

FARMERS AND FARM PRODUCTION

Cream and butter sales remained concentrated in the North Central States (Table 9). In 1909, approximately two-thirds of the sale of these products was from this region and by 1954, it accounted for 85 percent of all sales. Within the region itself notable changes did take place, however, in that the East North Central States reduced their proportion of sales from 29.6 percent of all sales to 10.1 percent, while the portion marketed by the West North Central Region increased from 33.6 percent to 74.9 percent.

Percentage figures alone do not tell the story of the changes that have taken place. Although the New England and the Middle Atlantic geographic divisions showed decreased percentages in sales of both whole milk and cream during this 45-year period, they actually increased total milk-equivalent sales around 50 percent, and the North Central States increased their aggregate sales by 2½ times. These figures show that whereas the sale of whole milk has become more widespread or dispersed over the United States, sales of cream and butter from farms have become more concentrated in the Midwest, especially in that part where dairying is a secondary enterprise on most farms.

The present distribution of the several dairy products emphasizes the importance of the East North Central States in the production of all dairy products, except creamery butter (Table 10).

Most of the butter is found in the West North Central States, as stated earlier, where there are not many dairy farms and milk cows are carried as secondary to other livestock or cash-crop enterprises. This region also is second in American-type cheese, while the Middle Atlantic States is second in foreign types of cheese.

A better picture of the distribution of these products is obtained by listing the States that take a lead in production. Butter is the most widely distributed. Of the total production, 21 States produce appreciable quantities in excess of 1 percent, and the midwestern States of Iowa, Minnesota, Nebraska, and Wisconsin each produces between 5 and 20 percent.

Outside the general dairy regions, small areas of concentration of milk cows are found near some of our larger population centers where economic or regulatory restrictions largely define the areas

of production. Northwestern Washington and northern, central, and southern California are illustrations of areas where considerations of this nature are important. These areas show up more conspicuously when considered as centers of fluid-milk production or as sources of dairy income. They are not as conspicuous as areas of milk cow concentration or numbers of dairy farms because practically none of the milk produced in these special areas is used to make butter or for other manufacturing purposes (figs. 9 and 10).

There are no distinct milk producing areas, however, where limits to production are set by climate, soil, or topography, as is true of such commodities as cotton, peanuts, tobacco, and wheat. Some milk is produced in areas wherever there is adequate feed. It can be produced on grass or hay alone, or on any one of many combinations of grains and roughages. Milk production will be reduced if cows are exposed to excessive heat or extreme cold, but they can be protected from these extremes by suitable shelter or housing. Normal production conditions for dairy cows are varied and are fairly readily controlled.

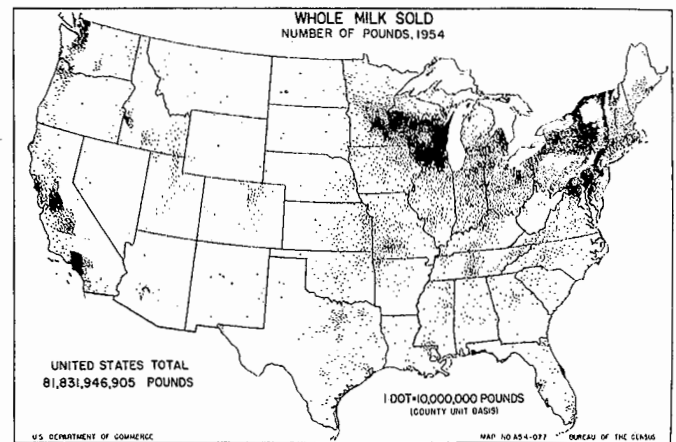


Figure 9.

Table 9.—DISTRIBUTION OF CREAM AND BUTTER SOLD (MILK EQUIVALENT), BY GEOGRAPHIC DIVISIONS: 1909 TO 1954

Item	1909	1919	1929	1939	1949	1954
Cream and butter sold.....	21, 719, 622, 813	25, 338, 498, 676	35, 887, 863, 909	30, 130, 700, 650	15, 478, 918, 639	12, 385, 171, 660
Percent sold, by geographic divisions:						
Total.....	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
New England.....	6.1	3.7	1.6	0.7	0.3	0.3
Middle Atlantic.....	12.6	6.2	2.6	1.7	1.3	1.3
East North Central.....	29.6	31.8	22.7	21.6	14.1	10.1
West North Central.....	33.6	36.6	48.5	52.2	68.6	74.9
South Atlantic.....	3.6	3.4	3.3	2.6	2.1	1.9
East South Central.....	2.3	3.1	3.8	3.1	3.1	1.7
West South Central.....	3.2	3.5	6.6	8.0	4.5	3.7
Mountain.....	2.0	3.9	5.5	4.8	3.8	4.2
Pacific.....	7.1	7.9	5.4	5.3	2.2	2.0

Table 10.—DISTRIBUTION OF MILK SOLD AND MILK PRODUCTS, FOR THE UNITED STATES AND GEOGRAPHIC DIVISIONS: 1954

Item	United States		Percent distribution by geographic divisions							
	Pounds	Percent	New England	Middle Atlantic	E. N. Central	W. N. Central	South Atlantic	South Central	Mountain	Pacific
Whole milk sold ¹	82, 915, 775, 000	100.0	4.8	18.0	35.0	13.0	6.2	8.8	3.7	10.5
Creamery butter ¹	1, 448, 688, 000	100.0	.3	3.4	29.9	50.3	1.0	6.1	4.5	5.5
American cheese ¹	1, 042, 345, 000	100.0	.5	3.6	59.4	18.2	.4	11.1	3.6	3.2
Other cheese, mostly foreign types ¹	840, 759, 000	100.0	2.2	21.7	59.2	5.9	-----	4.2	3.4	3.4
Condensed and evaporated milk ¹	3, 720, 792, 000	100.0	.8	8.2	38.2	11.6	7.6	16.0	4.6	13.0

¹ Source: Statistical Bulletin No. 167, 1955, U. S. Department of Agriculture. The uses are not mutually exclusive because some of the whole milk sold from farms was used in making manufactured products.