

## LPG METERS

	Number Meters Tested	Under- Regis- tered	Aver- age Error	Over- Regis- tered	Aver- age Error	Range
1st Test — 1962-63 and part of 1963-64	229	91	2.45%	46	3.85%	+9.68% to —8.97%
2nd Test — 1963-64	116	30	2.06%	6	2.90%	+4% to —4.25%

On the first test of LPG meters 60% were either rejected or calibrated. The following year, on the second inspection of some of the same meters, only 31% needed calibration or were rejected. The error range was lower by more than one-half on the second test and the average error was somewhat lower. On the first test, approximately one-third of the meters which needed calibration were over-registering; the following year only one-sixth of the meters needing calibration were over-registering. Due to the nature of these devices there is a tendency to become inaccurate in the direction of under-registration when the meter is used for a considerable time or gallonage. This is created through wearing of the measuring chamber. Any over-registration which occurs in a previously properly calibrated meter is due to either a major mechanical defect or improper interchanging of components. It is unusual for a meter to over-register of its own accord. Actual figures for the second testing of all meters in the state, which will run into the 1964-65 fiscal year, indicates that only 15% to 20% of the meters will require calibration on the second test. The Weights and Measures Section is very proud of this new program and has found it to be one of the most satisfying programs thus far initiated.

During the biennium just passed, the Weights and Measures Section conducted an extensive investigation into the methods used by cotton ginners in the state in determining the amount of cottonseed the farmers were producing. We found that a majority of the gins were using various formulas to determine the amount of seed for which the farmers were to be paid. These formulas were found to be very inadequate, generally resulting in a considerable loss of income to the farmer. There is a wide variation in seed percentage in various lots of cotton. There are various factors which contribute to this variation and this variation can exist in different lots from the same field.

The Weights and Measures Section also tested existing devices for weighing cottonseed. Some of these were found to be inadequate. The cotton gins in the state have been informed that they must have an approved device for weighing cottonseed by the beginning of the 1965 ginning season. Some of these devices have already been installed and approved.

The Weights and Measures Section has devoted as much time and effort as possible to checking packaged commodities, which has come to be recognized throughout the nation as one of the most important functions of a weights and measures jurisdiction. In 1962-63, errors resulted in placing "Off Sale" approximately 52,959 packages of various commodities. These commodities were either short-weight or measure, or were improperly or deceptively labeled. A large number of these 52,959 packages were from a few commodities which we were able to locate in large quantities. The items were either returned to the packer for re-weighing or were re-marked on the spot and then released for sale. In 1963-64, 23,159 of approximately 94,137 packages were found deficient and placed "Off Sale." There has been a marked improvement in the packages of manufacturers, distributors and retailers of products which were found deficient in the past. The Weights and Measures Section is continually entering new areas of commodities, while at the same time occasionally checking past offenders. There is much yet to be done in the field of package inspection and the Weights and Measures Section is steadily increasing its efforts in this field.

**FRUITS AND VEGETABLES.** The New Mexico Produce Marketing Act, which replaced the old Fruit and Vegetable Standardization Act, was passed in the last session of Legislature. The basis for this regulation was to provide better protection to agricultural growers where commission merchants or brokerage firms were shipping produce from New Mexico. It provides for better accounting of sales and increasing the bond to give more security to the agricultural producer. With the increasing volume of produce now being grown in New Mexico, more inspection work is necessary in the fruit and vegetable field. The amount of inspection work has almost doubled over the previous biennium, as the chart below will indicate.

## FRUITS AND VEGETABLE SERVICE INSPECTIONS

Product	1962-63		1963-64	
	Number of Certificates	Type of Container	Number of Containers	Carlot Equivalent
Lettuce	581	Carton	492,212	785
Cabbage	2	50# sacks or cartons	1,488	2
Peanuts	1,621	Bulk	12,273,323 lbs.	
Onions	1,283	50# sacks	858,275	1,074
Potatoes	126	100# sacks	49,320	137

The number of Federal-State Inspectors required to handle these products is almost three times the amount necessary in previous years. New areas of vegetable production are showing promise in the state, and with this increase in production more Federal-State inspection personnel will be required for standardization of New Mexico products going to distant markets.

For the first year lettuce and cabbage were grown in quantity in the Estancia Valley with excellent results. The quality and production were good and the indications are that in the future this area will expand its agricultural out-put of vegetables by a considerable amount.

The Fruit and Vegetable Service is cooperating with the United States Department of Agriculture in the inspection for aflatoxin in the complete crop of Valencia peanuts in the Portales area, with two new grading stations added to the one that was previously operating in that area.

**EGG INSPECTION SERVICE.** The Egg Inspection Service was created in 1951. The New Mexico Egg Law was revised in 1953 and again in 1963. The purpose of the last revision was to "modernize" the law to keep up with the fast-moving New Mexico egg industry. The two major changes in the law in 1963 empowered the Board of Regents, New Mexico State University, to promulgate reasonable rules and regulations deemed necessary to keep up with the industry and allowed the egg dealers and producers to pay their egg inspection fees either quarterly or by purchasing egg stamps. The new quarterly reporting system is quite popular with the industry, as indicated by the fact that 70% of the Egg Inspection Service fees are now being paid on the quarterly reporting basis.

The purpose of the New Mexico Egg Law is to promote the New Mexico egg industry and regulate standards, labeling and advertising of eggs.

In the past two years there has been a tremendous change in the New Mexico egg industry. The rapid increase in individual flock sizes and the reduction in the number of persons in the egg business has probably been the most significant change. This fact is followed closely by modernization of handling methods;