

WINSTON-SALEM JOURNAL

First Sale Of Chickens Price Exempt

WASHINGTON (AP) — The government exempted from price controls Thursday the first sale of broiler chickens and turkeys, but officials said the move is unlikely to lead to price increases.

The Cost of Living Council granted the exemption, the same one that now applies to raw agricultural products at the farm level. The exemption lifts controls from the initial transactions sending the poultry onto the market.

The exemption was sought by the American Broiler Council where a source said that "I would be very surprised if any price increase resulted."

The Cost of Living Council said the exemption was granted to continue the expansion of poultry production and insure an adequate supply of broiler chickens and turkeys at reasonable prices in the months ahead.

"Poultry producers can plan for expanded production levels with confidence that future production can be marketed in a customary manner," the council said.

It noted that prices of broilers have declined sharply since 1959 while consumption has gone up.

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