

HOME FREEZERS

Farm homemaking has been revolutionized by modern refrigeration. In a great many cases the mechanical refrigerator was one of the first major pieces of electrical equipment bought after electric service was received at the farm. Many dairy farmers immediately after receiving electric service replaced the old water bath or ice type of refrigeration with an electric cooler. In fact, the old icehouse has about disappeared from farms. More recently the home freezer is providing a much-needed cold storage space on many farms. It will freeze and preserve many kinds of foods for protracted periods, usually ranging from a few days to a year. Home freezing has reduced the amount of canning done on many farms. The farm freezer often supplements or supplants the cold storage locker in a local plant.

In 1950, about 651,000 farms reported home freezers. By 1954 the number had increased to 1,542,000, an increase of 137 percent. In the Northeast, Corn Belt, Lake States, Mountain, and Pacific States more than 40 percent of the farmers reported home freezers in 1954. In the Appalachian, Southeast, and Delta areas, about 20 percent of the farmers had home freezers. However, home freezers have been installed very rapidly on farms in these regions; there were almost 3 times as many farms with them in 1954 as in 1950.

PIPED RUNNING WATER

By most definitions a "modern home," whether in the city or on a farm must have electric service, central heat, and piped running water. A few farms had running water before they had electric service, often from a spring or reservoir located above the farmstead. On most farms, however, running water was only a dream until electric power made it practicable to install automatic pumps and pressure tanks. In 1954, more than 2.81 million farms had piped running water. This is about 59 percent of all farms and 478,000 more than the number of farms with telephone service.

The proportion of farms in all areas of the country having this facility ranged from 94 percent of all farms in the Pacific States, and 85 percent in the Northeast area to 36 percent in the Delta area. Piped running water on an individual farm may be used for household purposes, for farm purposes, or for both. On most farms, running water is first installed in the home and later it is extended to the service buildings and service areas. On many farms, however, the order of installation is reversed. The term "piped running water" on some farms means complete plumbing facilities with automatic water heaters, bathroom, and sewage disposal system. On other farms it may mean little more than water in the kitchen. Running water in service buildings is now almost a necessity for the operation of commercial dairy and poultry farms.

