

FARMERS AND FARM PRODUCTION

Some dry-lot feeding is practiced here but most of the dairy farms raise some feed crops especially alfalfa and, because of the long growing season, irrigated pasture provides economical dairy feed. The usual practice is to raise the young stock for herd replacement although there is always some buying of young stock and cows outside the valley.

During 1950, 43 percent of the sales of whole milk was for fluid consumption. This had increased to 46 percent by 1954. These farms are second to those of the Southern California area in number of milk cows per farm, total income, and value of total assets. No other special dairy area approaches these two California areas in size of milking herds and in volume of business.

The organization of these farms follows more nearly the usual combination of enterprises than those of Southern California.

Table 78.—SOURCES OF FARM INCOME ON DAIRY FARMS, BY ECONOMIC CLASS OF FARM, FOR THE CALIFORNIA INNER VALLEY AREA: 1954

Item	Economic class of farm						
	Total	I	II	III	IV	V	VI
Number of farms.....	8,783	1,088	2,099	2,484	1,832	1,125	155
Gross sales—							
Per farm.....dollars..	13,814	56,723	15,574	7,097	3,797	1,953	917
Per crop acre.....do..	193	239	176	163	130	113	43
Percent of gross sales from dairy products.....	82	80	83	84	84	83	84
Sales per farm:							
Milk.....dollars..	11,308	45,464	12,946	5,996	3,190	1,621	774
Cattle and calves.....do..	1,118	4,033	1,290	678	408	241	116
Hogs.....do..	17	24	31	10	14	8	—
Poultry products except eggs.....dollars..	29	160	13	11	12	5	—
Eggs.....do..	88	392	102	25	29	17	4
Sheep.....do..	15	9	52	4	2	1	16
Other livestock and livestock products.....dollars..	4	4	8	2	2	(Z)	1
Total, livestock and livestock products.....do..	12,579	50,086	14,442	6,726	3,657	1,893	911
Field crops.....do..	1,065	6,087	905	255	90	30	2
Other crops ¹do..	170	550	227	116	50	30	4
Total crops.....do..	1,235	6,637	1,132	371	140	60	6

Z Less than 0.50.
¹ Includes horticultural and forest products.

Table 79.—SPECIFIED FARM EXPENDITURES ON DAIRY FARMS, BY ECONOMIC CLASS OF FARM, FOR THE CALIFORNIA INNER VALLEY AREA: 1954

Item	Economic class of farm						
	Total	I	II	III	IV	V	VI
Number of farms.....	8,783	1,088	2,099	2,484	1,832	1,125	155
Average per farm:							
Machine hire.....dollars..	374	1,240	434	253	150	98	43
Hired labor.....do..	1,455	8,573	1,164	274	151	42	18
Feed.....do..	3,612	14,706	3,739	1,873	1,239	775	486
Gas and oil.....do..	559	1,867	657	371	223	144	66
Fertilizer.....do..	72	309	72	41	18	11	3
Lime.....do..	3	15	1	2	1	2	—
Total.....do..	6,075	26,719	6,067	2,814	1,782	1,072	616
Average per crop acre:							
Machine hire.....do..	5	5	5	6	5	6	2
Hired labor.....do..	20	36	13	6	5	2	1
Feed.....do..	50	62	42	43	42	45	23
Gas and oil.....do..	8	8	7	9	8	8	3
Fertilizer.....do..	1	1	1	1	1	1	(Z)
Lime.....do..	(Z)	(Z)	(Z)	(Z)	(Z)	(Z)	—
Total.....do..	84	112	68	65	61	62	29

Z Less than 0.50.

More of them are found in the smaller size groups, Economic Classes II to IV, with a few even in Economic Class VI.

Average incomes are much smaller and the incomes of Economic Class I farms are less than half those of the Southern California Area. Nearly 10 percent of the total value of sales is from crops. Other livestock than dairy accounts for about 1 percent. Feed purchases and hired labor, as in other areas, are the two large items of specified farm expenses (Tables 78 and 79). The economic class array shows the common pattern of reduced returns on the smaller farms, and both per farm and per unit of production whether it be per cow, per acre, or per man (Tables 79 and 80). The choice and use of resources are not as effective on small dairy farms as on the larger ones.

Table 80.—MEASURES OF INCOME AND EFFICIENCY LEVELS FOR DAIRY FARMS, BY ECONOMIC CLASS OF FARM, FOR THE CALIFORNIA INNER VALLEY AREA: 1954

Item	Economic class of farm						
	Total	I	II	III	IV	V	VI
Number of farms.....	8,783	1,088	2,099	2,484	1,832	1,125	155
Gross sales per farm.....dollars..	13,814	56,723	15,574	7,097	3,797	1,953	917
Specified expenses per farm.....dollars..	6,075	26,719	6,067	2,814	1,782	1,072	616
Gross sales less specified expenses per farm.....dollars..	7,739	30,004	9,507	4,283	2,015	881	301
Gross sales per man-equivalent.....	8,126	14,181	8,652	5,459	3,797	2,170	1,019
Total investment—							
Per farm.....dollars..	56,674	172,358	68,017	39,851	26,425	18,819	6,838
Per man-equivalent.....do..	33,338	43,090	37,787	30,655	26,425	23,524	7,598
Per \$100 gross sales.....do..	411	304	436	561	695	941	760
Percent of sales of dairy products from cream.....	(Z)	(Z)	(Z)	(Z)	1	1	1
Milk sales per cow:							
Dollars.....	273	348	256	215	181	148	98
Pounds (milk equivalent).....	7,643	8,729	7,643	6,836	5,852	4,776	3,185

Z 0.5 percent or less.

Fewer farmers report the use of commercial fertilizers than in any other special area, and those who use it apply fewer pounds per acre (Table 81). The price would suggest a fertilizer of higher test than is used in some areas. Practically no lime is used on these dairy farms.

Table 81.—USE OF FERTILIZER AND LIME ON DAIRY FARMS, BY ECONOMIC CLASS OF FARM, FOR THE CALIFORNIA INNER VALLEY AREA: 1954

Item	Economic class of farm						
	Total	I	II	III	IV	V	VI
Number of farms.....	8,783	1,088	2,099	2,484	1,832	1,125	155
Fertilizer:							
Percent of farms using.....	22	42	27	21	16	8	3
Tons used per farm reporting.....	6	14	5	3	2	3	2
Acres upon which used per farm reporting.....	40	89	34	22	16	16	10
Average per acre fertilized:							
Pounds.....	314	326	302	315	256	343	253
Cost.....dollars..	8.22	8.31	7.91	8.76	7.11	8.98	4.47
Lime:							
Percent of farms using.....	1	3	1	1	1	1	—
Acres upon which used per farm reporting.....	28	52	16	20	8	17	—
Average per acre limed:							
Pounds.....	2,251	2,330	1,021	2,861	1,576	2,353	—
Cost.....dollars..	9.32	9.26	4.83	9.71	8.70	16.82	—