

Poultry farms.—Sales of chickens and eggs from the home flock is one of the most common sources of farm sales to farmers. In few cases, are these sales large enough to comprise the 50 percent of total sales of farm products needed to classify farms as poultry farms. Of all commercial farms, slightly less than 5 percent were poultry farms.

In general, poultry producers are most numerous in the north-eastern quarter of the United States. (See map below.) In this broad region, particular areas of concentration are shown in the Delmarva Peninsula, New Jersey, southeastern Pennsylvania, and the three southern New England States. In the southeastern part of the United States, concentrations of poultry farms appear in a few widely scattered localities. Particularly noticeable are the places of broiler production in Georgia, North Carolina, and the northwestern part of Arkansas. Poultry farms are relatively scarce in the West except in the Pacific Coast States.

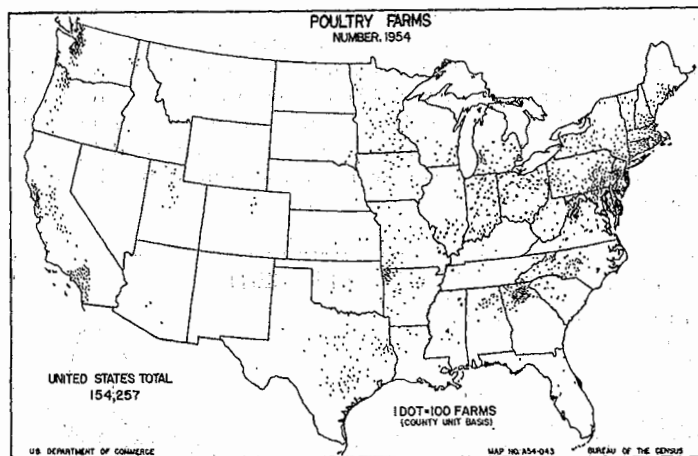


FIGURE 21.

Livestock farms other than dairy and poultry.—These farms, taken together, are the most numerous type in the United States. Over a fifth of the commercial farms (695,000) were classified as livestock farms in 1954. Farms were so classified if the total combined sales of cattle, hogs, sheep, goats, wool, mohair, goat milk, and products from animals slaughtered on the farm accounted for 50 percent or more of the total sales of farm products (provided the farm did not classify as a dairy farm).

Livestock farms show a widespread and fairly uniform distribution over the country (see map below). The areas of greatest concentration are in Iowa, northern Missouri, and western Illinois. Central Indiana, southwestern Ohio, and northeastern Nebraska show areas of almost equal concentration but of smaller geographic scope. These States comprise what is known as the Corn Belt where large quantities of feed grains are grown and the fattening of hogs and cattle is the dominant farm enterprise.

Livestock farms in other parts of the country may vary from vast ranches in the arid West, which may require 40 or more acres per animal unit, to farms in some areas of the South, which occasionally have improved pastures that will carry an animal unit on 1 or 2 acres. Because of the large acreages required per animal unit in the Western States, livestock farms are sparsely distributed even though they are the most important type from the standpoint of numbers. Many livestock farms in the Appalachian and southeastern parts of the country are small farms of a subsistence type where small sales of cattle and hogs are the main farm sales.

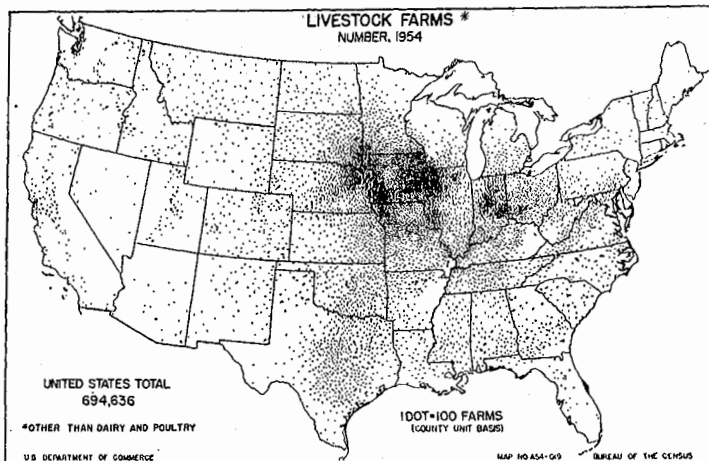


FIGURE 22.

General farms.—Farms were classified as general when none of the specified commodities or commodity groups accounted for as much as 50 percent of gross farm sales. The Census of Agriculture provides data for three types of general farms. These are (1) primarily crop, (2) primarily livestock, and (3) crop and livestock.

As a group, general farms account for 10 percent of the commercial farms. Their geographic distribution is more uniform over the United States than any other type (see map below). Relatively heavy concentrations are found in areas that are transitional between the more specialized farming areas; there general farms are likely to be less specialized versions of the major types. The combination of livestock production with the growing of grains is the most frequent reason for farms being classified as general. In the Plains States, for example, wheat production is often combined with cattle raising or fattening. Farther east, hog and beef fattening is combined with dairying and with growing corn and other feed grains. Livestock is produced along with tobacco in the burley and fire-cured tobacco country of Kentucky and Tennessee, and with cotton throughout the Southeast. More than three-fourths of the general farms were classified as primarily livestock or crop and livestock.

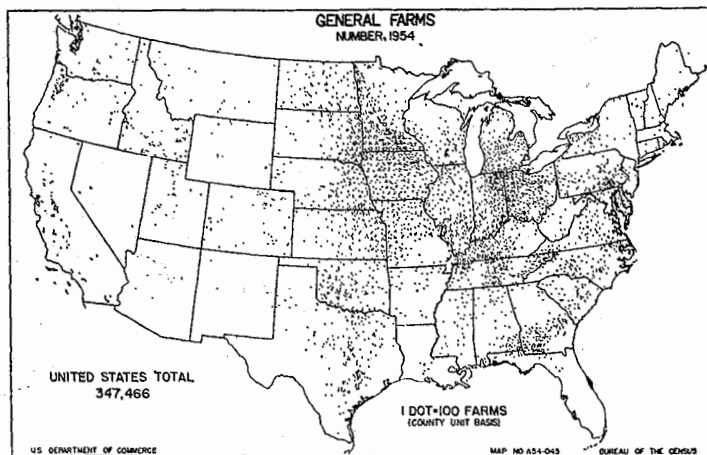


FIGURE 23.