

Another comparison that may be made to show the relation between resources used and income are the number of years of income required to equal the value of real estate.

To the extent that specified expenses reflect the total expenses on the dairy farms of these special areas the dairymen of Southern California are better able to make out on their large real estate investment than those of other areas with much smaller investments. The cost of cow turnover every 2 years is not considered in the expenses, however, and when a reasonable figure is allowed for this yearly cost the number of years required for the net farm income to equal the real estate value is increased. It is also possible that the wages paid the milkers are nearer \$5,000 per year than the average wage rate of the special area, which is \$3,200. These two adjustments could easily double the number of years required for the yearly net farm income to equal the value of the real estate. Even with this type of adjustment, these dairymen appear to be in much better position to pay out on their farms than those of other areas.

The size of the milking herd on the dairy farms of the special areas also varies greatly (Table 44). The smallest herds are in the Ozark-Springfield area where dairying is more generally distributed than elsewhere. Nearly one-half of the dairy farms of this area have fewer than 10 cows per farm and less than 15 percent have more than 20 cows. Almost one-half of the 51,000 commercial farms are classed as dairy farms.

Both the Nashville Basin and the Snake River-Utah Valley areas average 15 milk cows per herd with 40 and 36 percent respectively having fewer than 10 cows per herd. The largest herds are in California, the Inner Valley showing an average of 41 milk cows per herd while the Southern California area has the unusual average of 178 cows. The most nearly uniform distribution of herds among the different size groups is in the Puget Sound-Coastal area where 28 percent of the herds have fewer than 10 cows per farm and 23 percent have more than 30 cows.

Milk is sold either as whole milk or cream. Census figures show the amount received for each so that the percentage of the total milk check received from the sale of each is easily obtained. It is not possible, however, to show the quantity of whole milk being used for manufactured products in comparison with that used for fluid consumption. This diversion of whole milk from fluid consumption to manufactured products affects the price received by the farmer because manufactured dairy products carry a lower value for that portion of the whole milk than when used for fluid consumption. The price is also affected by conditions surrounding the special area under consideration, some of which may be unique to that area. These factors and conditions affect the price of milk in any area. In only one area, Economic Subregions 118 and 119, does the sale of cream exceed 2 percent of the total milk check (Table 45).

Table 44.—DISTRIBUTION OF DAIRY FARMS BY SIZE OF HERD, FOR 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	8,459	1,101	8,783	12,321
Average number of milk cows per farm.....	25	15	32	12	15	178	41	21
	Percent distribution							
Size of herd (number of milk cows):								
All farms.....	100	100	100	100	100	(Z) 100	100	100
Under 5.....	2	9	1	10	6	(Z)	3	9
5 to 9.....	10	31	3	35	30	(Z)	8	19
10 to 14.....	16	25	5	28	27	1	12	16
15 to 19.....	17	12	15	13	15	1	10	12
20 to 29.....	27	13	30	10	14	4	18	21
30 to 49.....	20	8	34	3	6	3	24	17
50 to 99.....	7	2	11	1	2	24	18	5
100 and over.....	1	(Z)	1	(Z)	(Z)	67	7	1

Z 0.5 percent or less.

Table 45.—MILK AND CREAM SOLD PER MILK COW ON 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)
Dairy farms..... number.....	26,073	6,681	2,730	23,017	8,459	1,101	8,783	12,321
Milk and cream sold per cow..... dollars.....	351	139	198	150	245	548	273	288
Whole milk sold per cow..... do.....	350	138	198	149	243	548	273	283
Cream sold per cow..... do.....	1	1	(Z)	1	2	(Z)	(Z)	5
Milk sold per cow (milk equivalent)..... pounds.....	7,200	3,979	3,671	4,634	7,218	11,112	7,643	7,031
Value of milk and cream sold pounds, milk equivalent, per hundred weight..... dollars.....	4.87	3.49	5.39	3.24	3.39	4.93	3.57	4.10

Z Less than 0.50.