

Table 13.—SIZE OF DAIRY FARM BY MAJOR DAIRY REGIONS: 1954

Item	Major dairy region				
	North-eastern (Subregions 1, 2, 6, 7, 8, 10)	Eastern Ohio- Western Pennsyl- vania (Subregions 17, 27, 28, 29, 30)	Central Michigan- New York Lake Shore (Subregions 9, 49, 50, 64)	Northern Lake (Subregions 65, 67, 68, 88)	Northern Woods (Subregion 66)
Number of farms.....	67, 521	40, 636	35, 605	124, 501	28, 001
Average per farm:					
Land in farms					
acres..	218	153	167	157	186
Cropland har- vested...acres..	70	62	87	74	57
Gross sales					
dollars..	7, 266	5, 389	7, 011	5, 299	2, 999
Investment in—					
Land and build- ings...dollars..	13, 781	15, 112	23, 136	15, 212	8, 959
Machinery...do...	4, 889	4, 706	5, 897	4, 797	3, 694
Livestock...do...	4, 678	3, 319	3, 759	4, 160	2, 735
Total.....	23, 348	23, 137	32, 792	24, 169	15, 388
Man-equivalent....	1.5	1.4	1.3	1.4	1.3
Number of—					
Milk cows.....	24	15	18	18	13
Animal units.....	32	24	28	30	20
Total investment per milk cow					
dollars..	973	1, 542	1, 822	1, 343	1, 184

The different levels of income among these dairy areas can be accounted for partly by the difference in milk sales per cow as well as the number of cows per farm (Table 14). Smaller herds sell less milk per cow whether they are in areas with smaller average herds or with the larger ones. This holds for every area and every economic subregion. When farms are grouped by size—economic class—two things show persistently. The economic classes with the lower total incomes have the smaller herds and sell less milk per cow. It is logical to expect smaller farms to have consistently smaller herds. It is not necessary, however, for milk sales per cow to be so much less than for the larger herds. Good sires and proper feeding can be used in production on smaller farms.

Table 14.—MILK AND CREAM SALES FOR DAIRY FARMS, BY MAJOR DAIRY REGIONS: 1954

Item	Major dairy region				
	North-eastern (Subregions 1, 2, 6, 7, 8, 10)	Eastern Ohio- Western Pennsyl- vania (Subregions 17, 27, 28, 29, 30)	Central Michigan- New York Lake Shore (Subregions 9, 49, 50, 64)	Northern Lake (Subregions 65, 67, 68, 88)	Northern Woods (Subregion 66)
Number of farms.....	67, 521	40, 636	35, 605	124, 501	28, 001
Milk and cream sold per milk cow:					
Total.....dollars..	264	251	259	201	174
Whole milk					
dollars..	263	249	266	195	150
Cream...do...	1	2	3	6	24
Percent of total....	(Z)	1	1	3	14
Milk equivalent pounds..	6, 526	6, 298	7, 261	6, 594	5, 674
Price per cwt. (milk equivalent).....	4.05	3.99	3.57	3.05	3.07

Z Less than 0.5 percent.

The decreased income per cow is the result of lower production (sales) per cow as well as the result of somewhat lower prices for milk. The lower price is not the result of selling cream or butter-fat except in Economic Subregion 66. In this area the three groups of smaller farms obtain from 12 to 44 percent of total milk income from the sale of cream. Only in Economic Class VI of the Lake Dairy Region (Economic Subregions 65, 67, 68, and 88) did farmers receive as much as 15 percent of total milk sales from this source. In other subregions of the dairy belt the small farms received about the same percentage of the total milk income from the sale of cream as did the larger farms.

A grouping of dairy farms by economic class is a good measure of the size of business. The number of cows per herd decreases with the economic class until, in most subregions, from 70 to 90 percent of all farms in Economic Classes V and VI have fewer than 15 cows and most of these farms have fewer than 10 cows. These herds are so small that net farm incomes permit only a modest living.

Most of the dairy herds are on family-size farms where the farmer and his family do practically all the farmwork. Although herds are becoming larger over the years, there is little evidence that the family-size dairy farm is passing out of the picture. Improved methods of handling both the crop work and the dairy herds indicate that the so-called family-size herd, even though larger, will continue to be the typical producing unit.

The man-equivalent of these farms also indicates a family-size farm (Table 15). Hired labor equivalent to one-half man or more per year was found on the three classes of farms with the largest incomes. There was 60 percent more hired labor on farms in the Northeastern Dairy Region than in other regions, probably because of more cows. Hired labor exceeds family labor only in Economic Classes I and II of the major dairy regions.

Table 15.—LABOR FORCE ON DAIRY FARMS BY MAJOR DAIRY REGIONS: 1954

Item	Major dairy region				
	North-eastern (Subregions 1, 2, 6, 7, 8, 10)	Eastern Ohio- Western Pennsyl- vania (Subregions 17, 27, 28, 29, 30)	Central Michigan- New York Lake Shore (Subregions 9, 49, 50, 64)	Northern Lake (Subregions 65, 67, 68, 88)	Northern Woods (Subregion 66)
Number of farms.....	67, 521	40, 636	35, 605	124, 501	28, 001
Total man-equivalent.	1.5	1.4	1.3	1.4	1.3
Operator.....	.7	.7	.7	.7	.7
Unpaid family help..	.4	.5	.3	.6	.5
Hired labor.....	.4	.2	.3	.2	.1
Average per man-equiv- alent:					
Total cropland.acres..	62	56	88	66	59
Total sales..dollars..	4, 837	3, 849	5, 393	3, 785	2, 307
Milk cows.number..	16	11	14	13	10

To the extent that farm mechanization is measured by the use of specified items of farm machinery and home facilities, some differences are noted among the major dairy regions (Table 16). Most obvious is the use of fewer pieces of the specified items of equipment on farms in the Northern Woods Region. Practically as many farms have automobiles and farm tractors but fewer have such items as pick-up hay balers, motortrucks, and milking machines. Almost as many farms are electrified in this area as in any other of the dairy regions. The lack of comparable net incomes probably accounts for fewer telephones, home freezers, and television sets.