TABLE 10.—LIVESTOCK FARMS IN SUBREGION 104, BY ECONOMIC CLASS OF FARM: 1954

Item	Total	Economic class of farm					
		I	II	III	IV	V	VI
Number of farms	14,132	1,126	2,884	3,830	3,417	2,085	790
Percent distribution	100.0	8.0	20.4	27.1	24.2	14.8	5.6
Livestock, average number per farm:							
Cattle	180	745	261	133	85	56	35
Sheep	80	398	128	54	23	8	5
Animal units	195	824	286	144	90	57	36
Animal units, total	2,761,473	928,133	825,063	551,966	307,997	119,641	28,673
Percent distribution	100.0	33.6	29.9	20.0	11.2	4.3	1.0
Man-equivalent per farm	1.6	3.6	1.9	1.5	1.2	1.1	1.0
Animal units per man-equivalent	124	226	150	100	75	55	37
Hired labor per farm dollars	771	4,735	1,178	359	167	82	65
Hired labor per animal unit dollars	3.95	5.74	4.12	2.49	1.86	1.43	1.79
Investment in land and buildings per animal unit dollars	395	264	370	440	573	423	422
Value of land and buildings, per farm dollars	77,046	217,731	105,838	63,426	51,542	24,117	15,199
Value of livestock per farm dollars	18,697	76,830	27,230	14,064	8,914	5,743	3,612
Value of land and buildings and livestock per farm dollars	95,743	294,561	133,077	77,490	60,456	29,860	18,811
Value of all farm products sold per farm dollars	10,233	50,091	14,895	7,163	3,852	1,914	846
Livestock and livestock products sales as a percent of value of all farm products sold	93.1	96.5	91.4	90.1	90.5	93.9	95.2

TABLE 11.—LIVESTOCK FARMS IN SUBREGION 105, BY ECONOMIC CLASS OF FARM: 1954

Item	Total	Economic class of farm					
		I	II	III	IV	V	VI
Number of farms	6,336	427	1,176	1,769	1,613	1,007	344
Percent distribution	100.0	6.7	18.6	27.9	25.5	15.9	5.4
Livestock, average number per farm:							
Cattle	143	489	228	132	81	53	36
Sheep	105	803	180	44	12	15	2
Animal units	164	649	264	141	83	56	36
Animal units, total	1,039,727	277,304	309,945	249,467	134,584	55,985	12,442
Percent distribution	100.0	26.7	29.8	24.0	12.9	5.4	1.2
Man-equivalent per farm	1.6	4.3	1.9	1.5	1.3	1.1	1.1
Animal units per man-equivalent	101	152	138	94	63	52	33
Hired labor per farm dollars	889	6,371	1,414	473	187	97	45
Hired labor per animal unit dollars	5.42	9.81	5.37	3.36	2.24	1.75	1.24
Investment in land and buildings per animal unit dollars	257	230	247	257	290	328	408
Value of land and buildings, per farm dollars	42,116	149,558	65,104	36,306	24,069	18,386	14,706
Value of livestock per farm dollars	16,540	62,766	26,238	14,560	8,776	5,860	3,852
Value of land and buildings and livestock per farm dollars	58,656	212,324	91,342	50,866	32,845	24,246	18,558
Value of all farm products sold per farm dollars	9,375	47,984	15,143	7,309	3,850	1,480	920
Livestock and livestock products sales as a percent of value of all farm products sold	81.1	85.9	79.7	76.9	80.3	74.8	88.0

Economic subregion 104.—This is a large subregion that includes the middle and eastern parts of the northern Great Plains region. It includes the Nebraska sand-hills country, that portion of western South Dakota that is west of the Missouri River, and a considerable part of the Yellowstone Valley of Montana. Except for the localities of irrigated farming, it is essentially a livestock-ranching country. But there are significant differences in the characteristics of the livestock ranching within the subregion as the western part is mountain foothill ranching, and the eastern part is distinctly Great Plains ranching. The size classes are influenced considerably by the very large ranching operations of the Nebraska sandhills.

The ranching operations can be characterized as medium-to-large. The lower economic classes account for a considerable proportion of the operating units but most of the units of the first four economic classes are large enough to be economic units from the standpoint of operation. This is indicated by the rather high labor efficiency for these operations (see Table 10), and by comparison with other data. The ranches in the top economic class handle the largest number of animal units of livestock per worker of any subregion in the West. This is due in part to the fact that generally the ranching operations do not have to grow very much hay and do very little winter feeding of the livestock.

Table 10 shows that the investments in land and buildings per animal unit of livestock average much lower than for any of the subregions previously discussed. This is chiefly because most of the stock ranches were fully stocked in 1954, in contrast to the relatively small number of livestock in 1954 in the southern plains because of drought.

Economic subregion 105.—This subregion comprises the northern part of the northern Great Plains. It is important stock-ranching territory and includes a considerable part of the dry-land wheat farming of Montana. As a general rule, there is not much economic association or interrelationship between the stock ranches and the wheat farms. A limited number of combination stock-ranch and wheat-farm operations are found in the Montana portion but generally these are large operating units.

The higher labor requirement shown for the livestock operations in this region, in comparison with subregion 104, is due primarily to the higher winter-feeding requirements for the livestock (see Tables 10 and 11). As a rule, the stock ranches must produce enough hay and other feed crops for 2 to 3 months of winter feeding.

An analysis of land and buildings values for stock ranches in this subregion shows that stock ranches have a comparatively low investment per animal unit. Though this is partly due to the generally fully stocked condition of these stock ranches in 1954, it also reflects the historically lower land and buildings values in the "North Country."

Economic subregion 106.—Subregions 104, 105, and 106 constitute the northern Great Plains. Subregion 106 is rather diverse. It includes the Big Horn Basin in Wyoming and surrounding mountains, the plains of eastern Wyoming, northeastern Colorado, and southwestern Nebraska. Except for small localized irrigation farming, this subregion is distinctly one of stock ranching. Nearly 60 percent of the livestock farms are in Economic Classes I through III.

Labor requirements for the stock ranches are similar to those in subregion 105 (see Tables 11 and 12). Winter-feeding requirements for livestock are similar and the size of the ranches is comparable.

Land and buildings investment per animal unit averages somewhat higher in subregion 106 than in subregions 104 and 105.