

CENSUS OF AGRICULTURE: 1945

Table 2.—AGE, SEX, AND OTHER GROUPS ENUMERATED FOR VARIOUS CLASSES OF LIVESTOCK, 1945; WITH APPROXIMATELY COMPARABLE GROUPS: 1900 TO 1940

[Age groups for censuses prior to 1900 not shown as they nominally excluded young animals, except for horses and mules in 1880, when all ages of those species were enumerated]

ITEM	Census of 1945 (January 1)	Census of 1940 (April 1)	Census of 1935 (January 1)	Census of 1930 (April 1)	Census of 1925 (January 1)	Census of 1920 (January 1)	Census of 1913 (April 15)	Census of 1900 (June 1)
Horses and colts, including ponies.....farms reporting.. number..	All ages. All ages.	Over 3 months old. Over 3 months old.	All ages. All ages.	(*) Over 3 months old.	(*) All ages.	All ages. All ages.	All ages. Over 3½ mo. old.	All ages. 1 yr. old and over.
Mules and mule colts.....farms reporting.. number..	All ages. All ages.	Over 3 months old. Over 3 months old.	All ages. All ages.	(*) Over 3 months old.	(*) All ages.	All ages. All ages.	All ages. Over 3½ mo. old.	All ages. 1 yr. old and over.
Cattle and calves.....farms reporting.. number..	All ages. All ages.	Over 3 months old. Over 3 months old.	All ages. All ages.	All ages. Over 3 months old.	(*) All ages.	All ages. All ages.	All ages. Over 3½ mo. old. (*)	All ages. 1 yr. old and over. (*)
Cows and heifers.....farms reporting.. number..	2 years old and over. 2 years old and over.	Over 27 months old. Over 27 months old.	2 years old and over. 2 years old and over.	(*) Over 27 months old.	(*) 2 years old and over.	(*) 2 years old and over.	(*)	2 yr. old and over.
Hogs and pigs.....farms reporting.. number..	All ages. All ages.	Over 4 months old. Over 4 months old.	All ages. All ages.	All ages. Over 3 months old.	All ages. All ages.	All ages. All ages.	Over 3½ mo. old. Over 3½ mo. old.	All ages. All ages.
Sows and gilts for spring farrowing.....farms reporting.. number..	Farrowing be- tween Dec. 1, 1944, and June 1, 1945. Farrowing be- tween Dec. 1, 1944, and June 1, 1945.	Farrowing between Dec. 1, 1939, and June 1, 1940. Farrowing between Dec. 1, 1939, and June 1, 1940.	Farrowing be- tween Jan. 1 and June 1. Farrowing be- tween Jan. 1 and June 1.	Farrowing be- tween Jan. 1 and June 1. Farrowing be- tween Jan. 1 and June 1.	(*) For breeding purposes, 6 months old and over.	For breeding pur- poses, 6 months old and over. For breeding pur- poses, 6 months old and over.	(*) (*)	(*) (*)
Goats and kids.....farms reporting.. number..	All ages. All ages.	Over 4 months old. Over 4 months old.	All ages. All ages.	All ages. All ages.	All ages. All ages.	All ages. All ages.	All ages. All ages.	All ages. All ages.
Sheep and lambs.....farms reporting.. number..	All ages. All ages.	Over 6 months old. Over 6 months old.	All ages. All ages.	All ages. Over 6 months old.	All ages. All ages.	All ages. All ages.	All ages. Over 3½ mo. old.	All ages. 1 yr. old and over.
Ewes and ewe lambs.....farms reporting.. number..	All ewes and ewe lambs, excluding 1944 fall lambs, kept for breeding ewes, Jan.1, 1945. All ewes and ewe lambs, excluding 1944 fall lambs, kept for breeding ewes, Jan. 1, 1945.	Over 6 months old. Over 6 months old.	1 year old and over. 1 year old and over.	(*) Over 6 months old.	(*) 1 year old and over.	1 year old and over. 1 year old and over.	Over 3½ mo. old. Over 3½ mo. old.	(*) 1 yr. old and over.
Chickens.....farms reporting.. number..	Over 4 months old. Over 4 months old.	Over 4 months old. Over 4 months old.	Over 3 months old. Over 3 months old.	Over 3 months old. Over 3 months old.	Age not speci- fied. Age not speci- fied.	Age not specified. Age not specified.	Over 3 mo. old. Over 3 mo. old.	(*) Over 3 mo. old.

*Not available.

Another factor having considerable effect on results obtained in an enumeration is the wording of the inquiry. Some changes in the wording of questions have been made in succeeding censuses in order to record more accurately the changing conditions in farming, while others are made on the basis of experience to improve the quality of the data. In some cases, better counts of breeding animals have been obtained by wording the inquiry in a manner to describe the purpose for which the animals are kept, rather than to provide arbitrary age and sex limits. An attempt was made in the 1945 Census to obtain more definite figures by asking for the number of ewes and ewe lambs kept for breeding ewes rather than by asking for the number of ewes and ewe lambs over 1 year old or over 6 months old as was the case in previous censuses. The number of ewes over 1 year old (or over 6 months old), in some areas, would include considerable numbers in feed lots, no longer kept for lamb production.

The columnar type of schedule used in the 1945 Census required that each inquiry be reduced to its simplest form because of the limited horizontal space in which an inquiry had to be stated. In 1945, the inquiry concerning animals butchered was amplified at the bottom of the page by the statement, "Report animals butchered for use on this farm or for sale as dressed meat from this farm." Occasionally an enumerator, apparently noting only the statement of the inquiry at the top of the column without reference to the explanatory material at the bottom of the page, reported animals sold to a local slaughter house. Such reports, when found during the editing process to be definitely in error, were transferred to the proper column, "Animals sold alive."

The arrangement of the questions on the schedule also has some effect on the results obtained. In order to improve the

quality of the results from an inquiry concerning the cost of feed bought, the 1945 schedule included this inquiry in a position immediately following the inquiries for livestock and livestock products. In earlier censuses this inquiry was included among other expenditure questions. A discussion and a summary of results for all censuses in which the cost of feed has been obtained are presented under "Cost of feed bought."

A facsimile of the schedule used in the 1945 Census is included in the Appendix to this volume. All questions pertaining to livestock are shown on pages 10 and 11 of the reproduced schedule for all farms and on pages 14 and 15 for farms enumerated in the Master Sample. (For further discussion of the Master Sample see the Introduction to this volume.)

Occasionally, a census is taken in which the reports over a wide area reflect the results of extraordinary conditions. The 1935 Census, taken as of January 1, followed a year of prolonged and widespread drought. During 1934, an abnormally high proportion of numbers of livestock in the States west of the Mississippi River were moved off the farms and ranches, and either sold for slaughter or transferred to areas with available feed. In making comparison of inventory numbers for a series of census years which include 1935, consideration should be given to the effects of the 1934 drought on the 1935 figures.

The user of livestock statistics should always consider the relationships with other agricultural statistics. For example, in one of the accompanying tables it is shown that the number of farms reporting cattle in the United States decreased 3.2 percent between the last two censuses. When this decrease is considered with the indicated decrease of 3.9 percent in all farms, it becomes apparent that actually the proportion of farms reporting cattle has increased.