

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:<sup>1</sup>

**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

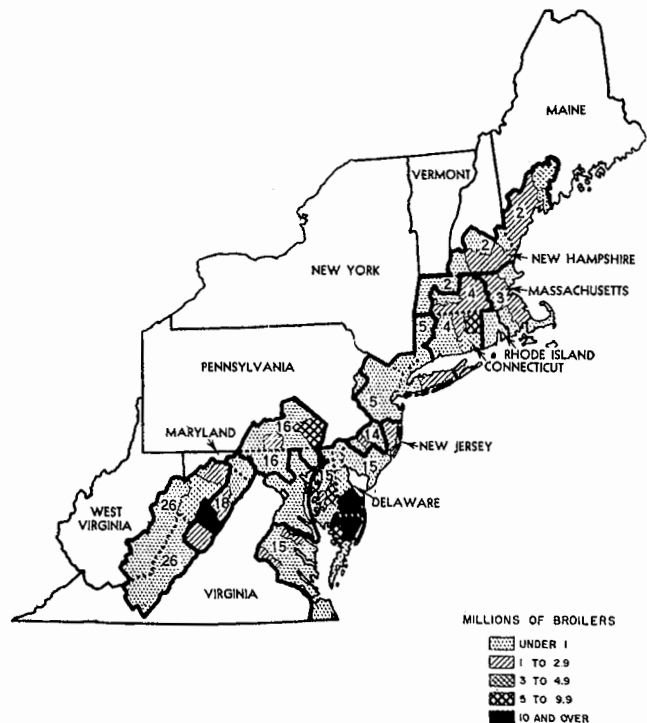


Figure 15

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<sup>1</sup> 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.

is used for livestock feed. Broiler production on a commercial scale has grown during the last 25 years, but the income from the poultry farms is less than that from similar farms in many of the other selected subregions.

**Subregion 33** encompasses the Blue Ridge Mountains and the associated valleys and plateaus in western North Carolina and northern Georgia. Most of the farms here are of a subsistence type; only a limited quantity of farm products are sold through market channels. About half of the land is in farms and only one-fourth of the farmland can be classified as cropland. Income per farm is generally low. More than nine-tenths of the farms are in Economic Classes V, VI, and VII. Many of the farmers supplement their farm income by work off the farm. The leading sources of farm income include tobacco, poultry, livestock, dairy products, vegetables, and corn. The harvesting of timber and forest products provides some income.

The southern tier of counties borders on subregion 42, one of the more highly commercialized broiler localities of the United States. The majority of the farms here are poultry farms. Compared with the other commercial farms of the subregion, incomes are relatively high.

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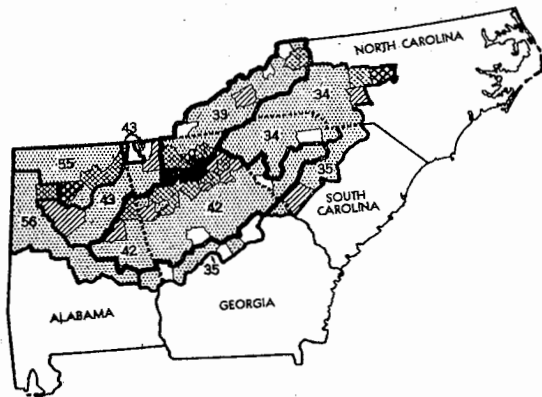


Figure 16

**Subregion 42** is comprised mainly of the Georgia Piedmont but extends into South Carolina and Alabama. Cotton (until recent years the principal crop), and other row crops, have been largely replaced by livestock, dairy, and poultry, as major sources of income. The land in parts of this subregion is relatively level, but much of it is rolling or even hilly, so that when cotton was the principal crop, soil erosion was a serious problem. On several million acres the cultivation of crops has been abandoned, and the land has been returned to forest or planted to soil-conserving crops. The agriculture of the entire region has undergone fundamental changes during the last four decades. The

number of farms has been reduced by almost half in 35 years. The 66 counties in this subregion include 6 of the larger broiler-producing counties in the Nation.

**Subregion 82** centers in northwestern Arkansas, southwestern Missouri, and northeastern Oklahoma. The heart of broiler production of this subregion is in the two northwestern counties of Arkansas—Washington and Benton—the second and third ranking counties nationally in broiler production, in 1954, with a total of more than 34 million birds.

**NUMBER OF BROILERS SOLD, FOR SUBREGIONS 73, 74, AND 82: 1954**

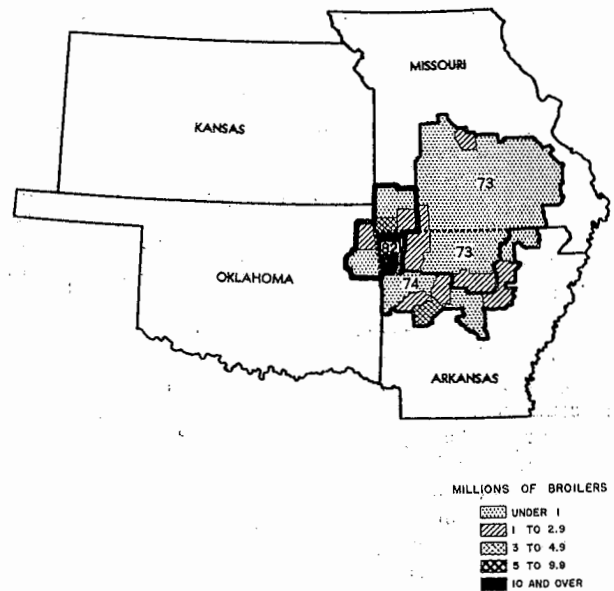


Figure 17

**Subregion 115** includes a considerable area of irrigated land, which grows large quantities of fruits, vegetables, sugar beets, flax, dry beans, and hay. Dairy and poultry farming are important farm enterprises. Livestock ranches occupy the rougher and drier parts of the subregion.

**Subregion 116** has the largest concentration of fruit farms and vineyards in the United States. The production of fruits, vegetables, and other cash crops are the chief farm enterprises. Dairy and poultry production and livestock ranching are prevalent in certain parts.

**Subregion 117** the Central Pacific Coast subregion, is important in poultry and in fruits and vegetables. Parts that are too rough for crop farming are occupied by livestock ranches. Poultry farms are numerous and poultry is second to cash crops as a source of farm income. Dairying is also prevalent.

**Subregion 119** like the other three Pacific Coast subregions, has considerable diversification of agriculture. In that part of the area lying in the State of Washington, dairy farms outnumber poultry farms, but poultry has a noteworthy place. In the part that lies in Oregon, the number of fruit-and-nut farms exceeds the number of farms of other types.