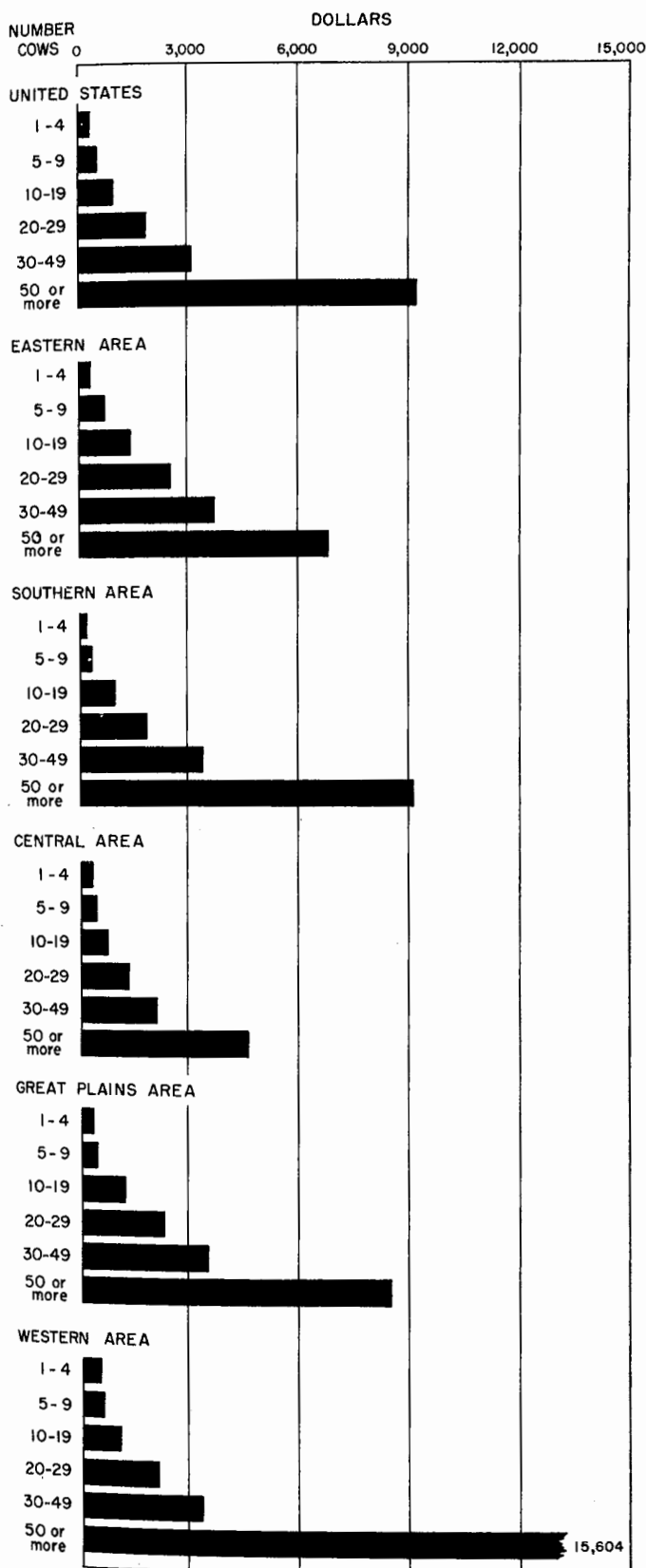


AVERAGE FEED EXPENDITURE PER DAIRY FARM, BY NUMBER OF MILK COWS, FOR UNITED STATES AND AREAS 1954



54C-81

amount reported for 1939. The major reason for this increase was the increase in the unit price of feed. The index number for cost of feed in 1939 was 93, and by 1954 the index number had increased to 226. There has been a substantial increase in the proportion of all farm operators reporting expenditures for feed, 54.8 percent in 1939, 72.9 percent in 1944, and 72.0 percent in 1949, as compared with 76.4 percent in 1954. Expenditures for feed per farm reporting in 1954 were highest in the New England, Middle Atlantic, and Pacific Divisions. These areas are relatively important in dairy and poultry production.

Expenditures for gasoline and other petroleum fuel and oil.—The inquiry specified expenditures for gasoline and other petroleum fuel and oil for the farm business. The instructions to enumerators specified the inclusion of gasoline, butane, propane, kerosene, fuel oil, lubricating oils, and other petroleum fuels and oils used in the farm business. Gasoline and oil for the farm operator's automobile when used for the farm business were to be included. Butane, propane, kerosene, fuel oil, or other petroleum products used exclusively in the farm home for heating, cooking, and lighting, were not to be included.

A comparison of the 1939 and 1954 figures shows a continuing increase in the proportion of farms reporting expenditures for gasoline and other petroleum fuel and oil, from 47.3 percent to 68.3 percent. The amount expended per farm reporting increased from \$112 to \$418 in the 15-year period. Higher prices per unit and increased mechanization were important factors causing this increase. In 1940, there were 1,567,430 tractors reported compared with 4,692,341 in 1954, an increase of 199 percent in the 14-year period.

Expenditures for commercial fertilizer and lime.—The 1954 questionnaire contained inquiries on the tonnage and cost of fertilizer and liming materials used during the calendar year 1954. Fertilizer and lime used on the place were to be included regardless of whether the landowner, tenant, or both paid for them. Fertilizer was to include only commercial fertilizer or fertilizing material. The questionnaire did not indicate that basic slag was to be included; and in some areas, particularly the Midwest, not all basic slag used as fertilizer material was reported by farm operators and Census enumerators. Barnyard manure, straw, refuse materials, gypsum and soil conditioners were to be excluded from reports for fertilizer.

Lime or liming material to be used on the land was to include ground limestone, hydrated and burnt lime, marl, oyster shells, etc. No mention was made of gypsum, but this product was excluded in the processing when entries for it were detected. Lime used for sprays or sanitation purposes was to be omitted.

In the South, some landlords, who conducted some farming operations themselves, reported for their operations, fertilizer and lime paid for wholly or in part by them for use on their tenant-operated land. The tenants may also have reported the fertilizer and lime. During the office processing, such reports, when detected, were adjusted to prevent duplication in the reports for fertilizer and lime by landlords and their tenants.

The enumerator's instructions provided for the inclusion of lime and fertilizer used under the Agricultural Conservation Program during 1954; however, in some instances, the farm operator may have reported only that portion of the fertilizer and lime he paid for under this program and omitted the expenditure paid for by the government.