

## LIVESTOCK BUTCHERED, PURCHASED, AND SOLD

**Butchered on farms.**—The 1940 Census found 373,981 farms that reported butchering 580,867 cattle, and 308,706 farms that reported butchering 632,698 calves during 1939. There were 646,588 different farms reporting butchering either cattle or calves, or both. Also, 4,070,705 farms reported butchering 13,084,763 hogs or pigs and 71,012 farms, butchering 453,145 sheep or lambs in 1939. There were 4,184,124 that butchered animals of one or more of the four specified groups. In the summary tables, the farm slaughter reported in the Censuses of 1910, 1920, and 1930 are given parallel to these figures from the 1940 Census. However, this series of farm slaughter data is not entirely comparable because of change in wording in inquiries and in form of presentation on the various schedules.

**Purchases and sales of livestock.**—Data on numbers of cattle, calves, hogs and pigs, and sheep and lambs reported bought or sold by farm operators in 1939 are published in this volume. Although questions of a similar character were asked on farm schedules in earlier censuses, the results were either not tabulated or not published in sufficient detail for those years to supply a body of comparable data. This type of question has proved difficult for the enumerators to cover completely and accurately. The way these questions were asked on the 1940 Farm and Ranch Schedule, it was entirely possible for enumerators to report bona fide farm sales and purchases of the same animals more than once during the year. Both farm exchange and central market purchases of feeders could be and were expected to be reported, and no attempt was made to confine reported sales to animals for slaughter market. Considering these conditions, it is logical that the numbers reported bought and sold would show a much higher percent of numbers in the inventory. There is reason to believe that there is incompleteness of coverage in variable degree, geographically.

TABLE 6.—LIVESTOCK SLAUGHTER, PURCHASES, AND SALES—FARMS REPORTING, NUMBER, AND VALUE, 1939; WITH AVAILABLE COMPARATIVE DATA, 1909 TO 1929; FOR THE UNITED STATES

(Figures for divisions and States in tables 38 to 40)

ITEM AND YEAR	FARMS REPORTING		NUMBER		VALUE 1 (DOLLARS)	
	Total	Per- cent of all farms	Total	Aver- age per farm re- port- ing	Total	Aver- age per head
Any animals butchered—1939	4,184,124	68.6	xxxxxxxx	xxxxx	198,228,802	xxxxx
Cattle and/or calves—1939	646,588	10.6	1,213,565	1.9	34,852,580	28.72
1929	(2)	(2)	799,991	(2)	(2)	(2)
1919	887,611	13.8	1,904,581	2.1	(2)	(2)
1909	(2)	(2)	2,540,240	(2)	39,135,792	15.41
Cattle—1939	373,981	6.1	580,867	1.6	24,909,234	42.88
1929	180,456	2.9	342,938	1.9	(2)	(2)
1909	593,285	9.3	1,408,640	2.4	31,688,794	22.50
Calves—1939	308,706	5.1	632,698	2.0	9,945,346	15.72
1929	185,266	2.9	457,053	2.5	(2)	(2)
1909	268,506	4.2	1,151,600	4.2	7,446,998	6.58
Hogs and pigs—1939	4,070,705	66.8	13,084,763	3.2	160,831,281	12.29
1929	3,228,454	51.5	10,738,502	3.3	(2)	(2)
1919	4,565,130	70.8	16,800,230	3.7	(2)	(2)
1909	3,645,546	57.5	15,378,517	4.2	228,600,770	14.86
Sheep and lambs—1939	71,012	1.2	453,145	6.4	2,544,941	5.62
1929	44,158	0.7	328,231	7.4	(2)	(2)
1919	95,853	1.5	454,608	4.6	(2)	(2)
1909	89,299	1.1	529,526	7.6	2,267,729	4.28
Any purchased and/or sold—1939	3,715,877	60.9	xxxxxxxx	xxxxx	xxxxxxxx	xxxxx
Purchased—1939	2,081,677	34.1	xxxxxxxx	xxxxx	670,446,094	xxxxx
Cattle and/or calves—1939	1,109,411	18.2	13,297,698	12.0	523,646,806	39.38
Cattle—1939	650,501	13.9	9,707,593	11.4	455,925,553	46.76
Calves—1939	404,624	6.6	3,590,105	8.9	69,721,253	19.42
Hogs and pigs—1939	1,555,845	22.2	10,241,034	7.6	78,588,809	7.67
Sheep and lambs—1939	127,151	2.1	12,156,262	95.6	68,210,479	5.61
Sold—1939	5,192,963	52.4	xxxxxxxx	xxxxx	1,805,544,390	xxxxx
1909	(2)	(2)	xxxxxxxx	(2)	1,255,532,754	xxxxx
Cattle and/or calves—1939	2,620,785	43.0	27,308,949	10.4	990,586,106	36.27
1909	(2)	(2)	27,315,745	(2)	710,015,097	25.99
Cattle—1939	1,699,566	27.9	15,943,715	9.4	794,104,318	49.81
1909	2,085,910	32.0	20,572,997	10.1	657,686,916	31.97
Calves—1939	1,801,857	29.8	11,365,234	6.3	196,481,788	17.29
1909	1,461,175	25.0	6,742,748	4.6	52,328,161	7.76
Hogs and pigs—1939	1,842,704	30.2	49,192,047	26.7	642,775,532	13.07
1909	1,841,299	28.9	37,500,158	20.4	463,011,115	12.35
Sheep and lambs—1939	586,381	6.3	28,636,721	74.1	170,182,752	5.94
1909	297,878	4.7	18,991,456	63.8	82,508,542	4.34

1 For 1939, computed from estimated price per head; for 1909, as reported by farm operator.

2 Not available.

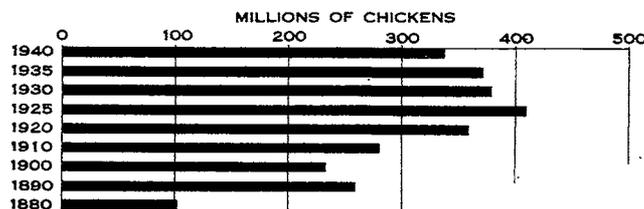
## POULTRY

**General.**—The 1940 Census coverage on inventory and production items for poultry is the most complete in scope ever attempted. Both inventory as of April 1, 1940 and number raised in 1939 were taken separately for chickens, turkeys, ducks, geese, guineas, pigeons, quail, pheasants, and other poultry. The Censuses of 1920 and 1910 included inventories for all poultry named above except quail and pheasants, but did not completely cover the number raised.

Production items, such as numbers of poultry raised and dozens of chicken eggs produced, refer to the whole of the calendar year preceding the census date. Such data, in cases where farmers have kept no accurate records of transactions, must of necessity contain an element of estimate, and reported numbers are also subject to an undetermined memory bias. Because of lack of accurate farm records concerning egg production and sales during the preceding calendar year it has been found that censuses taken in April tend to obtain a higher production of eggs than when taken in January. This is no doubt due largely to the fact that where no book records are available both farmers and enumerators tend to think of the annual egg production in terms of daily layings at the time of the census call, rather than in terms of daily average for the calendar year.

In spite of limitations placed on definite comparability of items in successive censuses there are some conclusions as to trends in the poultry business that can safely be drawn. It is obvious that since 1930 there has been a remarkable increase in production of turkeys and, to a lesser degree, in production of ducks. Moreover, these increases in production have been accompanied by decreases in number of producers, indicating greatly expanded individual operations. Following the specialization brought about by the development of commercial hatcheries, a great increase in specialization has taken place in the production of "broilers" and eggs. Although evidence of these specializations is not so obvious in State and national totals, their intensity in certain areas becomes quite apparent by examination of county data from census to census.

CHART 11. CHICKENS - NUMBER ON HAND  
IN THE UNITED STATES: 1880 - 1940



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

**Inventory.**—The 1940 and 1930 inventories were taken as of the same date, April 1; however, the 1940 schedule specified poultry "Over 4 months old" and the 1930 schedule, which asked only for the inventory of chickens, specified "Over 3 months old." During the decade improvements in breeding, feeding, management, and disease control, accompanied by an increased demand for larger chickens, have induced operators in many areas to keep broilers for heavier weights. In order that the number reported on hand on April 1 might continue to represent as nearly as possible the breeders and layers, or, in other words the "flock" on that date, the minimum census age limit in 1940 was increased to 4 months. In 1940 enumerators found 5,150,055 farms with 337,949,145 chickens, compared with 5,372,597 farms and 378,878,281 chickens in 1930. The Censuses of 1940 and 1930 enumerated, respectively, 4,674,462 farms with 660,565,663 chickens raised, and 5,293,208 farms with 673,092,052 chickens raised, in the preceding calendar year. There were 4,875,472 farms that reported 2,391,091,510 dozens of chicken eggs produced in 1939, and there were 2,689,719,158 dozen eggs reported produced in 1929, but the number of farms reported is not available.