

Figure 14

as well as their aptitudes and skills; however, the influence that finally determines the combination of farm enterprises is the relative economic advantage of the various enterprises in an area.

Taken together, the production on poultry farms in these subregions accounts for about one-third of all poultry farms in the United States and for more than half of all poultry products sold on poultry farms. In general, poultry farms in other areas are smaller and less specialized.

In the selected subregions the poultry enterprise is generally important. However, poultry farms are not the most important type of farm in any of these subregions. These 16 selected subregions contain more than one-third of all the poultry farms in the United States.

A brief description of the agriculture in the 16 selected poultry subregions follows:¹

Subregion 2 comprises the southwestern counties of Maine and the southern tier of counties in New Hampshire. It is unusual in two respects: (1) Only about half of the farms are commercial farms; the other half are either part-time or residential farms that provide homes for families who earn their living in nearby factories or in other nonagricultural work. (2) Poultry production has gradually replaced dairying in many places. The income from poultry and poultry products accounts for more than 40 percent of the total farm income in some parts and dairying for another 30 percent. Other considerable sources of farm income include hay, fruits and vegetables, and tobacco. Most of the poultry income is from egg production but broiler production is also valuable.

Subregion 3 includes eastern Massachusetts and all of Rhode Island. It has some of the same characteristics as subregion 2. Poultry farming is the principal commercial type of farming, followed by dairy, fruits (especially cranberries), and vegetables, and the growing of large quantities of flowers under glass. Many of the farms are part-time and residential farms.

Subregion 4 has a very large proportion of part-time and residential farms. A wide belt is covered, including west central Massachusetts and the eastern two-thirds of Connecticut. Notable distinction between this subregion and subregions 2 and 3 is the large quantity of tobacco grown in the Connecticut River Valley. Poultry is a principal source of farm income.

Subregion 5 comprises about the northern half of New Jersey, the metropolitan area of New York City, Long Island, and part of Connecticut. It includes more than 15 million inhabitants—one of the greatest concentrations of population in the United States. The part that is farmed can be characterized by many specialized as well as many residential and part-time farms. The relatively high land values encourage a type of farming that produces a large volume on a small area. Under these conditions, poultry

can compete favorably, hence it is much more important than any other type of farming; it outranks both dairying and potato production.

Subregion 14 is relatively small, consisting of three counties nestled between subregions 5 and 15. It is characterized by heavy poultry production similar to that in the two adjoining subregions.

Subregion 15 is relatively large, including southern New Jersey, all of Delaware, eastern Maryland, and two counties in Virginia. It includes the Delmarva Peninsula and eastern Virginia and also Sussex County in southern Delaware—the county with the greatest concentration of broiler production in the United States. The northern counties in the subregion have a high proportion of well-drained loam and silt-loam soils suited to staple crops like wheat, corn, and hay. Dairying has become a main source of farm income. In the southern counties where more sandy soils exist, poultry and large-scale truck farming provide a large proportion of the farm income. The principal truck crops are tomatoes, green beans, lima beans, cantaloups, cucumbers, watermelons, Irish potatoes, and sweetpotatoes. Throughout the subregion, a type of agriculture has developed that gives a large return per acre of land. Poultry production has become one of the most important farm enterprises.

Subregion 18 covers a strip in northwestern Virginia that runs northeast and southwest. It comprises the part of the Valley of Virginia that is drained by the Shenandoah River. The land is level to rolling, and fertile. Poultry and fruit production are leading farm enterprises in the area.

Subregion 26 includes the central part of the Great Valley in Virginia and the adjoining ridges and mountains. Much of the land is hilly or mountainous. The cropland has been devoted mainly to the growing of corn, wheat, or hay, much of which

NUMBER OF BROILERS SOLD IN POULTRY SUBREGIONS: 1954

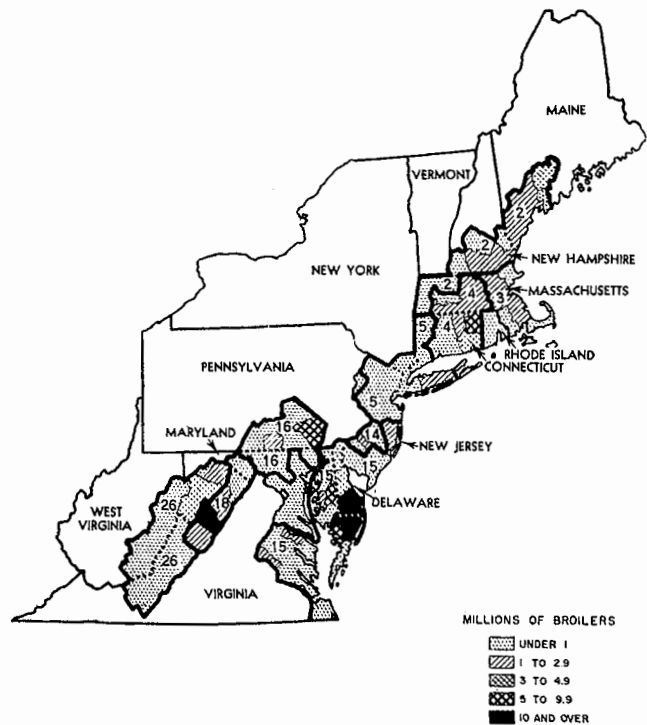


Figure 15

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¹ The description is based largely on material from a forthcoming monograph on Systems of Economic Areas prepared by D. J. Bogue and C. L. Beale and to be published by the Scripps Foundation for Research in Population Problems in cooperation with Agricultural Marketing Service, United States Department of Agriculture.