

SOME DIFFERENCES BY STATES

A summary of stock farms by States gives some general insight into the characteristics of western stock ranching, and reveals more of the differences in this important feature of the western rural economy. Certain of these data are given by States in Tables 1 through 5 (pp. 8 and 9). It should be noted that these data concern all of the farms that have the designation "stock farms." Included in this designation of stock farms there are, as has already been noted, not only the stock ranches of the Western States, but also a considerable number of operations that should be characterized as stock farms rather than as stock ranches. However, for the 17 Western States, and particularly for the 11 Western States, these summary data by States are sufficiently applicable to stock ranches that they may be studied, compared, and analyzed with reference to cattle and sheep ranching.

The materials in Table 1 afford an index of the relative importance of stock ranching in the economy of these 17 Western States. They also give an indication of the relative differences for each State in the average size of ranches. A comparison between States shows that both in terms of acres and in size of enterprise the stock ranch is likely to be larger in the States that have the more arid lands.

The comparisons in Table 2 show the relative importance, for the 17 Western States, of the acreage devoted to livestock ranching. In the Plains States, which have a large acreage of dry-land agriculture, the land in the livestock farms is not predominant in the total land in farms. In certain of these States a considerable part of the total acreage is in the form of public land. Nevada is an outstanding example, there the land in farms approximates about 12 percent of the total land of the State.

In certain of the States, the land in Indian reservations has considerable influence upon data concerning the acreage in farms. That is, Indian reservation land, not being regarded as public

TABLE 1.—NUMBER AND AVERAGE SIZE OF FARM FOR ALL FARMS AND FOR LIVESTOCK FARMS OTHER THAN DAIRY AND POULTRY, 17 WESTERN STATES: 1954

State	Total number of farms	Livestock farms other than dairy and poultry		Average size of farm (acres)	
		Number	Percent of total	All farms	Livestock farms other than dairy and poultry
Total, 17 Western States..	1, 180, 054	242, 018	20. 5	20, 634	46, 800
Arizona.....	9, 285	1, 806	20. 1	4, 492	9, 706
California.....	123, 002	10, 363	8. 4	307	2, 010
Colorado.....	40, 672	12, 806	31. 5	946	2, 061
Idaho.....	38, 810	4, 883	12. 6	308	1, 254
Kansas.....	120, 201	25, 410	21. 1	417	618
Montana.....	32, 056	10, 668	32. 4	1, 855	3, 551
Nebraska.....	100, 733	42, 127	41. 8	472	708
Nevada.....	2, 808	1, 212	43. 2	2, 929	5, 729
New Mexico.....	20, 977	5, 665	27. 0	2, 358	6, 677
North Dakota.....	61, 808	7, 740	12. 5	681	1, 075
Oklahoma.....	119, 270	22, 341	18. 7	299	636
Oregon.....	54, 442	6, 085	11. 2	387	1, 943
South Dakota.....	62, 350	28, 081	45. 0	721	1, 022
Texas.....	293, 152	48, 048	16. 4	498	1, 944
Utah.....	23, 008	4, 544	19. 7	537	1, 824
Washington.....	65, 135	4, 289	6. 6	271	1, 019
Wyoming.....	11, 355	5, 890	51. 9	3, 086	5, 023

land, may be included in the figures of land in all farms and yet not be included in the land acreage for the livestock farms in the Census. Arizona is an example. Table 2, showing the land in all farms and in the livestock farms, gives an indication as to the relative importance in use of land acreage for livestock farms and for the several other types of farms.

TABLE 2.—LAND AREA, LAND IN FARMS, AND PASTURELAND, FOR ALL FARMS AND FOR LIVESTOCK FARMS OTHER THAN DAIRY AND POULTRY, 17 WESTERN STATES: 1954

State	Land area (thousand acres)	Land in farms				Pastureland			
		Total, all farms		Livestock farms other than dairy and poultry		Total, all farms		Livestock farms other than dairy and poultry	
		Thousand acres	Percent of land area	Thousand acres	Percent of total	Thousand acres	Percent of land area	Thousand acres	Percent of land in farms
Total, 17 Western States.....	1, 161, 537	704, 000	60. 6	308, 321	56. 6	484, 283	41. 7	344, 523	48. 9
Arizona.....	72, 688	41, 705	57. 4	18, 112	43. 4	39, 198	53. 9	17, 657	42. 3
California.....	100, 314	37, 784	37. 7	20, 829	55. 1	25, 027	24. 9	18, 742	49. 6
Colorado.....	66, 510	38, 469	57. 8	26, 387	68. 6	27, 202	40. 9	22, 331	57. 8
Idaho.....	52, 972	14, 276	27. 0	6, 125	42. 9	8, 375	15. 8	5, 301	37. 1
Kansas.....	52, 459	50, 210	95. 7	15, 697	31. 3	19, 757	37. 7	9, 755	19. 4
Montana.....	93, 362	61, 463	65. 8	37, 879	61. 6	46, 675	50. 0	34, 633	56. 3
Nebraska.....	49, 064	47, 556	96. 9	29, 827	62. 7	24, 211	49. 3	19, 229	40. 4
Nevada.....	70, 265	8, 225	11. 7	6, 944	84. 4	7, 634	10. 9	6, 547	79. 6
New Mexico.....	77, 767	49, 455	63. 6	37, 825	76. 5	46, 543	59. 8	36, 050	74. 1
North Dakota.....	44, 836	42, 097	93. 9	8, 319	19. 8	12, 520	27. 9	4, 754	11. 3
Oklahoma.....	44, 180	35, 678	80. 8	14, 216	39. 8	22, 031	49. 9	11, 526	32. 3
Oregon.....	61, 642	21, 066	34. 2	11, 820	56. 1	15, 209	24. 7	10, 614	50. 4
South Dakota.....	48, 983	44, 970	91. 8	28, 706	63. 8	24, 577	50. 2	19, 377	43. 1
Texas.....	168, 648	140, 083	86. 6	93, 393	63. 9	113, 606	67. 4	87, 940	60. 2
Utah.....	52, 701	12, 354	23. 4	8, 289	67. 1	10, 031	19. 0	7, 699	62. 3
Washington.....	42, 743	17, 648	41. 3	4, 369	24. 8	9, 175	21. 5	3, 816	21. 6
Wyoming.....	62, 403	35, 042	56. 2	29, 584	84. 4	32, 512	52. 1	28, 052	80. 1