TABLE I

		1950	1965
All commodities	Up from	86.8 to	102.5
Processed foods	Up from	92.6 to	105.1
Chemicals	Up from	87.5 to	97.4
Metals	Up from	72.7 to	105.7
Lumber	Up from	94.1 to	101.1
Fuel	Up from	90.2 to	98.9
Machinery	Up from	72.6 to	103.7
Farm prices	Down from	106.4 to	98.4

These figures clearly show that farm prices in recent years have been headed in a different direction from much of the rest of the economy.

WHO CONTRIBUTES MOST?

Farm income has been falling behind the rest of our economy at an alarming rate. For an illustration, ask yourself this question:

"Who makes the greatest contribution to the milk you pour in your home? Is it the farmer who owns the cows, grows their feed, and milks them twice a day—seven days a week? Seems logical doesn't it?

But judging from the financial rewards, the man who delivers it must be the most important. A Chicago milkman working a 5-day week averages $3.45 per hour, or $215 per week of income, or more than $10,000 per year, without an investment.

The average Wisconsin dairy farmer, with a $75,000 investment in land, equipment, and livestock, averages only 75 cents per hour after allowing interest on his big investment. The comparison indicates that the dairy farmer is a long way from getting his fair share of the milk dollar.

The average wage of a factory worker in 1965 was $2.61 per hour. Here are some average farm wages, after interest on investment:

New York Dairy Farms	$ .60
Cattle Ranches	1.15
Corn Belt Beef-Hog Farms	1.62
Wheat Farms	1.80

You can see that the average farmer would be much better off working in a factory. And that's one reason why 4½ million of our farmers have left the farm in the last 15 years.

SHOULDN'T BLAME FARMER

Any housewife can tell you that it costs more money each year to feed her family. And her average food bill has taken a particularly sharp jump in the last year, but *she shouldn't blame the farmer.* Only a small part of the increase in the cost of the market basket trickles down to the farmer.

Out of the $157 increase since 1957–59, only $12 has wound up in the farmer's pocket. The changes have been very small that have occurred.

In the 1957–59 base period, farmers received $388 out of the $938 retail price for farm origin foods. In 1966, they were up to only $409 out of $1,095.

The largest dollar increase was in receipts from fruits and vegetables. Meat products were up a bit and the bakery and cereal products added $1. Dairy products, poultry, and eggs returned fewer dollars. The farmer's share of the market basket changed little over the past 10 years.

INCOME DOWN—COST UP

The bill for marketing America's food was $52.1 billion in 1965. This figure covers all of the steps in food handling between the farmer and the supermarket check-out counter.

There are charges for transportation, processing, wholesaling, and retailing farm foods. This represents a major part of the money the housewife spends for food—and it is where the great bulk of price increases in food have occurred.

The marketing bill has shot upward over the past 20 years. In 1947, the total food bill was $41.9 billion. Farmers got $19.2 billion and marketing cost was