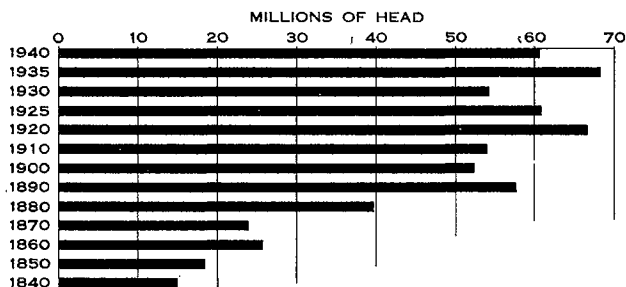


CATTLE

Inventory.—The total number of cattle and calves, over 3 months old, enumerated as of April 1, 1940 was 60,674,736. In comparing this number with numbers reported in other census years the reader is cautioned to note the difference in dates of enumeration and in age specifications. The 1935 Census, taken as of January 1, found 58,284,409 cattle and calves of all ages on that date. In 1930 the farm schedule asked for cattle and calves in 10 age and sex groups which included those of all ages as of April 1. That Census reported 63,895,826 cattle and calves, of which 9,645,526 were calves born between January 1, and April 1, 1930. Subtracting this number from the total gives 54,250,300 head. However, this does not bring exact comparability with the two later censuses because disappearance from sale, farm slaughter, and death, is usually heavy from January 1 to April 1 and may vary greatly from year to year in percent of total numbers. The number of calves born between January 1 and April 1, reported in the 1930 Census, is not a complete measure of calves born during that period but only a record of those born that still survived death, slaughter, and other disposal, and were on the farms at the end of the 3-month period.

CHART 5. CATTLE - NUMBER IN THE UNITED STATES: 1840-1940



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

The number of farms that reported cattle of specified age on hand April 1, 1940 was 4,843,417. This compares with 5,480,775 farms January 1, 1935 and 4,803,174 farms April 1, 1930 reporting cattle of all ages. Of all farms enumerated in each of these three census years 79.4 percent reported cattle in 1940; 80.5 percent in 1935; and 76.4 percent in 1930. The average number of cattle, over 3 months old, April 1, 1940 per farm reporting any cattle was 12.5, which is the same as the average reported for farms having cattle of any age January 1, 1935. Since the 1940 enumeration as of April 1 does not include calves born after January 1, and since there is normally a heavy disappearance of cattle through sale, farm slaughter, and death, between January 1 and April 1, the equivalent number of cattle per farm as of January 1, 1940 would obviously have been much higher than the average of 12.5 per farm reported as of January 1, 1935. The average number of cattle of all ages per farm reporting on April 1, in the 1930 Census was 13.3.

In the 1940 Census only partial distribution of "total cattle" was asked for on the schedule. Of the total cattle on farms April 1 the questions asked how many were "cows and heifers that were 2 years old and over on January 1"; (a) "Kept mainly for milk production," and (b) "kept mainly for beef production." Some enumerators erroneously distributed "all cattle" into these two classes, but that they reported the true number "kept for milk" was proved by replies to correspondence. Making the necessary adjustments on numbers "kept for beef" offered considerable difficulty, but was accomplished in a fairly satisfactory manner.

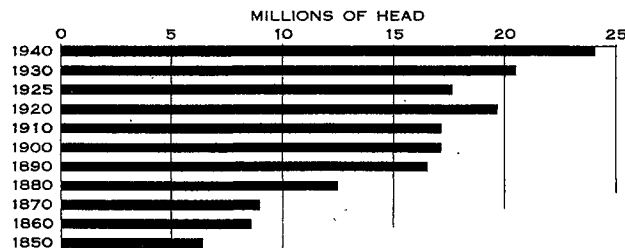
The 1940 Census found 33,523,185 cows and heifers on farms April 1, that were 2 years old and over as of January 1. This number should be reasonably comparable with the 28,335,949 reported in the 1930 Census which asked for numbers of cows and heifers on farms April 1 of that year that were born before 1928. The 1935 Census enumerated 36,930,584 cows and heifers 2 years old and over on January 1 of that year, but this is not exactly comparable because of the relatively heavy January 1 to April 1 disappearance by sale, farm slaughter, and

death. The ability of the cattle industry to expand to meet increasing markets for either beef or milk products, lies in this portion of the total cattle population that is she-stock of breeding age. It is significant that in the decade from 1930 to 1940, with coverage that is quite comparable; there has been an increase of 18.3 percent in mature she-stock, and that the increase is quite uniform by geographic divisions, ranging from 5.3 percent increase in the Mountain States up to 23.5 percent in the important dairy area in the East North Central States and up to 30.0 percent on the Pacific Coast.

The 11 top-ranking States in number of cattle over 3 months old April 1, 1940, were in order: Texas, Iowa, Wisconsin, Minnesota, Nebraska, Kansas, Missouri, Illinois, Oklahoma, California, and New York. Of these States, Texas had over 6 million, Iowa over 4 million, Wisconsin and Minnesota over 3 million each, and the other States listed had over 2 million each, except New York which showed slightly less than 2 million. These 11 States had 32,992,930 or 54.4 percent of all cattle over 3 months old in the 1940 Census. In the 1930 Census the same 11 States had 29,754,449 cattle over 3 months old or 54.8 percent of the United States total. Combined, these 11 States showed an increase of 10.9 percent during the decade. However, Kansas and Nebraska in this group showed decreases of 8.5 and 3.6 percent, respectively. With 4 exceptions the relative rank of the 11 States was the same in both censuses. Kansas, which was sixth in 1940 was fourth in 1930, and New York, which was eleventh in 1940, was ninth in 1930, while in 1930 Minnesota was sixth, and Oklahoma was eleventh. Four of these 11 States are among the first 11 ranking States in she-stock of breeding age both kept for milk and kept for beef. The other 7 are among the first 11 in either one or the other group. They are thus a good cross section of heavy production in both dairy and beef cattle.

Milk production.—In using the milk-production figures attention is directed to the fact that farm operators, on some date subsequent to the date fixed for beginning each census, are asked to report to the enumerator how many gallons of milk were produced by cows milked on the farm during the preceding calendar year. Experience indicates that answers to such production questions, when accurate records have not been kept by the farmer, tend to be influenced by the average daily production prevailing about the time the enumerator makes his call. On this assumption the milk production of the preceding calendar year reported to enumerators in a census taken subsequent to April 1 would likely be higher than in a census taken subsequent to January 1. The 1940 and 1930 Censuses of cows milked and milk production would appear to offer safer comparisons than some other years because they were taken as of the same date and were not immediately preceded by abnormal economic and weather conditions as was the 1935 Census.

CHART 6. COWS KEPT MAINLY FOR MILK PRODUCTION - NUMBER IN THE UNITED STATES: 1850-1940



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

In 1940 and 1930 there were 5 States each of which reported over 1 million cows and heifers milked during the preceding calendar year. These States, and numbers enumerated, are Wisconsin with 2,023,908 in 1939 and 1,869,841 in 1929; Minnesota with 1,552,279 and 1,455,767; Iowa with 1,292,606 and 1,297,914; New York with 1,269,653 and 1,243,061; and Texas with 1,146,766 and 1,010,995. The next 5 ranking States in order in the 1940 Census were Illinois, Ohio, Michigan, Missouri, and Pennsylvania. These same 5 States ranked in the lower half of the first 10 in 1930 but in slightly different order. These 10 States ranking highest reported totals of 11,689,696 cows milked in 1939 and 11,145,277 in 1929. This constituted 53.3 percent of the Nation's total cows milked in 1939 and 52.8 percent in 1929.