



LIVESTOCK

Livestock and livestock products are a major source of food in the American diet. Two-fifths of the total food energy was contributed by these products in 1954. Although this is approximately the same proportion that was contributed by these products during the 1909-13 period, there have been shifts in the quantities of various livestock products used. More dairy products, except for butter, and more eggs were consumed per capita in 1954 compared with 1909-13. Less animal fats and oils, particularly butter, are now consumed per capita than formerly.

The high proportion of the total nutrients contributed by livestock and livestock products has an important bearing on land

use in the United States. Many countries of the world with dense populations have inadequate land resources to permit much consumption of animal products, as a greater amount of food energy from a given amount of land can be obtained by using crops directly for food.

Feed for livestock.—In terms of the relative importance of different feeds for livestock, pasture is the most important feed for all livestock with 37 percent of all feed coming from this source in 1949-50. Corn, which was the next most important feed, supplied 26 percent and hay 14 percent. Oats, barley, and other grains accounted for 9 percent. Animal protein feeds, oilseed