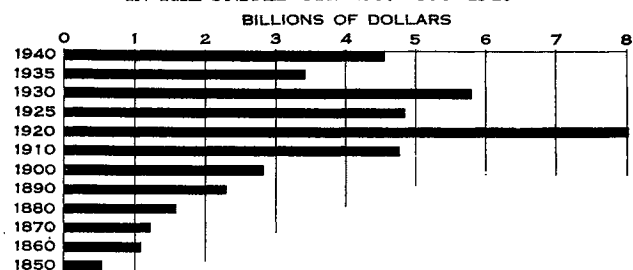


The combined value of horses and mules represents 26.4 percent of the total inventory in 1940 as compared with 40.7 percent 5 years earlier and 23.2 percent 10 years before. Total cattle values were 57.1 percent of the total, compared with 40.6 percent and 55.0 percent in 1935 and 1930, respectively. Increased percentage of total livestock values attributed to cattle compared with 1935 was partly due to the unit price of cattle, and partly to the decreasing importance of horses and mules in the farm economy. Hog valuation at 6.3 percent of the 1940 total carried relatively the same importance as in 1935, but value of sows and gilts alone showed 0.5 percent greater portion of total livestock value than in 1935. Sheep represented 5.3 percent of the total livestock valuation in 1940 compared with 61 percent and 5.9 percent 5 and 10 years earlier.

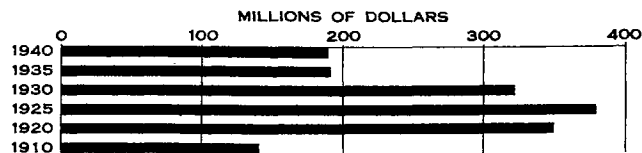
Some species of livestock such as hogs, sheep, and chickens show relatively low percentages of total livestock inventorial wealth as compared with horses, mules, and cattle. However, they contribute to the total farm income from sales for slaughter and sales of products, in a much more favorable ratio.

CHART 1. VALUE OF SPECIFIED SPECIES OF LIVESTOCK IN THE UNITED STATES: 1850-1940



(BASE FIGURES, AGE GROUPS INCLUDED, AND DATE OF ENUMERATION SHOWN IN TABLE 3.)

CHART 2. VALUE OF CHICKENS IN THE UNITED STATES: 1910-1940



(BASE FIGURES, AGE GROUPS INCLUDED, AND DATE OF ENUMERATION SHOWN IN TABLE 3.)

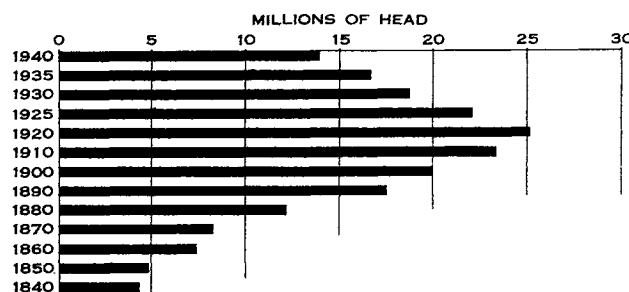
HORSES AND MULES

A total of 13,931,531 horses and mules over 3 months of age were enumerated on farms as of April 1, 1940. This is a decline in number of 2,744,479, or 16.5 percent, since January 1, 1935 when 16,676,010 head of all ages were enumerated. This decline has been continuous each census since 1920, when the number of horses and mules of all ages on January 1, was 25,199,552. Numbers have now dropped 44.7 percent below that peak. This means that since 1920 farm land devoted to the support of 11,268,021 farm work animals has been released for other agricultural uses. The decrease in the number of farm work animals since 1920 has been quite uniform in all geographic divisions except the three southern divisions which comprise the cotton States. In these three southern divisions the decline in numbers in 20 years was 32.3 percent. In the rest of the United States the decline was 50.8 percent. In the East South Central States the decline since 1920 was only 25.6 percent and this group of States actually showed an increase in farm work animals since 1935.

The average acreage in crops (cropland harvested and crop failure) per mature horse or mule on farms has gradually increased from 17.3 in 1924, to 21.1 in 1929, to 23.2 in 1934 up to 26.2 acres in 1939. To some extent these changes measure the increasing reliance placed on machine power in the processes of producing and marketing farm crops. Of the 6,096,799 farms enumerated in 1940 it was found that 58.1 percent had

automobiles, 15.5 percent had motortrucks, and 23.1 percent had tractors. These machines displace horse and mule power in varying degrees. Nor do they represent all the farm work being done by motor-drawn machines. Many trucks and tractors, not enumerated on the farms, are doing farm work on a per acre, per diem or other contract basis. No doubt, during the decade from 1930 to 1940, the displacement of horses and mules by machines was hastened because of severe losses of farm horses due to sleeping sickness.

CHART 3. HORSES AND MULES - NUMBER IN THE UNITED STATES: 1840-1940



(BASE FIGURES, AGE GROUPS INCLUDED, AND DATE OF ENUMERATION SHOWN IN TABLE 3.)

It is significant that, of all horses and mules over 3 months old on farms April 1, 1940, only 6.5 percent were reported to be under 27 months of age. This would indicate a recent average annual birth rate of horse and mule colts of about half that amount or 3.2 percent of the total work-animal population. The necessary replacement ratio is considered to be between 7 and 8 percent, if the average life span of work animals is 14 years. In 1920 the census showed 13.1 percent of all work animals were colts, indicating a birth rate of better than 6.5 percent at that time. Although peak numbers of farm work animals were enumerated in the 1920 Census, it is probable that the actual maximum numbers were attained several years earlier. Each 5-year period beginning with 1920, the censuses have indicated annual birth rates of 6.5, 3.3, 3.0, 3.6, and 3.2 percent. During that period, the censuses have registered declines in total numbers of horses and mules each 5 years of 12.4, 15.1, 11.0, and 16.5 percent. It should be remembered, however, that these birth rates and decreases are computed from census enumerations that are not entirely comparable, because of inclusion or exclusion of young animals and changes in enumeration dates during the series.

Of all colts enumerated in 1940, 11.0 percent were mule colts. This compares with 9.2 percent in 1935; 15.0 percent in 1930; 25.6 percent in 1925; and 23.6 percent in 1920. This decrease in mule colts since 1925 is beginning to show its effect on the character of total work animals in southern States. In these States the percentage of total farm work animals that were horses increased from 37.6 percent in 1935 to 42.8 percent in 1940. For these same States, during the same period, the total number of horses increased by 3.3 percent but the number of mules decreased by 17.0 percent, making a net decrease of 9.5 percent in all farm work animals for the 5-year period.

As in the 1935 Census, Iowa ranked first in total number of horses in 1940 with 728,213. Iowa was followed in order by Texas with 638,406; Minnesota with 627,394; Illinois with 558,847; and Missouri with 505,073. In the five years, the relative position of Texas changed from fourth to second in numbers, and Missouri displaced Nebraska in the fifth ranking position. These five States, first in rank in 1940, had 30.3 percent of all horses. The leading State in number of mules in 1940 was Texas with 537,801, followed by Mississippi with 337,620, Georgia with 316,006, North Carolina with 299,198, and Alabama with 292,345. Since 1935 North Carolina has displaced Arkansas among the first five States in number of mules. In 1935 Alabama was fourth and Arkansas fifth in rank. The first five ranking States in 1940 had 46.4 percent of all the mules.