

# **CHAPTER VI**

## **LIVESTOCK AND LIVESTOCK PRODUCTS**

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# CHAPTER VI.—LIVESTOCK AND LIVESTOCK PRODUCTS

**Introduction.**—A periodic counting of the principal classes of domestic animals and poultry is essential to provide information on the status and changes in the livestock industry. Likewise, the recording of the number of animals and the quantity of livestock and poultry products sold is important in measuring the relative importance of various producing areas and types and sizes of farms. The national Censuses of Agriculture, taken at 5-year intervals, are the sources of totals by geographic areas for both inventory numbers and production or sales and for indicating the changes. Age and sex distributions, as obtained by the Census, furnish basic data in animal productivity and for the making of projections of anticipated inventories or marketings. This chapter presents information on livestock and poultry inventories as well as sales of livestock and poultry products gathered in the most recent Census of Agriculture.

Data from earlier Censuses are also given to indicate the situation in earlier years and as a basis for indicating changes when such figures are reasonably comparable with those for 1954. Because of the cyclical nature of livestock inventories, data gathered at 5-year intervals may not, by themselves, indicate the direction of future changes or the full extent of change between various Censuses.

**Source of data.**—The data represent, in most cases, totals obtained by adding the reports for all farms. However, for a few items, the totals represent estimates based on reports for only a sample of the farms. Headnotes for the tables indicate when the figures are estimates based on reports for only a sample of the farms. (See the Introduction to this volume for a description of the sample and the reliability of the estimates.)

The data were obtained by means of Agriculture Questionnaires filled out for each farm. The inquiries regarding livestock and poultry on the Agriculture Questionnaire used in 1954 were not the same for all States. A facsimile of the questionnaire used in 1954 for the States of North Carolina and Virginia is shown in the Appendix of this volume. Some of the inquiries on this questionnaire were not on the Agriculture Questionnaire for other States. The Composite Questionnaire, also shown in the Appendix, lists the inquiries for each State. The inquiries concerning goats, mohair production, sheep, and wool production were the only ones not made for all States. In most Northern and Western States only one inquiry was used to determine the number of horses and mules, while in other States there were additional separate inquiries regarding the number of horses and the number of mules. In case the table or a total does not include figures for all States, a headnote or footnote for the table so indicates.

**Presentation of statistics.**—Statistics are presented for the United States, three major regions, nine geographic divisions, and for each of the individual States. Statistics from the 1954 Census are presented along with reasonably comparable statistics from the Censuses of 1950 and 1945. For items of major importance, comparable statistics from all prior Censuses are given.

Averages, percentages, and other derived data are provided

as aids in using and analyzing the statistics. Data on sales are presented for each major group of animals and poultry so as to facilitate comparisons with the inventory number.

**Other published data.**—Generally, all available data for totals for livestock and livestock products are presented in this chapter. Data for selected items of livestock and livestock products for farms classified by color and tenure of farm operator, by economic class of farm, and by type of farm are presented in Chapters X, XI, and XII.

One measure of the importance of livestock in the agricultural economy is the relationship of dollar sales to the total gross farm income or the total value of agricultural products sold. In order to indicate this relationship effectively, the value of sales of livestock and livestock products, as presented in this chapter, is also shown together with the value of sales of other farm products in Chapter IX.

Many farms do not have a horse or mule; a steadily decreasing number of farm operators rely solely on horses and mules in conducting the farming operations; and there are quite a few places enumerated as farms which do not have, and in some instances do not need, either tractors or draft animals. The data regarding farm work power and its relationship to horses and mules are presented in Chapter III.

Data by counties and by State economic areas<sup>1</sup> on livestock and livestock products may be found in Volume I, Parts 1 to 33.

**Comparability of statistics.**—Many factors affect the comparability, particularly for livestock inventories, from Census to Census. A major factor is a change in the season of the year when the Census is taken. The 1954 Census was taken in the fall of that year with starting dates for various States ranging from October 4 to November 8. April 1 was the starting date for the Censuses of 1950, 1940, and 1930, and April 15 for 1910. January 1 was the starting date for 1945, 1935, 1925, and 1920. For all other Censuses, 1840 to 1900, inclusive, the starting date was June 1. The wording of the questions and the age and sex classifications used for the various Censuses also influence the comparability of statistics.

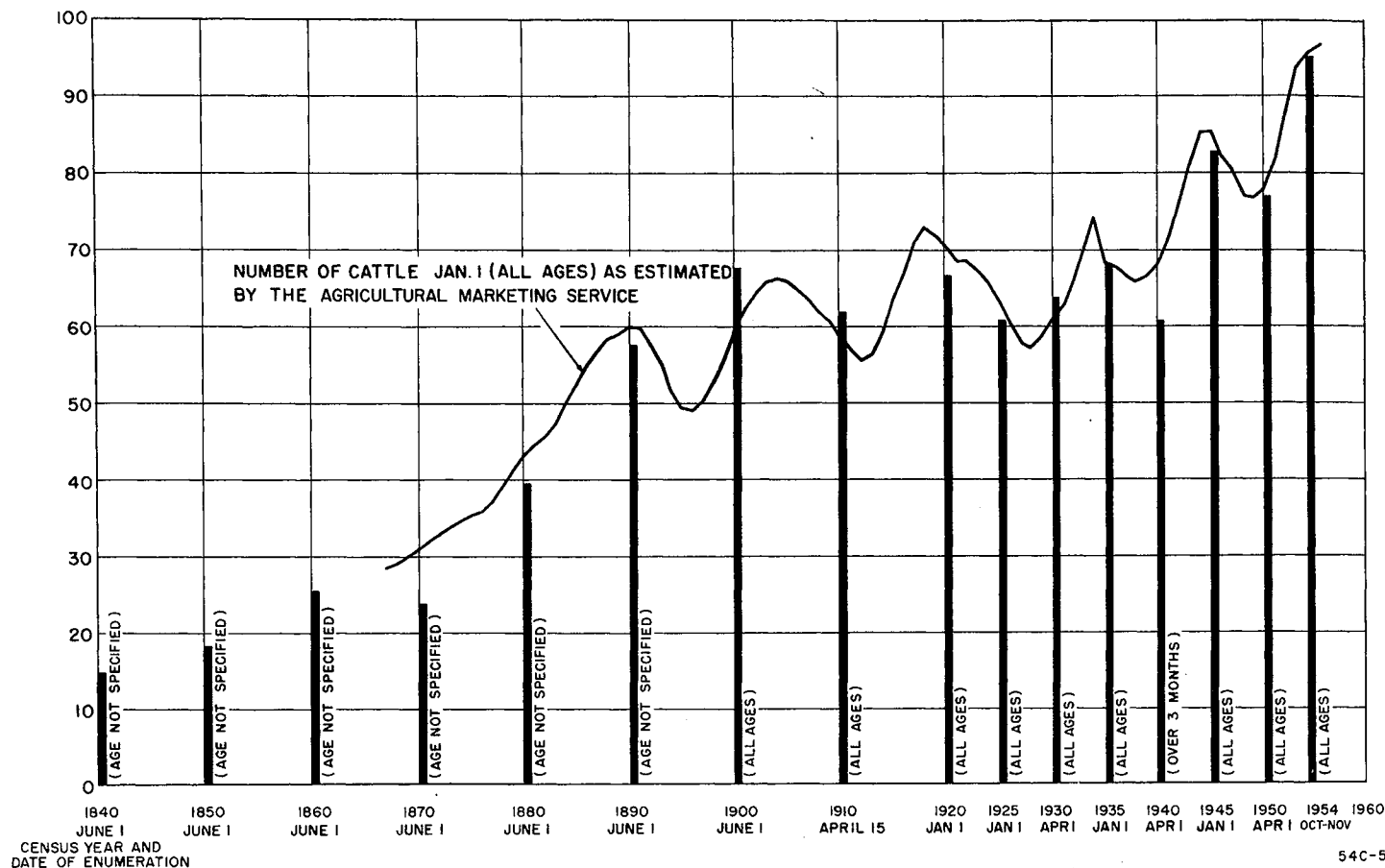
The information given in Tables 1, 2, 3, and 4 provides a brief description of the time of the year the Census was taken, the wording of the inquiries, and a summary of the age and sex classification used for each Census. These summaries also indicate the availability of data for various kinds and classes of livestock and poultry for each Census.

Increases in livestock numbers arising from births are highly seasonal. Likewise, decreases arising from marketing and from slaughter are also highly seasonal. Large numbers of livestock are marketed or slaughtered on farms during the last part of each calendar year. Thus, livestock numbers at the time of the enumeration for the 1954 Census of Agriculture were changing rapidly. The differences in livestock numbers for a Census taken in the fall and one taken in January or April are considerable because of the difference in the date of the enumeration. These differences arising because of the changing of the season of enumeration affect significantly

<sup>1</sup> State economic areas are groups of counties within the State having similar agricultural, demographic, climatic, physiographic, and cultural characteristics.

**CATTLE - NUMBER SHOWN BY THE CENSUS ON SPECIFIED DATES OF ENUMERATION IN RELATION TO CYCLICAL CHANGES INDICATED BY ANNUAL ESTIMATES OF JANUARY 1 INVENTORIES BY AGRICULTURAL MARKETING SERVICE, FOR THE UNITED STATES**

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the comparison of livestock numbers for most kinds and classes and for areas.

Comparisons of livestock numbers from Census to Census have also been affected by change in age and sex characteristics, by wording of inquiries, by instructions, and by the order in which the inquiries appeared on the Agriculture Questionnaire. For example, for the 1930 Census, the classification of cattle by age was made on the basis of the year in which the cattle were born. For the 1950 and 1954 Censuses, the age was not specified as a basis for classifying cows. For these two Censuses, the definition of a cow depended upon the respondent and enumerator, except that the inquiry specified that heifers that had calved were to be included.

At the time of the Census, the movement of animals from farms or ranches to feedlots also affected considerably the number in an area, and even in the United States, as the number of animals in transit at the time of the enumeration was larger in 1954 than at most other periods during the year. The 1954 Census was taken in the fall. Many calves and cattle that were still on farms and ranches in the range area at the time of the enumeration moved later to feedlots and farms in the Corn Belt and elsewhere.

For Censuses prior to 1954, the inquiries and instructions on the questionnaires indicated that the inventory numbers of livestock were to be reported as of the Census date. It was evident, however, that many farm operators reported the number of livestock on the farm at the time of actual enumeration. Inquiries on the questionnaires for 1954 asked for the numbers of livestock and poultry on the place at the time the Agriculture Questionnaire was filled. The general heading for

livestock also stressed, "Now on this place." Because the number of livestock relates to the date the enumeration was made, the average date of enumeration should be considered in making comparisons between Censuses. The average date of enumeration for the three most recent Censuses is shown by States in Table 24.

For some kinds of livestock there are cyclic fluctuations in numbers even though the trend over a long period may be definitely in one direction. A Census may be taken at a time when the cycle is at the peak or at any intervening point in the cycle.

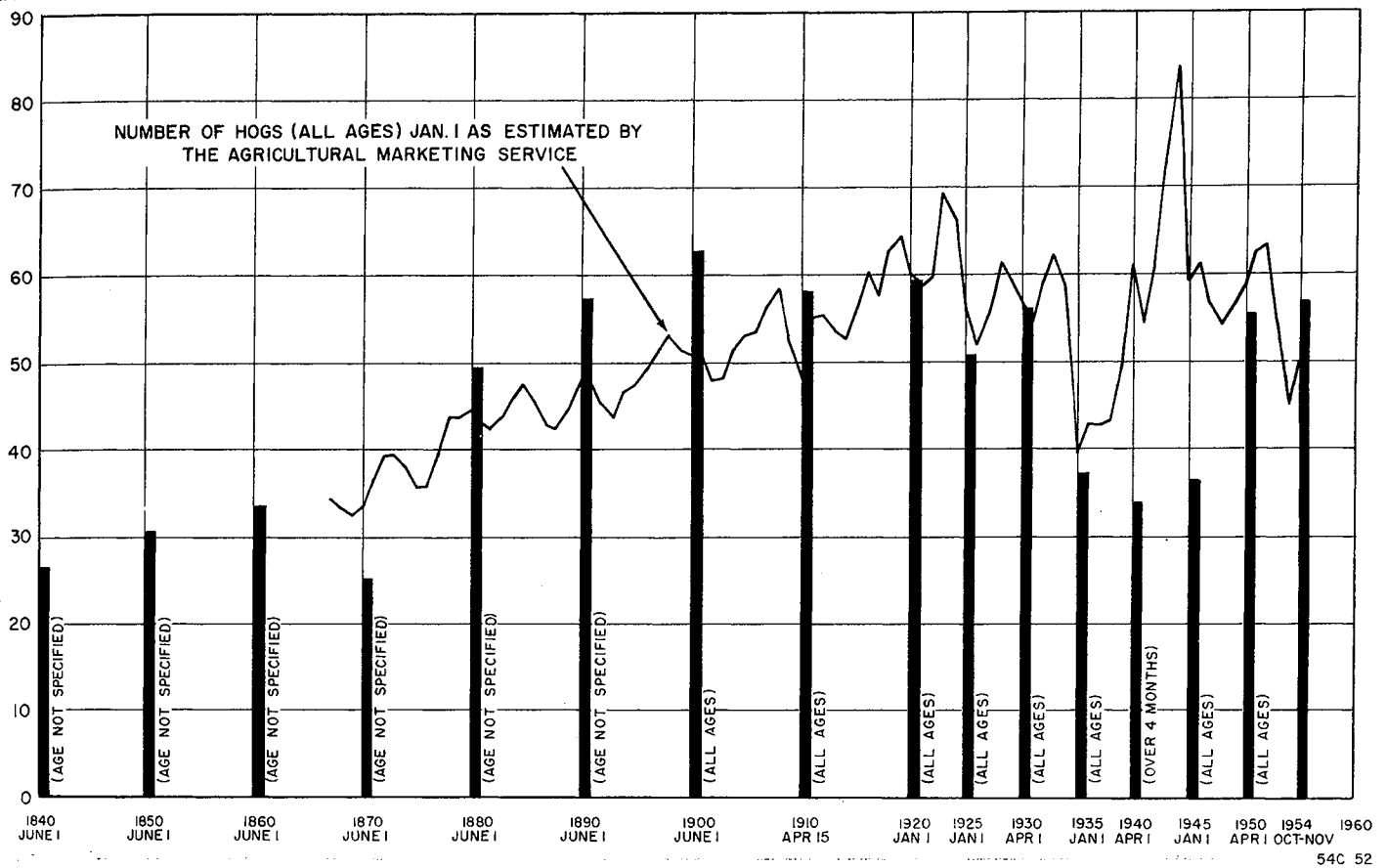
Thus, the count for an item for two given periods of time does not necessarily give a true indication of either the short-time or the long-time trend in numbers. Three charts in this chapter indicate the numbers for cattle, hogs, and sheep for several Censuses in relation to long-time trends in livestock numbers.

**Problems in the enumeration of livestock and livestock products.**—Several problems were anticipated in connection with the enumeration of livestock and their products. Some of these problems were taken care of by special instructions and some by questionnaire organization and general instructions.

Some livestock operations cover large areas extending into more than one county and occasionally across State lines. Some farms or ranches consist of separated holdings. Some places enumerated as farms, such as feedlots, dry-lot dairies, and broiler-producing establishments, are of such nature that they may not be locally considered as farms. Prior to the enumeration in 1954, lists were prepared of many of the large livestock farms and ranches as well as of unusual farms such

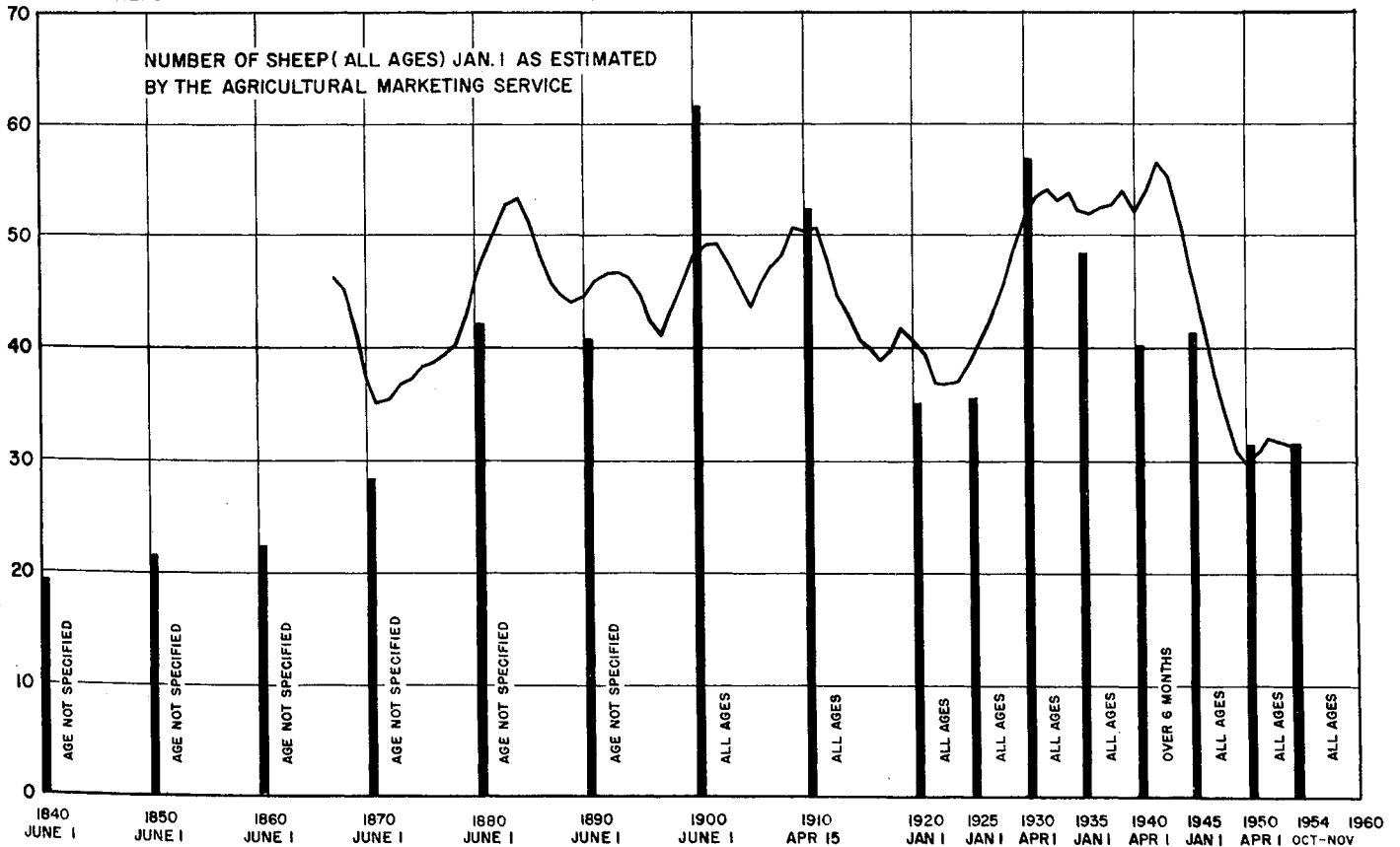
**HOGS - NUMBER SHOWN BY THE CENSUS ON SPECIFIED DATES OF ENUMERATION IN RELATION TO CYCLICAL CHANGES INDICATED BY ANNUAL ESTIMATES OF JANUARY 1 INVENTORIES BY AGRICULTURAL MARKETING SERVICE, FOR THE UNITED STATES**

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**SHEEP - NUMBER SHOWN BY THE CENSUS ON SPECIFIED DATES OF ENUMERATION IN RELATION TO CYCLICAL CHANGES INDICATED BY ANNUAL ESTIMATES OF JANUARY 1 INVENTORIES BY AGRICULTURAL MARKETING SERVICE, FOR THE UNITED STATES**

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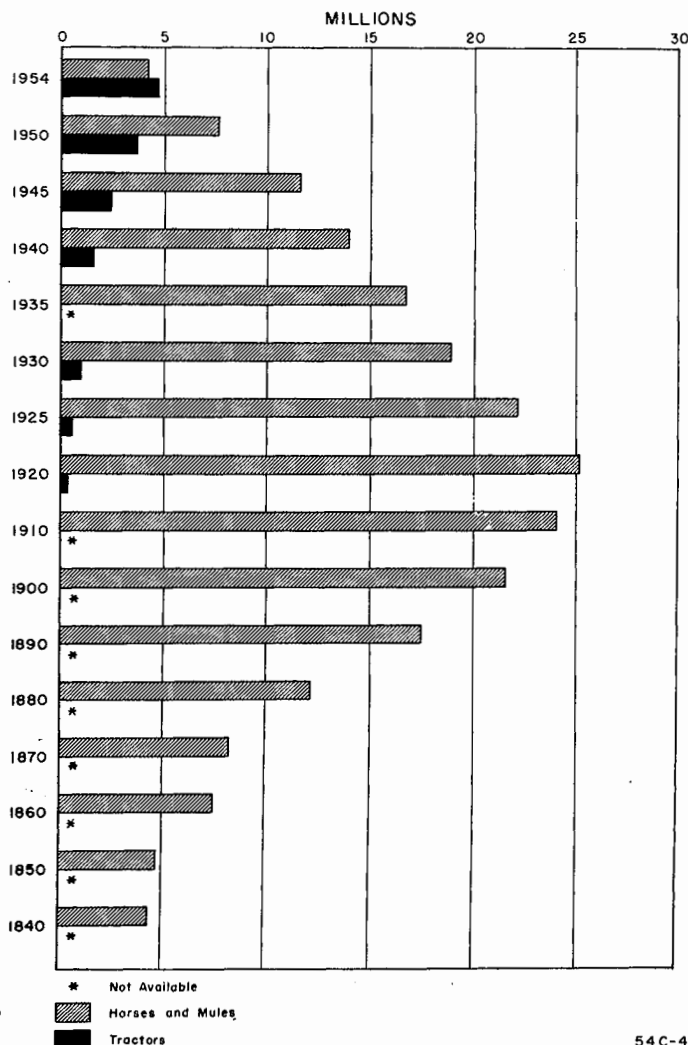


CENSUS YEAR AND DATE OF ENUMERATION

as feedlots. One set of these lists was given to the enumerator, another to his supervisor, and a third copy was retained in the Field Processing Office where the completion of the enumeration was checked in connection with the approval of the payments to enumerators. These lists were checked against the Agriculture Questionnaires, usually by crew leaders and always during the office processing of the Agriculture Questionnaires in order to insure that such places had been enumerated.

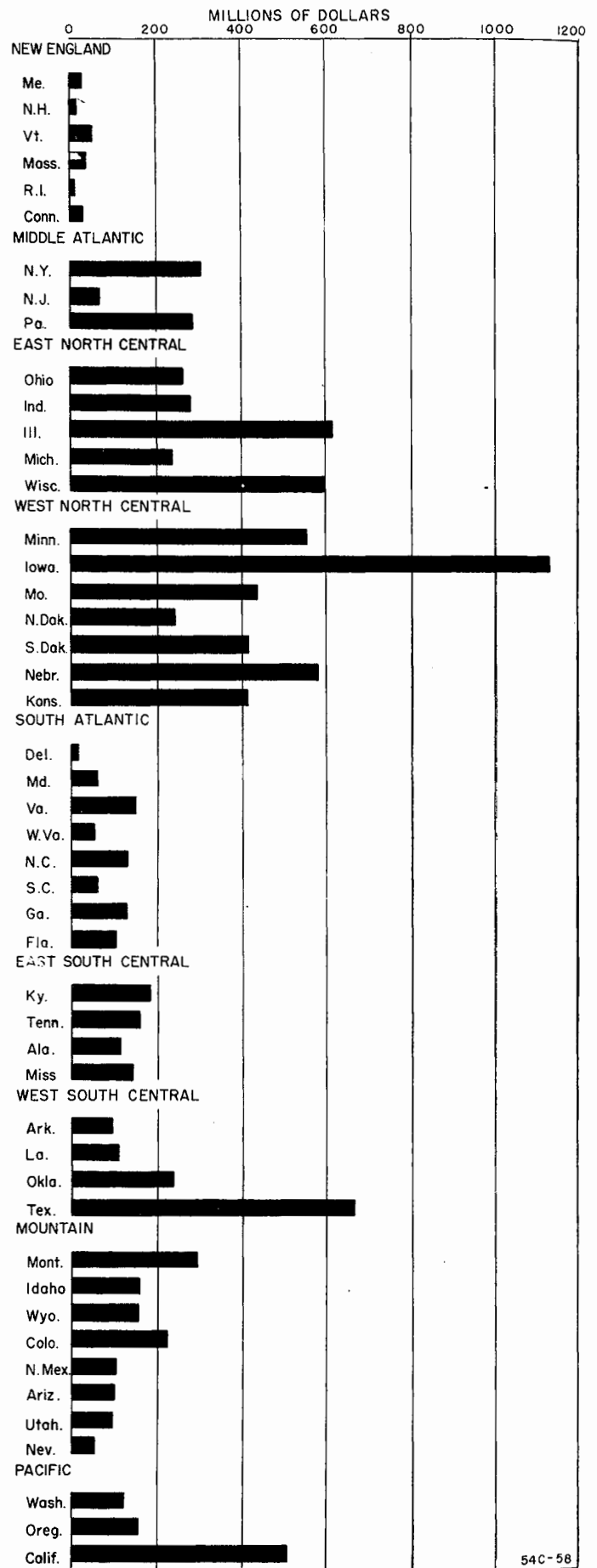
It is not unusual for the operator of a place to feed animals or poultry or to pasture animals belonging to another person. Often the owner of the animals or poultry is not a farm operator. To insure that all animals would be counted for the Census inventory, this instruction was printed on the questionnaire, "Include all animals on this place owned by you and by others." A further instruction was given for those areas where applicable, "Also, include any animals belonging to this place but grazing on national forests, grazing districts, or open range." All sales of animals and poultry were to be reported for the farm from which they were sold regardless of whether sold by the farm operator or by someone else. Special emphasis was placed on the inclusion of broilers sold and turkeys raised which were grown for others under contract. These instructions provided methods of insuring as complete an enumeration as possible of livestock on farms and livestock sales.

NUMBER OF HORSES AND MULES, AND TRACTORS,  
FOR THE UNITED STATES: 1840 TO 1954



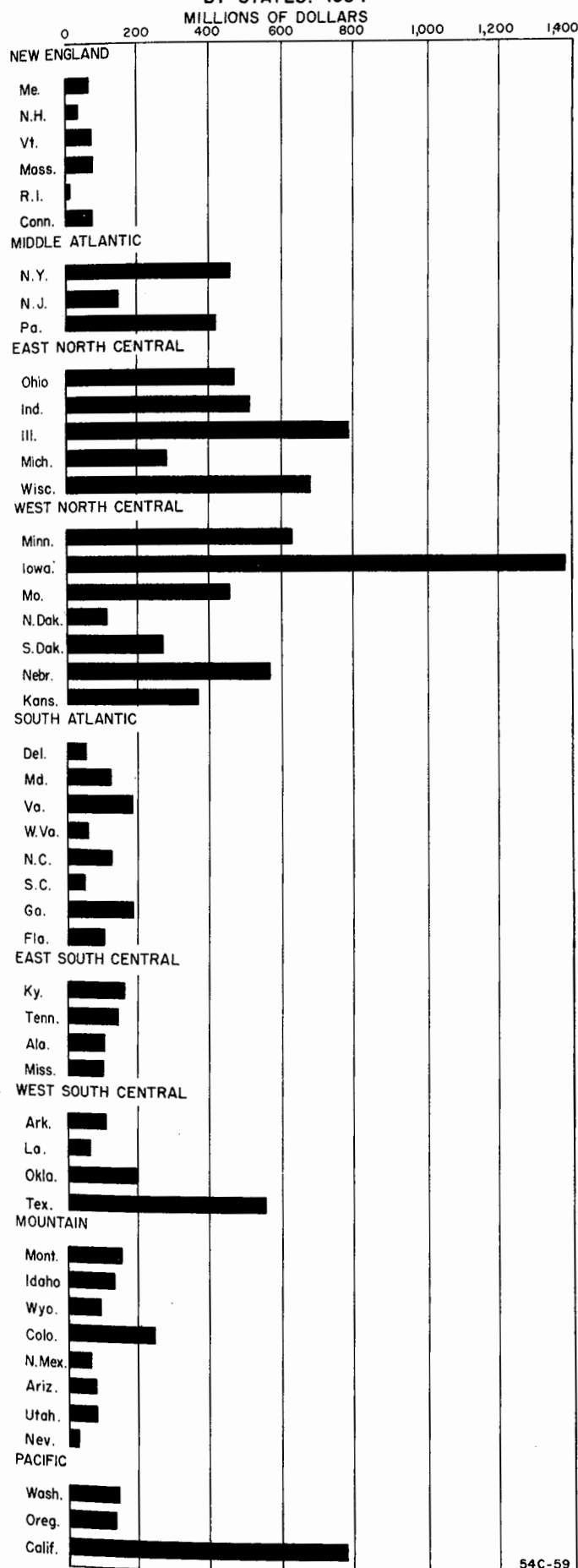
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VALUE OF LIVESTOCK ON FARMS BY STATES: 1954



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# VALUE OF LIVESTOCK AND LIVESTOCK PRODUCTS SOLD BY STATES: 1954



Sales of livestock and livestock products were to be reported for the calendar year. For 1954, with the fall date for the enumeration, the questions regarding sales were carefully worded to emphasize the inclusion of estimates of sales to be made for the remainder of the calendar year. For example, the inquiries regarding animals sold alive were phrased as follows, "How many were or will be sold this year?"

Animals turned over to or sold by a tenant for his landlord were to be reported as sold. The amount of the sale was to represent the gross amount at the place of sale—at the farm, at the market, or other place of sale.

## DEFINITIONS AND EXPLANATIONS

Reference should be made to the Introduction to this volume for definitions of a farm, farms reporting, commercial farms, type of farm, etc. In this chapter, the term, "livestock," includes not only farm animals but also poultry. When the terms "cattle," "sheep," "hogs," etc. appear in the titles of tables, charts, or maps without qualification as to age, animals of all ages are included. An appraisal of the 1954 Census and an explanation of the methods used in obtaining and compiling the data are given in the Introduction which also contains a description of the sample of farms used as a basis for making estimates when the data were tabulated for only a sample of farms and a statement of the reliability of these estimates. No data were collected in 1954 for production and sale of cheese, sale of butter, fur animals and their pelts, rabbits, bees, honey, or goat milk.

## NUMBER OF COWS, INCLUDING HEIFERS THAT HAVE CALVED, AND OF MILK COWS, FOR THE UNITED STATES: 1850 TO 1954





**Values.**—Two kinds of values relating to livestock and livestock products appear in this chapter. First, the values for all inventories of livestock were computed. Inquiries regarding these values were not carried on the Agriculture Questionnaire in 1954. Unit prices for use in computing these values were compiled cooperatively by the Bureau of the Census and the Agricultural Marketing Service of the United States Department of Agriculture. Only State unit prices were calculated and used. These State prices were based primarily on mailed inquiries sent, by the Agricultural Marketing Service, to farmers and dealers in farm products. The same procedure, with some modifications, has been used for computing inventory values in all Censuses beginning with 1925. Prior to 1925 the values of inventories were based on questions asked of the farm operators. Table 3 of this chapter shows for each Census the basis for determining values of livestock and livestock products.

The second kind of values relates to livestock and livestock products sold. For 1954, except for wool and mohair, the value of livestock and livestock products sold was obtained by Census enumerators from each farm operator. All wool and mohair produced was assumed to be sold. Value of the production of wool and mohair was considered as sales value. The value of these two products was computed by multiplying the production by State average price per unit.

No provision was made for the enumeration in 1954 of the value of butter sold, bees and honey sold, and goat milk sold. The omission of data for the sales of these products does not significantly affect the totals for 1954 or the comparisons with prior Censuses. Whenever separate data were available, the value of these products has been deducted from the totals for prior Censuses in order to provide, so far as possible, comparable data.

**Horses and mules.**—The Agriculture Questionnaire in all States contained an inquiry asking for the total number of horses and mules. For 15 States there were also separate inquiries for horses and for mules. For 33 States no data were obtained for the number of horses and mules, separately. In these States, there were 139,549 mules in 1950, and these mules represented 6.3 percent of the total number of mules in the United States. Generally, each of these States had less than 10,000 mules, or mules represented less than 10 percent of the total number of horses and mules, in 1950. In the tables presenting data for farms reporting and for number of horses for 1954, all animals in the 33 States for which separate data on horses and mules were not secured, were assumed to be horses. Thus, the number of horses is overstated for these States and for the United States. It is possible to provide for 1954 totals for farms reporting and number of mules for only 15 States. This total is probably about 6 percent less than the actual total because of not counting mules separately from horses in 33 States.

Not all horses enumerated in a farm Census are work animals. No attempt has been made in recent Censuses to segregate draft animals from animals kept for other purposes. Therefore, the totals as presented include draft horses, cow ponies, riding horses, driving horses, race horses, and ponies.

The chart in this text under the title, "Number of horses and mules, and tractors, for the United States: 1840 to 1954," shows that the decline in number of horses and mules was under way at the time of the 1925 Census. This decline has continued at an increasing rate. Horses and mules have been replaced by tractors. The number of horses and mules was 25,199,552 in 1920; by 1954, the number had declined to 4,141,288. In 1920, the number of tractors on farms was 246,083; by 1954, tractors on farms had increased to 4,692,341, including 347,107 garden tractors.

The transition from animal power on farms to mechanical

power has had a marked influence on the use of cropland. Studies by the Agricultural Research Service of the United States Department of Agriculture show that approximately 80 million acres of land formerly used for the production of feed for horses and mules have been made available for other purposes. These 80 million acres are equivalent to 20 to 25 percent of all harvested cropland in the United States.

**Cattle.**—Inventory numbers of cattle were obtained in 1954 by means of four inquiries. These inquiries were the same for all States. The first asked for the total number of cattle and calves of all ages on the place at the time of the enumeration. This inquiry was followed by three questions designed to separate the total into three groups: (1) Cows, including heifers that have calved; (2) heifers, excluding any that have calved; and (3) bulls, bull calves, steers, and steer calves. The sum of the entries for these three groups should equal the total number of cattle and calves of all ages. Census enumerators were instructed to add the entries for the three groups and check the sum with the total for each farm.

The number of cattle and calves of all ages recorded in 1954 was 95,027,041, the highest total ever recorded in a nationwide Census.

The number of milk cows was obtained by an inquiry in connection with current milk production. Farm operators were asked, first, for the number of cows and heifers milked the day preceding the enumeration and also the question, "How many milk cows were on this place yesterday, including dry milk cows and milk heifers that have calved?" All cows milked were considered to be milk cows regardless of whether kept only for the production of milk used on the place or of milk for sale.

**Dairy products sold.**—Current milk production figures were obtained by asking for gallons of milk produced the preceding day. The 1954 Questionnaire included an inquiry on butter churned during the week preceding enumeration, but no inquiry was made regarding the sale of butter.

Inquiries on sales of dairy products were restricted to two items—whole milk and cream. Provision was made for reporting for each the quantity sold and the value of sales in dollars. For reporting the amount of whole milk sold, provision was made for reporting in two or three alternate units of measure. In all States, provision was made for reporting in two units—pounds or gallons. In 25 States, largely Western and Midwestern, a third unit—pounds of butterfat—was provided also. The amount of cream sold was to be reported in pounds of butterfat.

The quantity of whole milk sold was tabulated for each county in the unit of measure in which it was reported on the individual questionnaires. Counts were made of the number of reports in each unit as well as the over-all count of farms reporting whole milk sold. Totals of farms reporting in the separate units are given by States in Table 23. In Volume I, the amount of whole milk sold was published for the separate States in gallons or in pounds, depending on which unit was reported most frequently. In this volume, the amount is shown in pounds for all States. Conversion from gallons was made by multiplying by 8.6 pounds. Pounds of butterfat in whole milk sold was converted to pounds of milk on the basis of the average butterfat test of milk for each State. The average tests were supplied by the Agricultural Marketing Service of the United States Department of Agriculture.

Table 24 gives the amounts of the different dairy products sold in the last three Censuses in terms of pounds of whole milk. Cream sold and butter sold have been converted to pounds of whole milk sold by using conversion factors provided by the Agricultural Marketing Service of the United States Department of Agriculture. These factors were developed

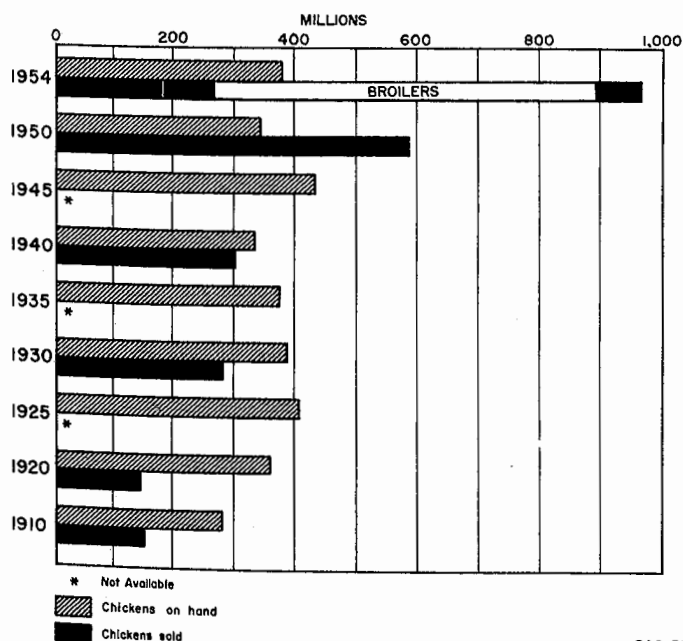
from average butterfat tests of milk used for the different purposes and are shown in Table 24 in columns under "Pounds of milk represented by—." For cream sold, the factor represents the pounds of milk skimmed on farms per pound of butterfat in cream sold, and includes allowances for losses in skimming and delivery of cream. For butter sold in 1944, the factor represents the pounds of milk used per pound of butter churned on farms, including allowances for losses.

**Hogs.**—The 1954 Questionnaire provided for obtaining inventory numbers of hogs through the use of three inquiries. The first asked for the total number of hogs and pigs of all ages including sows and boars, followed by questions for the number in each of two groups: (1) Born before June 1, and (2) born since June 1. The sum of the entries for the two component groups was to equal the number reported for the total.

The Agriculture Questionnaire contained two inquiries relating to sows and gilts farrowing. The first inquiry asked for the number of sows and gilts farrowing between December 1, 1953, and June 1, 1954. The second inquiry called for the number of sows and gilts farrowing since June 1, 1954, and before December 1, 1954. The total for these two inquiries represents the number of litters farrowed during the year December 1, 1953, to December 1, 1954. Sows farrowing both in the spring and in the fall would be counted twice. The checking of a sample of reports indicates that the totals for sows and gilts farrowing are quite accurate in the principal hog-producing areas. However, the number of sows farrowing may be under-reported in areas outside the Corn Belt and other important hog-producing States.

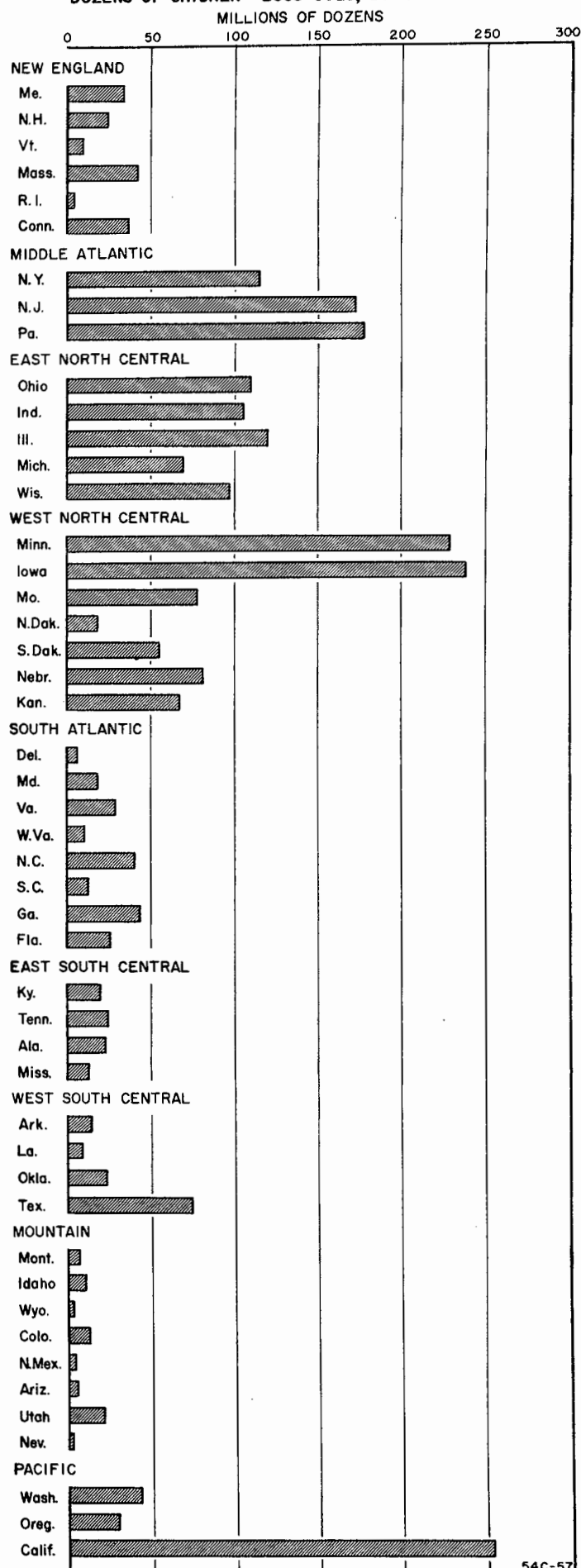
**Sheep and wool.**—The inquiries on the Agriculture Questionnaire in 1954 were the same in 45 States. In the other three States, Florida, Georgia, and South Carolina, the inquiries on sheep were omitted from the Agriculture Questionnaire. Sheep in these States are kept on a relatively few farms and provide a very small proportion of the total livestock production. In 1950, sheep were reported on 993 farms in these three States, and these farms reporting sheep represented only 0.3 percent of all farms reporting sheep in the United States. The number of sheep in these three States

NUMBER OF CHICKENS ON HAND AND CHICKENS SOLD FOR THE UNITED STATES, CENSUSES OF 1910 TO 1954



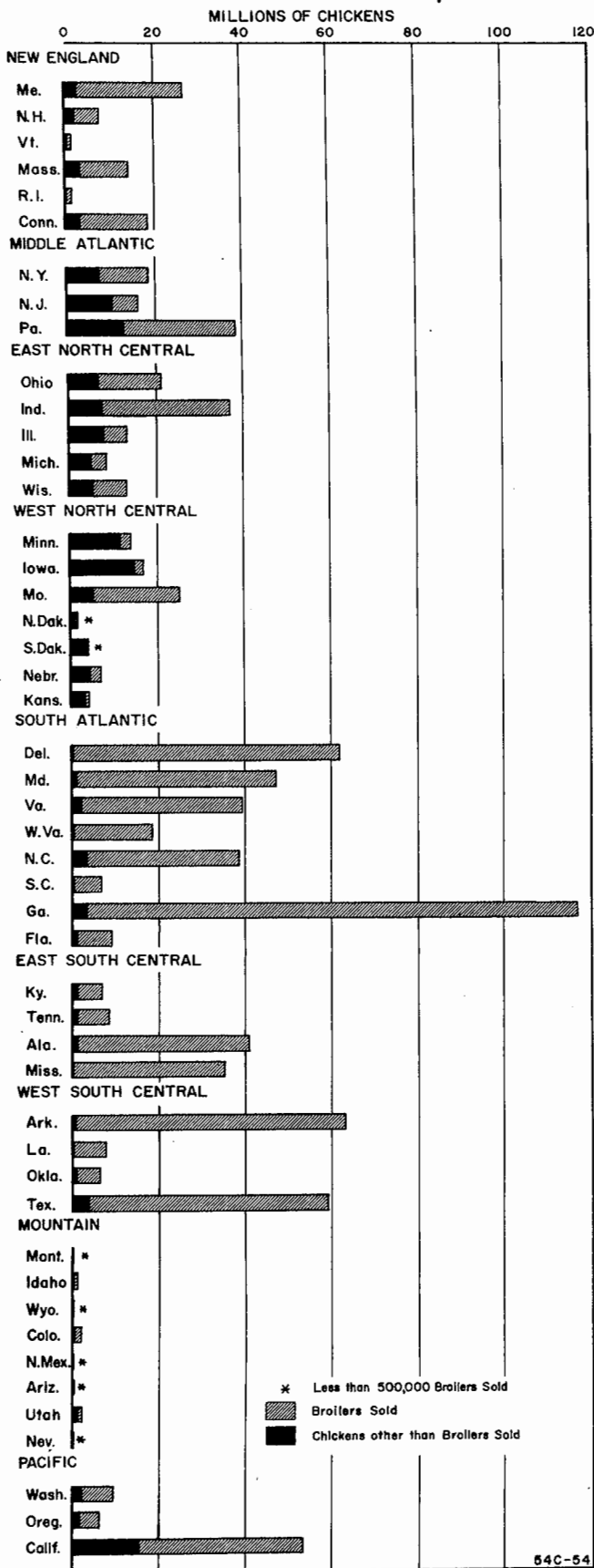
54C-56

DOZENS OF CHICKEN EGGS SOLD, BY STATES: 1954



54C-57

NUMBER OF BROILERS AND OTHER CHICKENS SOLD, BY STATES: 1954



comprised only 0.06 percent of all sheep and lambs in the United States in 1950.

The inquiries regarding sheep and lambs on hand provided for the reporting, first, for the total number of all ages, followed by a breakdown of this total into three groups. The first group specified lambs under one year old; the second, ewes one year old and over; and the third, rams and wethers one year old and over. Only those sheep one year old or over were classified by sex.

The inquiries regarding sheep shorn and wool were separated from the inventory questions on the 1954 Questionnaire. This arrangement, adopted for the 1950 Census, was used to secure a more complete enumeration of sheep shorn and wool produced on farms on which sheep had been shorn, but on which there were no sheep at the time of the enumeration.

**Goats and mohair.**—In 1954, goats were enumerated in only seven States. For New Mexico, Oklahoma, Oregon, Texas, Washington, and Missouri (except in 30 southeastern counties), the questions were contained on the Agriculture Questionnaire. In Arizona, the data are limited to a special enumeration of goats and mohair on the Hopi and Navajo Indian Reservations. The inquiries called for the total number of goats and kids of all ages, and separately for the number of Angora and of other goats. Further inquiries called for the number of goats and kids clipped and the pounds of mohair.

The enumeration of goats in the 1950 Census was also limited to seven States. Five of the seven States were the same as in 1954. Table 38 presents available data for the nine States covered in either the 1950 or the 1954 Census. Comparative data from Censuses prior to 1954 are shown for the nine States individually with separate totals for "All other States" and for the United States. Data in Table 37 show the number of farms reporting and the number of goats for all States from 1900 to 1940. These data will indicate roughly the relative importance of goats in States for which goats were not enumerated in 1954 and in 1950.

**Animals sold alive.**—The 1954 Questionnaire had separate inquiries for number sold alive and value of sales for (1) cattle, excluding calves; (2) calves; (3) hogs and pigs; (4) sheep and lambs; and (5) horses and mules. These inquiries were standard in all the States except Florida, Georgia, and South Carolina where the inquiry in respect to sales of sheep and lambs was not carried. The classification of animals sold as cattle or as calves was to be made by the farm operator.

The totals of animals sold alive for any given area may properly include the same animals sold more than once during the year. For the United States as a whole, the total number of meat animals sold would include animals sold as stockers and feeders from farms and ranches and as finished animals from other farms and ranches. In some cases, the same animals would be included two or more times in the sales figures.

For meat animals, both sales to other farm operators and sales to central markets would be reported. Since no attempt was made to confine sales to animals for immediate slaughter, the totals for meat animals sold alive should exceed the number slaughtered in meat-processing plants.

Livestock slaughter figures are compiled periodically by the United States Department of Agriculture. The table below presents, for the United States, a comparison of the number of cattle, hogs, and sheep sold alive as shown by the Census with the estimated numbers of these animals slaughtered, excluding farm slaughter, for the two latest years for which Census figures are available, viz, 1954 and 1949.

	1954	1949
	Thousand head	Thousand head
Census totals for cattle and calves sold alive-----	44,351	36,319
Cattle and calves slaughtered off farms-----	37,763	28,841
Federally inspected-----	26,049	19,671
Other wholesale and retail----	11,714	9,170
Census totals for hogs and pigs sold alive-----	57,419	65,512
Hogs slaughtered off farms-----	64,827	64,761
Federally inspected-----	52,894	53,032
Other wholesale and retail----	11,933	11,729
Census totals for sheep and lambs sold alive-----	22,336	20,003
Sheep slaughtered off farms-----	15,920	13,376
Federally inspected-----	14,148	12,136
Other wholesale and retail----	1,772	1,240

The above and other check data indicate that the number and value of animals sold alive were not completely reported. The reporting of sales of livestock and livestock products was affected by memory biases regarding sales made during the 9 or 10 months preceding the enumeration and by errors in the estimate of sales during the 2 or 3 months after the enumeration. The underreporting of sales of livestock because of failure of the farm operator to report all sales when the landlord or other persons shared in the sales, failure to remember all sales, and because of the making of low estimates of sales, may amount to as much as 10 to 20 percent in the case of cattle and hogs, especially in areas where a considerable number of sales from the farm were made at different periods throughout the year.

The value of each kind of livestock sold was obtained along with the number sold. The data on values were influenced by the same factors affecting the reporting of the number sold. The value of livestock sold was affected also by the use of average values as shown by market prices at the time of the Census for calculating the total value of sales. As the price of both cattle and hogs declined throughout 1954, the use of market prices at the time of the enumeration for computing total sales resulted in the underreporting of the value of cattle and hogs sold. Thus, the underreporting of the value of sales for cattle and hogs was probably somewhat greater than the underreporting of the numbers of these kinds of livestock sold.

**Poultry.**—The inquiries pertaining to poultry were the same on the questionnaires for all States. The information was obtained by means of eight questions. Four of these questions related to chickens and two, to turkeys. One question asked for the number of ducks, geese, or other poultry (except chickens or turkeys) raised with space provided for writing in the kind of poultry raised. Another question asked for the

value of sales of turkeys, ducks, geese, and other miscellaneous poultry and their eggs.

Only chickens four months old and over were to be reported as on hand. For most areas individual flocks are generally of maximum size in early fall. The number of chickens on hand shown for the 1954 Census, taken in the fall of the year, is greater than if the Census had been taken in January or April of 1955. The difference in the season of enumeration for the 1954 and prior Censuses affects not only the comparison of number of chickens on hand but also the relationship of eggs and chickens sold to chickens on hand.

Two questions relating to chickens sold were on the questionnaire in the 1954 Census. These questions were designed to provide data for commercial broilers separate from other chickens sold. The Agriculture Questionnaire and the instructions did not contain a definition of broilers. In many localities, the term was considered as applying to all young chickens sold. When less than 1,000 broilers were reported as sold on an individual farm, these broilers were counted as other chickens sold.

An accurate enumeration of broiler production is difficult because of the varied arrangements made by farm operators for the production of broilers. Also, in some areas, broilers are produced under contract and may not be owned by the farm operator. Then, too, several lots of broilers may be produced during the year, and the farm operator may not remember all the lots sold. To help in securing as complete an enumeration as possible in 1954, Census enumerators in several of the important broiler-producing areas were furnished lists of large broiler producers.

Sales of chicken eggs for the calendar year 1954 were obtained by tabulating replies to the question, "How many dozens of chicken eggs were or will be sold this year?" The space for the reply to this inquiry, as well as for numbers of broilers and other chickens sold, provided for the dollars received from sales.

The 1954 Questionnaire provided for obtaining the number of turkeys raised during the year and the number of turkey hens kept for breeding in 1955 on the place at the time of enumeration. Both inquiries provided for the reporting separately of light breeds and of heavy breeds.

Data for ducks, geese, and guineas raised are shown for States in this chapter. Data for pigeons, pheasants, and quail were not obtained from the tabulations although the dollar sales therefrom are included in the totals.

The value of sales of all poultry items other than chickens and chicken eggs was obtained by means of the inquiry, "How much was or will be received this year from the sale of turkeys, ducks, geese, and miscellaneous poultry and their eggs? (Do not include chickens and chicken eggs.)"