								
January	500	2.30						
February	104740	268.10			480	1.63		
March	34700	78.08						

Month	State or City from Which Shipped							
	Columbus		Virginia		New York		Washington (State)	
	Pounds	Carrying Charges	Pounds	Carrying Charges	Pounds	Carrying Charges	Pounds	Carrying Charges
Total	3510	\$33.18	144675	\$371.38	21744	\$164.92	37422	\$659.03
1926								
April	745	4.50						
May	2015	21.00						
June	756	7.68						
July								
August								
September			1055	5.39				
October			3520	16.19			37422	659.03
November			640	2.95				
December					21744	164.92		
1927								
January			500	2.30				
February			104250	266.47				
March			34700	78.08				

Butter

Table 13 shows the express receipts of butter on the Beckley market for the period under consideration. No receipts by freight were noted.

Poultry and Eggs

Table 14 shows the express receipts of poultry in Beckley. No freight shipments were noted. There is no great difference in the

quantity of receipts for the two years when the three-months' records which are missing are kept in mind.

There seems to be a real opportunity for local producers to expand their poultry production sufficiently to take care of the demand, which is quite constant throughout the year.

TABLE 11.—Receipts of Fruits in Beckley by Express: Quantity by Months, April, 1925, to March, 1927, Inclusive

Month	1925 and 1926	1926 and 1927
	(pounds) 30355	(pounds) 3899
Total -----		
April -----	1767	250
May -----	1800	200
June -----	3500	1470
July -----	4030	none
August -----	6435	1440
September -----	2593	none
October -----	1911	none
November -----	2668	no record
December -----	1645	no record
January -----	3076	no record
February -----	250	539
March -----	680	none

TABLE 12.—Receipts of Canned Milk in Beckley by Freight: Quantity and Carrying Charges by Months, April, 1925, to March, 1927, Inclusive

Month	Year	Pounds	Carrying Charges
	Total -----	{ 1925 } 1926	165712 235264
April -----	{ 1925 } 1926	2796 10075	17.47 63.20
May -----	{ 1925 } 1926	17048 45859	31.28 292.19
June -----	{ 1925 } 1926	6038 9797	52.35 59.50
July -----	{ 1925 } 1926	8969 46585	16.29 306.47
August -----	{ 1925 } 1926	5004 12127	30.13 64.29
September -----	{ 1925 } 1926	45492 8712	291.56 52.20
October -----	{ 1925 } 1926	7433 45068	37.10 282.23
November -----	{ 1925 } 1926	6672 5360	33.14 27.07
December -----	{ 1925 } 1926	6731 39221	37.02 258.36
January -----	{ 1926 } 1927	5908 3510	34.95 15.01
February -----	{ 1926 } 1927	4323 4770	23.48 20.32
March -----	{ 1926 } 1927	49293 4180	321.87 16.95

TABLE 13.—Receipts of Butter in Beckley by Express: Quantity by Months, April, 1925, to March, 1927, Inclusive

Month	1925 and 1926	1926 and 1927
Total -----	(pounds) 32326	(pounds) 28759
April -----	1681	4179
May -----	2500	3819
June -----	2200	2381
July -----	3203	2644
August -----	2692	3733
September -----	2661	8053
October -----	2378	1755
November -----	3469	no record
December -----	3200	no record
January -----	2608	no record
February -----	2342	1173
March -----	3392	1022

TABLE 14.—Receipts of Poultry in Beckley by Express: Quantity by Months, April, 1925, to March, 1927, Inclusive

Month	1925 and 1926	1926 and 1927
Total -----	(pounds) 23300	(pounds) 14497
April -----	501	1013
May -----	400	440
June -----	2500	187
July -----	3748	1062
August -----	3339	3478
September -----	2493	3679
October -----	2744	2847
November -----	1415	no record
December -----	1520	no record
January -----	2438	no record
February -----	908	1481
March -----	1294	310

TABLE 15.—Receipts of Eggs in Beckley by Express: Quantity by Months, April, 1925, to March 1927, Inclusive

Month	1925 and 1926	1926 and 1927
Total -----	(cases) 1742	(cases) 1432
April -----	198	230
May -----	120	114
June -----	150	162
July -----	112	191
August -----	137	105
September -----	131	260
October -----	141	110
November -----	180	no record
December -----	124	no record
January -----	177	no record
February -----	115	153
March -----	157	107

Table 15 shows the receipts of eggs on the Beckley market. The local supply never has overtaken the demand and the record would indicate that egg production could stand some expansion.

TABLE 16.—Receipts of Meats in Beckley by Express: Quantity by Months, April, 1925, to March, 1927, Inclusive

Month	1925 and 1926	1926 and 1927
Total -----	(pounds) 162786	(pounds) 36789
April -----	10500	14378
May -----	15650	13144
June -----	14100	9267
July -----	16528	none
August -----	10192	none
September -----	14329	none
October -----	11657	none
November -----	18923	no record
December -----	14275	no record
January -----	13141	no record
February -----	11540	none
March -----	11951	none

TABLE 17.—Receipts of Feed in Beckley by Freight: Quantity and Carrying Charges by Months, April, 1925, to March, 1927, Inclusive

Month	Year	Pounds	Carrying Charges
Total -----	{ 1925	4102114	\$11891.18
	{ 1926	5228825	15534.84
April -----	{ 1925	226247	755.11
	{ 1926	473287	1385.50
May -----	{ 1925	373057	1039.30
	{ 1926	461940	1091.83
June -----	{ 1925	91222	312.99
	{ 1926	434785	1150.60
July -----	{ 1925	37100	117.92
	{ 1926	263228	973.84
August -----	{ 1925	323445	900.00
	{ 1926	488953	1433.23
September -----	{ 1925	371809	1025.30
	{ 1926	342240	985.34
October -----	{ 1925	405833	1155.00
	{ 1926	473763	1486.70
November -----	{ 1925	418915	1160.00
	{ 1926	643087	1751.75
December -----	{ 1925	450645	1275.00
	{ 1926	427737	1248.86
January -----	{ 1926	296130	869.40
	{ 1927	440594	1453.98
February -----	{ 1926	494843	1561.24
	{ 1927	434404	1408.15
March -----	{ 1926	612868	1719.92
	{ 1927	344807	1165.06

Meats

Table 16 shows the receipts of meats in Beckley. The small quantity of receipts in 1926 and 1927 may be accounted for by the fact that a wholesale meat market was established at Mabscott, a neighboring town, which took care of the local demands. Receipts for this establishment came to the Mabscott station.

Grain and Mill Feeds

Table 17 shows the receipts of grain and mill feeds in Beckley. Little of the Beckley area is suited to feed production in competition with mid-western states.

SUMMARY AND DISCUSSION

Beckley and other coal towns in the southern West Virginia coal fields probably must look forward to having much of their food commodities shipped or hauled from distant points, since the areas of good farm land in the section are inadequate to meet local market needs.

There are small areas of fairly good farm land. In the hands of capable farmers these areas would find in a market such as Beckley good opportunities for profitable farming.

Summers, Monroe, and Greenbrier Counties have some excellent farm land, but the condition of the roads, together with poor railway facilities, has made it difficult for the farmers to reach the coal-field markets.

The completion of a highway system connecting this agricultural section with the coal-field markets would mean much to farmers in providing a needed market and would also provide a better and probably cheaper food supply for the inhabitants of the coal towns. It would be wise to give attention to this circumstance in planning the highway system for this part of the state.

There is need for an expansion of dairying in the area, since the supply of market milk is inadequate for the demand.

The market indicates that there is room for an expansion in many types of farm production in the area, if farmers can find land suitable for their undertaking. The Beckley market is a high market throughout the year.





