

FARMERS AND FARM PRODUCTION

The cropping systems have some conspicuous differences (Table 49). In all the special western areas, more than half of the harvested cropland is in hay. Grains are grown on the remaining cropland. Corn either for grain or for silage, is the chief grain crop in the areas east of the Rockies, whereas wheat or barley is the main cereal in the Snake River-Utah Valley subregion and small grains, oats and barley, are found along the western coast. A small quantity of hayland characterizes the dairy farms of the special areas east of the Rockies.

A common characteristic of all these areas, except Subregions 115 and 116, is the extent of pastureland per farm. In each area there are from 2 to 10 acres of pastureland per milk cow. Subregion 115 has three-fourths of an acre of pasture per cow; Subregion 116 shows an average of one and one-half acres. The high price of land in the parts of these two areas with dairy-cow concentration prevents its extensive use for pasture. Class by class, the value of farm land and buildings is equalled only by the value of dairy farms in the irrigated valleys of Subregion 112. The per acre value of land and buildings of the dairy farms in the special areas is generally less than half of the value in the three above areas. The only livestock on these farms in appreciable numbers is cattle. Milk cows and cattle raised for replacement are supplemented on some farms by a few chickens, a small flock of sheep,

and possibly a half-dozen hogs. None of these classes of livestock is large enough in the organization to justify being called an enterprise.

The labor force per farm is probably the most constant factor discussed (Table 50). With one exception the average man-equivalent varied from 1.1 to 1.9, less than one-third being hired help. The resources used and the work accomplished by the labor force was greatly different in different areas. Fully two-thirds of the labor force on a dairy farm is used to feed and care for the dairy herd. Yet in some of these areas one man-equivalent was available for each 11 milk cows while in others it cared for twice as many cows. To some extent, of course, this reflects differences in the proportion of feed produced on the farm. The range in value of sales per man-equivalent showed twice this range. This emphasizes the point frequently made that the dairy farm of usual size is too small to utilize its resources effectively, especially the labor that is available for farmwork. The man-equivalent dropped almost consistently as size of farm decreased and it was used much less effectively with decreasing size. When the total income per man is \$2,000 or \$3,000 and farm expenses and cost must be met out of this amount there is little left for increasing the standards of living.

Table 49.—FARM ORGANIZATION 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)	Snow 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 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
Cropland pastured..... do.....	18	33	30	32	12	28	32	24
Cropland not harvested and not pastured..... do.....	3	4	2	3	5	5	4	2
Total cropland..... do.....	94	73	58	69	61	65	72	55
Total land pastured..... do.....	48	92	93	118	43	124	58	56
Livestock:								
All cattle..... number.....	39	25	53	23	32	239	72	36
Milk cows..... do.....	25	15	32	12	15	178	41	21
Hogs..... do.....	5	7	3	4	2	1	1	1
Chickens..... do.....	129	58	33	53	44	24	30	39
Sheep..... do.....	1	5	2	1	3	2	(Z)	2
Percent of cropland harvested in:								
Corn for all purposes..... percent.....	26	33	43	17	6	7	9	2
Corn for grain..... do.....	15	24	38	3	1	(Z)	1	(Z)
Small grains..... do.....	23	19	4	28	23	12	8	17
All hay..... do.....	49	42	32	42	52	66	73	74
Other crops..... do.....	2	6	21	13	14	15	10	7

Z 0.5 percent or less.

Table 50.—SOURCES OF LABOR 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)	Snow 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
Total man-equivalent per farm.....	1.9	1.3	1.5	1.3	1.1	5.6	1.7	1.3
Operator.....	.8	.8	.8	.8	.7	.9	.8	.7
Unpaid family help.....	.4	.3	.4	.4	.3	.2	.4	.4
Hired labor.....	.7	.2	.3	.1	.1	4.5	.5	.2
Average per man-equivalent:								
Cropland, total..... acres.....	38	56	39	53	55	12	42	42
Total sales..... dollars.....	(NA)	2,405	4,693	1,996	4,714	19,113	8,126	5,595
Milk cows..... number.....	18	12	21	9	14	32	24	16

NA Not available.