



meals, other high-protein feeds, and other byproducts also supplied 9 percent. Silage, beet pulp, skim milk, and seeds made up the remaining 5 percent of the feed for all livestock.

The accompanying maps show the relative importance of concentrates, hay, and pasture and grazing as sources of feed for all livestock by States. Grains and other concentrates are most important as feed for all livestock in the Northern and Southern States except for Texas. Hay accounts for more than 15 percent of all livestock feed in most Northern and Western States. Pasture and grazing account for the highest proportions of livestock feed in Florida, Texas, and the Mountain States.

Cattle.—The number of cattle reported on farms as of January 1 reached an all-time high of more than 95 million head in 1955. Beef cattle have accounted for most of the increase during the past 5 years. During this period, the total number of cattle has increased by more than 17 million head, of which 16 million were beef cattle. Numbers of dairy cattle have remained fairly stable.

The upward trend in cattle numbers has been accompanied by an increase in cattle productivity. This has amounted to a 38 percent gain during the last 30 years. Better animals, better care, more feeding, and greater emphasis on beef types account for this rise in productivity, which has amounted to an average increase of about 5 pounds of live weight of cattle and calves produced per year for each cow on farms at the beginning of the year.

As shown by the accompanying map, cattle are widely raised throughout the United States. The heaviest widespread concentration located in southern Wisconsin, northern Illinois, Iowa, eastern Nebraska, and southern Minnesota includes both the heavy concentration of dairy cattle in the Dairy Belt and large numbers of beef cattle which are more highly concentrated in the western part of the Corn Belt. In the Western States, where cattle are grazed on the extensive rangelands, the highest densities coincide with areas of irrigated agriculture where cattle are fattened for market or where dairying is important, as it is near main centers of population.

The distribution of milk cows is less widespread than that shown for all cattle. The northeastern Dairy Belt centered in Wisconsin and Minnesota in the North Central States and New York in the Northeast is a conspicuous feature. In California, the influence of metropolitan centers of population on dairying

is apparent. Elsewhere, the main concentrations are associated with the distribution of urban population or with physical conditions particularly favorable for dairying.

Hogs.—The 1955 pig crop was the fourth largest reported during the last 30 years. Only in 1942, 1943, and 1951 were more pigs reported saved than in 1955. About three-fifths of the pig crop is farrowed in the spring. The demand for pork has declined sharply since 1947. In 1955, a smaller percentage of the consumer's dollar was spent for pork than in any other year since 1913 except in 1945.

Several reasons for this loss of demand for pork are indicated. There is less demand for fat pork cuts as shown by the fact that demand and price for lean cuts have been more favorable than for fat cuts. As a result of regional shifts in population occurring during the last decade or two, more people are now living in beef-eating regions than formerly. Increased use of home freezers and new ways of selling meat may be more favorable to consumption of beef.

Sheep.—The number of sheep and lambs on farms decreased sharply during the 10 years from 1942 to 1951. A slight rise in numbers in 1951 and 1952 has been followed by subsequent decline. Today, only about half as many sheep and lambs are on farms as compared with the number on farms during the early forties or during the earlier peak period of 75 years ago. The decline in the number of sheep and lambs during the last 15 years has been considerably greater than that occurring between 1909 and 1923. Increased use of synthetic fibers and competition from foreign sheep-raising areas have been major reasons for this sharp decline in the number of sheep.

In addition to the change in the total number of sheep for the United States that has occurred, there has been a major shift in sheep numbers among regions, as shown by the accompanying chart and map. The long-term decline in sheep numbers in the Eastern or native States had already started before 1870. In that year, the native sheep States still had three-fourths of the total sheep population. Since World War I, these States have had only about a third of the total sheep population. In 1955, the 11 Western States and South Dakota accounted for half of the total sheep population while Texas accounted for the remaining sixth.