

Distribution of hogs and pigs sold alive in the United States in 1954 is shown in figure 33. Sales of hogs are not so widely diffused through all States as are cattle sales. The great bulk and concentration of hog sales is in the Corn Belt where they were reported on 69 percent of all the commercial farms. On livestock farms in the Eastern and Central Corn Belt, the numbers of farms reporting sales of hogs and pigs were slightly greater than the numbers reporting sales of cattle and calves (table 73). Sales of hogs and pigs were reported by 48.1 percent of the cash-grain farms and by 89.1 percent of the livestock farms. Sales from this enterprise were made by relatively more of the farms in the higher economic classes than in the lower economic classes.

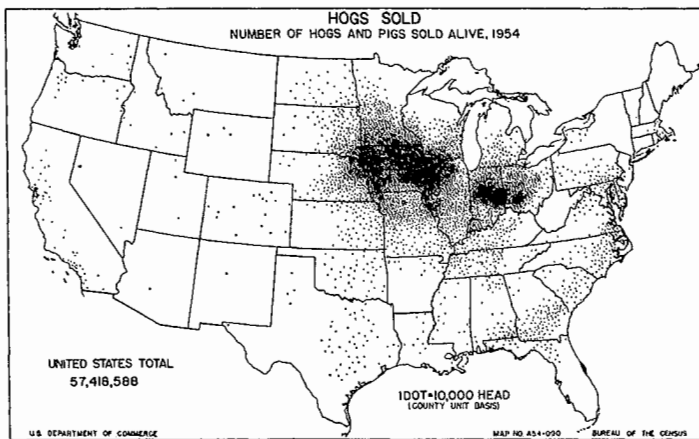


FIGURE 33.

The Corn Belt is one of the three main areas supplying chicken eggs for market in the United States (fig. 34). The other areas are in the Northeastern States and in California. Egg production is not so densely concentrated in any part of the Corn Belt as it is in some sections of the Northeast and of California. But the great number of laying flocks throughout the Corn Belt makes this one of the principal egg-producing regions of the country.

Chicken eggs were sold by 66.2 percent of all commercial farms in the Corn Belt in 1954. The highest proportion of farms selling

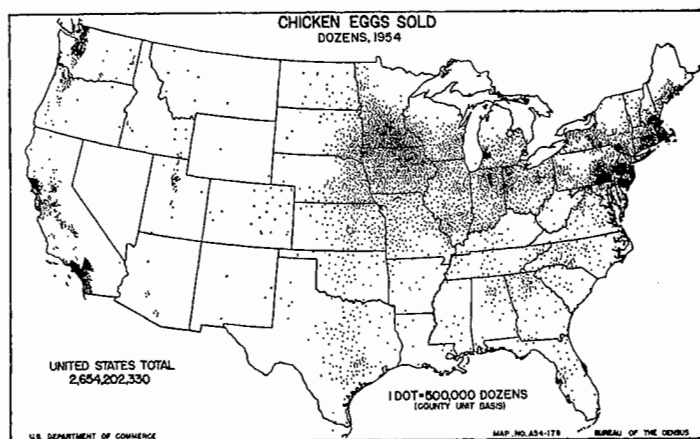


FIGURE 34.

eggs was in the Northern Corn Belt (74.1 percent). Egg sales were reported by 55.9 percent of the cash-grain farms and by 69.4 percent of the livestock farms in the Corn Belt. Farms selling eggs were a larger proportion of all farms among Class II and Class III farms than among Class I farms or among the lower economic classes. The average value of sales of eggs per farm reporting, however, was greatest on Class I farms. On livestock farms, the value of eggs sold per farm ranged from \$601 on Class I farms down to \$108 on Class VI farms. On Class VI cash-grain farms, sales of eggs averaged only \$94 per farm reporting. Sales of chickens were reported by fewer farms than the number reporting egg sales in all regions and on all economic classes of farms. The average value of chickens sold per farm was consistently less than the value of eggs sold.

Turkeys are raised on many farms throughout the United States, but the bulk of the production is concentrated in several relatively small areas in scattered locations (fig. 35). Several areas of intensive turkey production are located within the Corn Belt, mainly in the Northern, Central, and Eastern Corn Belt. Although turkey production is found on relatively few farms in the Corn Belt as a whole, it is a large enterprise in many counties, and is usually a major source of income to the producers. Turkey raising is typically a large-scale enterprise. Flocks of 5,000 or more turkeys are not uncommon. The average size of the turkey enterprise in Iowa in 1954 was about 2,000 birds.

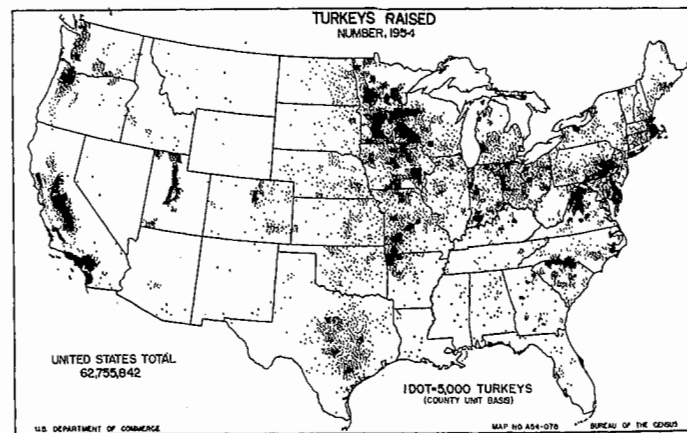


FIGURE 35.

Sales of sheep were reported by only 13.7 percent of all the commercial farms in the Corn Belt in 1954, but the proportion of farms selling sheep varied rather widely between regions and types of farms. Sheep were sold by about a fourth of the livestock farms in the Eastern Corn Belt, but by only a twentieth of the cash-grain farms in the Western Corn Belt. Generally, sales of sheep were reported by fewer farmers than reported sheep on hand. This reflects the practice of keeping sheep primarily for wool production on a number of farms. The average value of sheep sold per farm reporting among Class I livestock farms was \$7,907, but it ranged from \$899 on Class II livestock farms down to \$260 on Class VI livestock farms. On cash-grain farms, the average receipts from sheep sold were smaller. The large receipts from sheep sold on Class I livestock farms apparently were made up largely from sales of fattened feeder lambs.