

In the 1940 Census, 76.5 percent of all farms reported having milked cows the preceding year. This compares with 73.4 percent of all farms so reporting in 1930. The 10 top-ranking States in number of cows milked showed 82.8 percent of all farms milking cows in 1939 and 83.1 percent in 1929.

The total production of milk from the 21,936,556 cows reported milked in 1939 was 11,508,243,769 gallons, or 525 gallons per cow. The 10 high-ranking States in number of cows milked in 1939 not only had 53.3 percent of the cows milked but produced 56.7 percent of all the milk and averaged 558 gallons per cow. In 1929 the same 10 States, with 52.8 percent of the cows milked, produced 56.0 percent of all the milk and averaged 555 gallons per cow.

**Butter churned.**—The peak of farm butter manufacture in the United States probably was reached about 1899 when the Census of 1900 recorded 1,071,626,056 pounds of butter churned on farms in that year. An average of more than one billion pounds was maintained in the three decennial censuses taken from 1890 to 1910. Thereafter there was a steady decline until the Census of 1930 when only 542,064,289 pounds were recorded as churned in the previous year. The economic depression that became acute after 1930 stimulated a "back to the farm" migration as well as family subsistence farming, and the 1935 Census shows an increase of 778,240 farms churning butter in 1934, as compared with 1929. A total of 558,648,632 pounds was reported churned in 1934. The 1940 Census reveals that the trend to lower farm production of butter has been resumed. In 1939, the 428,692,339 pounds reported churned is the lowest recorded since 1849. Not only has the amount of butter churned decreased sharply since 1934 but the number of farms reporting decreased to 2,930,152, or 886,188 below the 3,816,340 farms reporting for 1934.

That farm butter-making tends more and more toward a farm subsistence basis and not for sale is evidenced by the fact that the production has gradually decreased from an average of 296 pounds per farm churning in 1899 to an average of only 146 pounds in both 1934 and 1939. In 1899 when production of farm-churned butter was at the peak, about half of it was sold, but in 1939 only about one-sixth of the production was sold.

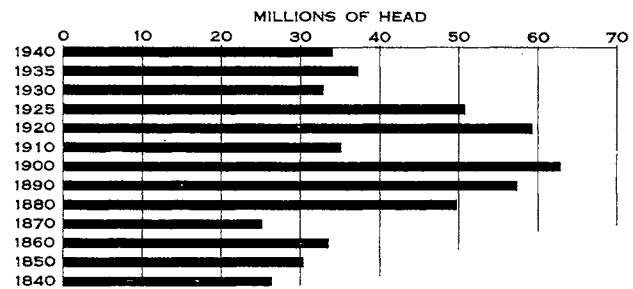
#### HOGS

The enumeration of hogs in the 1940 Census was confined to those that were 4 months old or over on April 1. This age limit was made because the United States Department of Agriculture in its semiannual pig crop estimates classifies the farrowing into "spring" and "fall," and the "fall" pig crop is defined as pigs farrowed in the 6 months between June 1 and December 1 of each year. The 1935 Census was taken as of January 1 and hogs of all ages, on farms as of that date, were enumerated. In 1930, the census was taken as of April 1 and hogs were enumerated in three questions; first, pigs born since January 1; second, sows and gilts that farrowed since January 1 or will farrow before June 1; third, other hogs. It is obvious that the data for totals for no two of these three censuses are definitely comparable. If we assume that instructions were strictly adhered to, then the totals for the 1940 Census should be reasonably comparable with the total of "sows and gilts" and "other hogs" enumerated in 1930, except for pigs on hand April 1, 1930 that were farrowed in December of 1929. December being a month of light farrowing tends to minimize the significance of inclusion or exclusion of December pigs. However, the 1935 enumeration is not directly comparable with the 1930 or 1940 figures, because, taken as of January 1, it included hogs of all ages, and there must be adjustment for disappearance by sale, slaughter, and death from January to April.

Throughout the series of data on hog numbers from 1840 to 1940 there will be found similar changes that tend to balk the student in making exact comparisons. Certainly, none should be made without careful study of the schedule inquiries, dates of enumeration, and instructions to enumerators, that have varied materially in the chronological series. These census data, as well as data on marketings and inspected slaughter, indicate that definite short-term cycles of hog production prevail, and that peaks or troughs of such cycles occurring in census years may temper the significance of any annual hog enumeration, in the long-time trend. Hog numbers are also sensitive to production and prices of corn, barley, and other major hog feeds. Any census of hogs taken following a series of good corn-production years, or a series of lean corn-production years, may be deceiving, if taken as significant of either direction or volume of trend.

Comparisons involving change in geographic distribution of total hogs on farms, shown by a series of census enumerations, may not be invalidated because of difference in date and form of inquiry. If we examine the 7 agricultural censuses beginning with 1900 we find that the percentage of total hogs that were located in the East and West North Central States (the Corn Belt), in 1900 was 64.4 percent; in 1910 was 61.4 percent; in 1920 was 60.5 percent; in 1925 was 71.5 percent; in 1930 was 72.2 percent; in 1935 was 61.3 percent; and in 1940 was 59.6 percent. For the same 7 census years, the South Atlantic plus the East and West South Central States (the South) had 29.6 percent, 31.7 percent, 31.2 percent, 21.8 percent, 21.6 percent, 31.6 percent, and 32.6 percent of all hogs enumerated. There appears to be significance in the fact that in the Censuses of 1925 and 1930 the percentage of hogs found in the Corn Belt States was about 10 points higher than in two more recent or three earlier censuses, and that the numbers in the southern States in 1925 and 1930 were about 10 points lower than in two later and three earlier census years. This change that took place in geographic distribution of hogs, during the third decade of the last 40 years was no doubt closely associated with experimental adjustments on American farms, to the impact of farm mechanization, world economics, and foreign trade. Apparently the distribution of hog production has settled back to the former status with slightly over 60 percent in the Corn Belt and slightly over 30 percent in the southern States.

CHART 9. HOGS - NUMBER IN THE UNITED STATES: 1840 - 1940



(BASE FIGURES, AGE GROUPS INCLUDED, AND DATE OF ENUMERATION SHOWN IN TABLE 2.)

The high-ranking States in hog numbers were not different in 1940 from 1935; Iowa was first, with 4,902,446; Illinois, second with 2,950,979; Indiana, third with 2,383,136; and Missouri, fourth with 2,347,474. This contiguous group of North Central States has habitually marketed a high percentage of its corn by way of fat hogs. In the economy of the southern States the hog is primarily significant in farm subsistence, rather than a means of marketing surplus feed grains. Hence in States such as Texas, Mississippi, Alabama, and North Carolina, the census finds a high proportion of all farms having hogs, but with the average number per farm small, compared to Corn Belt farms.

This difference in the primary utility of hogs in the Corn Belt and the Cotton Belt is shown by the enumeration of animals butchered on farms during 1939. Of 13,084,763 hogs and pigs reported butchered in 1939, on farms in the United States, 4,258,857, or 32.5 percent, were butchered on 1,463,746 farms in the 12 States of the East and West North Central Divisions. But the census shows 7,517,651 hogs and pigs, or 57.5 percent of the United States total, were butchered on 2,205,610 farms in the 16 States comprising the South Atlantic and East and West South Central Divisions. In short, 32.5 percent of the farm hog-slaughter took place in an area having 59.6 percent of the hog population, and 57.5 percent in another area having only 32.6 percent of the hog population. Farms in the southern States butchered hogs, during 1939, in the ratio of 100 to every 148, over 4 months old on hand April 1, 1940. Farms in the Corn Belt butchered in the ratio of 100 to every 477 on hand at the census date.