

Figure 10.

The conditions that cause one group of farmers to sell fluid milk while another group sells cream or makes cheese must be considered in addition to the factors that make it possible to produce milk.

The areas that sell cream are ordinarily farther from consuming centers. They are no longer found in the central or main milkproducing areas because of the increased commercial utilization of whole milk rather than just the butterfat in the milk (fig. 11). North and South Dakota, Iowa, Missouri, Nebraska, and Kansas now produce more than 50 percent of the cream sold from farms and less than one-sixth of this comes from farms classed as dairy farms. This means that more than five-sixths of the marketed cream from these six States is from farms where the production of milk is secondary to some other crop or livestock enterprise. Fifteen years ago these six States produced 34 percent of the milk that was sold as cream or butter.

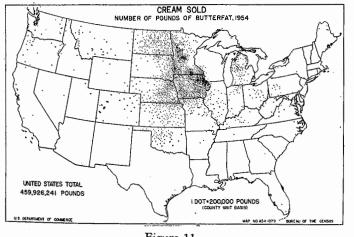


Figure 11.

Usually, considerable numbers of pigs or chickens are found on farms that sell cream. They furnish outlets for the skim milk left on the farm. Condenseries are ordinarily located in areas of heavier milk concentration where they have relatively large supplies of milk currently available and where they can utilize some of the market-milk surplus.

Cheese factories, on the other hand, seem to be set more by the background and habits of local producers than do other phases of dairying. Cheese factories are seldom located to make use of surplus milk from urban centers. The making of different types of foreign cheeses is closely associated with the nationalities that originate them.

The half million dairy farmers were about average in the use of resources. They comprised 16.5 percent of all commercial farms in the United States in 1954 (Table 11). They used but 9 percent of all land in farms and slightly more than 11 percent of harvested cropland, but they sold approximately 15 percent of the value of all farm products. One-fourth of the sale of all livestock and livestock products came from these farms as well as more than four-fifths of all whole milk sales. Only one-fifth the value of all cream sales was credited to these farms-the other four-fifths coming from milk cows on other than dairy farms. Crop sales were very small, amounting to slightly less than 3 percent of all crop sales and 10 percent of total sales from dairy farms.

The dairy farmers used their proportionate share of all farm labor, as well as about the same proportion of total capital investment in land, buildings, farm machinery, and livestock. Total farm real estate values were somewhat less than might have been expected because of the farm buildings required to house the dairy cattle and store feed for the herds during the long barnfeeding period. Total investment in livestock and machinery was higher than the percentage represented by the number of farms, and feed purchases were 50 percent higher.

Table 11.—Number and Use of Resources for all Commercial
Farms and for all Dairy Farms in the United States and
in Selected Subregions: 1954

	All com- mercial farms	Dairy farms			
Item		Total	Per- cent of all com- mer- cial farms	Selected sub- regions	
				Total	Per- cent of all dairy farms
Farms	3, 327, 889 1, 032, 493 431, 585 321, 587	548, 767 97, 228 51, 186 37, 008	9.4 11.9	63, 685 33, 664	65.5 65.8
Value of all farm products soldmillion dollars All crops sold, ¹ totaldo. All livestock and livestock products sold, totalmillion dollars Dairy products solddo Whole milk solddo	12, 223 3, 330	3, 583 341 3, 242 2, 627 2, 573 54	2, 8 26, 5 78, 9	(NA)	70.5
Milk cowsthousands	18, 664	10, 745	57.6	7, 471	69.5
Man-equivalent of labor number	4, 891, 935	789, 811	16. 1	558, 820	70.8
Total capital investmentmillion dollars Land and buildingsdo Implements and machinerydo Livestock and poultrydo	110, 545 85, 768 14, 280 10, 497	14, 611 10, 242 2, 485 1, 884	13.2 11.9 17.4 17.9	10,056 6,663 1,829 1,564	65. 1 73. 6
Total specified expenditures ² do Feed for livestock and poultrydo	8, 900 3, 682	1, 594 899	17.9 24.4	1, 074 606	67.4 67.4

NA Not available. ¹ Includes horticultural and forest products. ² Machine hire, hired labor, feed purchased, gasoline and other petroleum fuel and oil, commercial fortilizer, and lime.