

These areas do not demonstrate this premise. The fewest noncommercial farms are in the Inner Valley of California, Subregion 116, where population is increasing, industries are growing, and evidences of prosperous communities are obvious. The same proportion of noncommercial farms is found in the Intermountain area, Subregion 112, where irrigation makes for high-value dairy farms, and where industrial development is limited to the cities of Boise, Salt Lake City, and Twin Falls. On the other hand, the largest numbers of noncommercial farms are found in the Puget Sound and the Gulf Coastal areas, where there is no more free capital looking for diversional or recreational outlets than in other areas.

The dairy farms of these special areas vary greatly in the amount and proportion of the area resources used. Those of Southern California occupy less than 3 percent of both the total farmland and the cropland of the area. Yet they have 97 percent of the milk cows and account for 99 percent of the dairy income.

Near the other extreme are the dairy farms of the Snake River-Utah Valley area. Although 25 percent of the farms are dairy farms they occupy only 6 percent of the farmland and 10 percent of the cropland. They sell only 63 percent of the dairy products of the area. Dairy farms of the other special areas usually are found to be between these two extremes in the use of land and in the sale of dairy products.

It is logical to expect to find most of the milk cows in a dairy area on dairy farms. This is the situation in all the special

areas. The Intermountain area, Subregion 112, is the only one where more than 40 percent of milk cows are on nondairy farms (Table 42). A large part of these are on general or other livestock farms, while the highly specialized poultry farms have the fewest milk cows.

VARIATIONS IN FARM CHARACTERISTICS

Figures from different studies indicate that well-organized dairy farms generally turn over their capital every 2½ to 3 years. The following tabulation shows some of these relationships for the special areas. The commercial nature of the dairy operators in Southern California is obvious in this comparison.

Area and subregion	Total investment per milk cow (dollars)	Percent of income from all sources except milk	Years for income to equal value of land and buildings	
			Total income	Income less specified expenses
Subregions 3, 4, 5, 11, 12, 13, 14, 16 (Atlantic Coast).....	1,588	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)
Subregion 54 (Nashville Basin).....	1,048	34	3.6	6.2
Subregion 58 (Gulf Coastal).....	648	12	2.1	5.1
Subregions 73 and 82 (Ozark-Springfield).....	1,040	30	3.2	7.3
Subregion 112 (Snake River-Utah Valley).....	1,971	32	4.3	6.6
Subregion 115 (Southern California).....	767	8	1.0	2.4
Subregion 116 (California Inner Valley).....	1,382	18	3.1	5.6
Subregions 118 and 119 (Puget Sound-Coastal).....	1,657	15	3.7	6.6

NA Not available.

Table 42.—DISTRIBUTION OF MILK COWS ON COMMERCIAL FARMS BY TYPE OF FARM, FOR SPECIAL DAIRY AREAS: 1954

Special dairy area	Subregions included	Total milk cows on all commercial farms	Percent of milk cows on—	
			Dairy farms	Other farms
Atlantic Coast.....	3, 4, 5, 11, 12, 13, 14, 16	760,066	86	14
Nashville Basin.....	54	158,588	62	38
Gulf Coastal.....	58	104,804	82	18
Ozark-Springfield.....	73	277,124	73	27
Ozark-Springfield.....	82	112,338	66	34
Total.....	73 and 82	389,462	71	29
Snake River-Utah Valley.....	112	237,194	52	48
Southern California.....	115	201,916	97	3
California Inner Valley.....	116	413,863	88	12
Puget Sound-Coastal.....	118	186,639	91	9
Puget Sound-Coastal.....	119	128,307	74	26
Total.....	118 and 119	314,946	84	16

These special areas differ in resources used as well as in income (Table 43). At the one extreme are the few highly specialized dairy farms of the Southern California area with their large capital values, labor force, and income. The concentration of these farms near and within the Los Angeles metropolitan area has resulted in fantastic real estate values on a per farm basis. The total investment of approximately \$140,000 per farm is over twice that in the California Inner Valley and almost four times that in the Puget Sound-Coastal subregions. Investment in other special areas is from three-tenths to one-tenth this amount. If the investment is expressed on a per cow basis, the Los Angeles dairymen have a smaller investment than is found in any other area except along the Gulf Coast. Their total investment per cow is less than half that of the Puget Sound and the Intermountain areas, and only a little more than one-half of the investment per cow for dairy farmers of the Inner Valley of California.

Table 43.—SIZE OF DAIRY FARMS, BY SPECIAL DAIRY AREAS: 1954

Item	Special dairy area							
	Atlantic Coast (Subregions 3, 4, 5, 11, 12, 13, 14, 16)	Nashville Basin (Subregion 54)	Gulf Coastal (Subregion 58)	Ozark-Springfield (Subregions 73 and 82)	Snake River-Utah Valley (Subregion 112)	Southern California (Subregion 115)	California Inner Valley (Subregion 116)	Puget Sound-Coastal (Subregions 118 and 119)
Number of farms.....	26,073	6,681	2,730	23,017	8,450	1,101	8,783	12,321
Average per farm:								
All land in farms.....acres.....	152	143	143	169	102	183	104	109
Cropland harvested.....do.....	73	36	26	34	44	32	36	29
All farms products sold.....dollars.....	(NA)	3,126	7,040	2,595	5,185	107,035	13,814	7,273
Investment in—								
Land and buildings.....do.....	27,274	11,198	14,930	8,228	22,233	102,933	43,375	26,873
Machinery.....do.....	6,823	2,468	3,007	2,376	4,046	6,464	5,068	4,331
Livestock.....do.....	5,593	2,055	2,799	1,878	3,293	27,105	8,231	3,593
Total.....do.....	39,690	15,721	20,736	12,482	29,572	136,502	56,674	34,797
Man-equivalent.....number.....	1.9	1.3	1.5	1.3	1.1	5.6	1.7	1.3
Milk cows.....do.....	25	15	32	12	15	178	41	21
Animal units.....do.....	48	23	44	19	25	210	59	30

NA Not available.