

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 | xxxx | 198,228,802 | xxxx |
| 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 | xxxx | xxxxxxxx | xxxx |
| Purchased—1939 | 2,081,677 | 34.1 | xxxxxxxx | xxxx | 670,446,094 | xxxx |
| 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 | 69,721,255 | 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 | xxxx | 1,805,544,390 | xxxx |
| 1909 | (2) | (2) | xxxxxxxx | (2) | 1,255,532,754 | xxxx |
| 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.

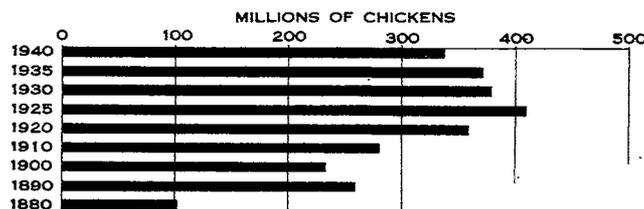
POULTRY

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.