

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 milk-producing 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.

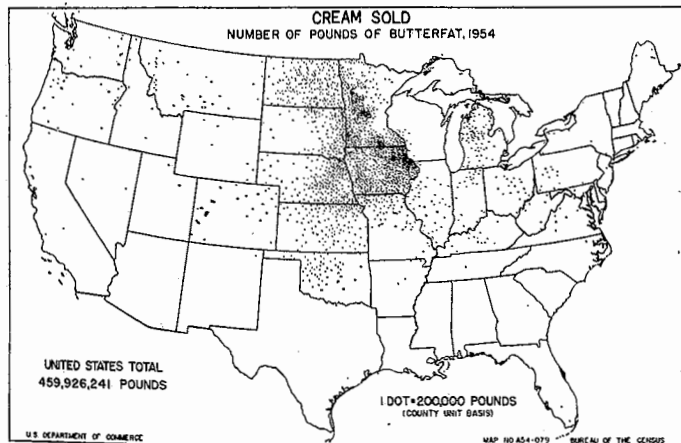


Figure 11.

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 barn-feeding 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

Item	All commercial farms	Dairy farms			
		Total	Percent of all commercial farms	Selected subregions	
				Total	Percent of all dairy farms
Farms..... number	3,327,889	548,767	16.5	385,429	70.2
All land in farms..... thousand acres	1,032,493	97,228	9.4	63,685	65.5
Total cropland..... do	431,585	51,186	11.9	33,664	65.8
Cropland harvested..... do	321,687	37,008	11.5	25,250	68.2
Value of all farm products sold..... million dollars	24,299	3,583	14.7	(NA)	(NA)
All crops sold, ¹ total..... do	12,076	341	2.8	(NA)	(NA)
All livestock and livestock products sold, total..... million dollars	12,223	3,242	26.5	2,263	69.8
Dairy products sold..... do	3,330	2,627	78.9	1,859	70.8
Whole milk sold..... do	3,077	2,573	83.6	1,815	70.5
Cream sold..... do	253	54	21.3	44	81.5
Milk cows..... thousands	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 investment..... million dollars	110,545	14,611	13.2	10,056	68.8
Land and buildings..... do	85,768	10,242	11.9	6,663	65.1
Implements and machinery..... do	14,280	2,485	17.4	1,829	73.6
Livestock and poultry..... do	10,497	1,884	17.9	1,564	83.0
Total specified expenditures ² do	8,900	1,594	17.9	1,074	67.4
Feed for livestock and poultry..... do	3,682	890	24.4	600	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 fertilizer, and lime.