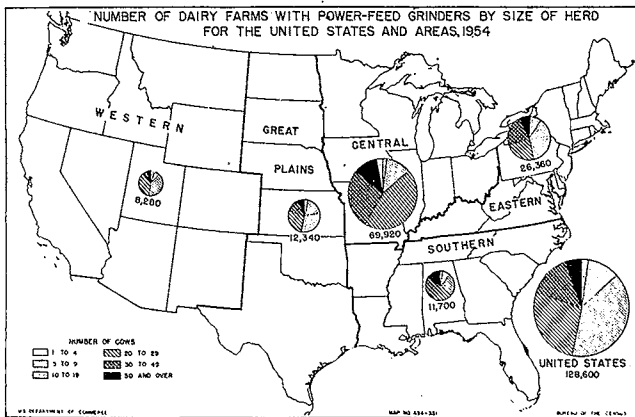
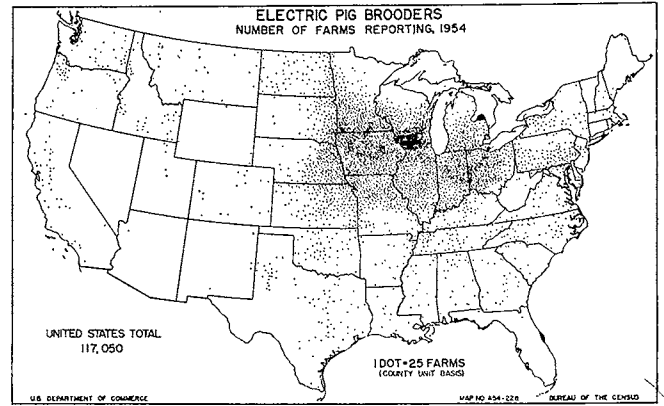


Power feed grinders were reported on dairy farms regardless of size of herd in 1954, even on many farms with less than 10 cows. Power feed grinders on small dairy farms that grow their own feed is a means of preparing grain for feeding without the time and expense of making numerous trips to the grinding mill. In all areas, except the Southern, a large proportion of the dairy farms with power feed grinders had from 10 to 19 cows, and another large proportion in all regions had from 20 to 29 cows. Dairy farms with herds in these two size groups represented two-thirds of all dairy farms reporting feed grinders in 1954. The cost of feed often represents a substantial part of the cash cost of operating a dairy farm. In the Northeastern region, for example, expenditures for feed on a typical family sized dairy farm probably represents a third of the total cash cost of operating the farm. In the central corn and livestock areas, expenditures for dairy feed usually represent a smaller proportion of total cash costs. In 1954, the average expenditure for feed by dairy farmers with 20 to 29 milk cows ranged from about \$2,500 in the eastern area to \$1,400 in the central region. Much of the feed fed to cows in the Eastern area was produced in the Central area. Many of the large dairy farms in California buy all of their concentrated feed. Dairy farms in the Western region with 50 cows or more spent an average of \$16,000 for feed in 1954. It should be pointed out that all of the feed bought by dairy farmers in 1954 was not necessarily for milk cows. Some of it may have been fed to hogs, poultry, or other livestock.

Sometimes it is the only source of artificial heat provided but often it is used in conjunction with other sources of heat, especially in central farrowing houses. It is seldom used during the summer months.

In November 1954, approximately 117,000 farmers reported electric pig brooders. These farmers were scattered throughout the hog-producing areas of the country, even in some areas of the South. Two-thirds of them were in the important hog producing Corn Belt and Lake States. Iowa and Illinois alone had a fifth of all the farms reporting electric pig brooders in 1954. Farms with electric pig brooders were also numerous along the eastern border of the Northern Plains where corn and hog production are important farming enterprises.



ELECTRIC PIG BROODERS

Traditionally, heavy farrowing in April and May have resulted in heavy marketings and seasonally low hog prices in late fall and early winter months. In order to have their hogs ready for an earlier market, many farmers have pushed the farrowing dates ahead to the cold, damp months of late winter and early spring. Providing heat for the new-born pigs then became a problem.

Years ago most artificial heat for this purpose was provided by coal, wood, or oil burning stoves, bricks heated on the kitchen range and other methods, none of which were entirely satisfactory. During bad weather it was not uncommon for the kitchen to be converted into a pig nursery. As electric service became available, many farmers adopted the electric pig brooder. This equipment requires little attention and is relatively free from fire hazard.

During the winter months the electric pig brooder is in operation for an individual litter of pigs for a week or 10 days.

Somewhat more than 1 million farms reported sows farrowing between December 1, 1953, and June 1, 1954. More than three-fourths of these had fewer than 10 sows farrowing. About one-third reported between 5 and 14 sows farrowing in the 6-month period. Less than 7 percent of all farms reporting sows farrowing during this period had 20 or more sows. A close relationship exists between numbers of farms reporting different numbers of sows farrowing and number of farms reporting number of electric pig brooders. More than half of the farms reporting electric pig brooders had 1 to 9 sows farrowing, and many of these had only 1 or 2 sows farrowing. The electric pig brooder is a fairly inexpensive device for saving pigs at farrowing time. It is an important device for the small hog producer as well as for the large commercial producer, neither of whom can afford high pig losses.

