

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 | — |