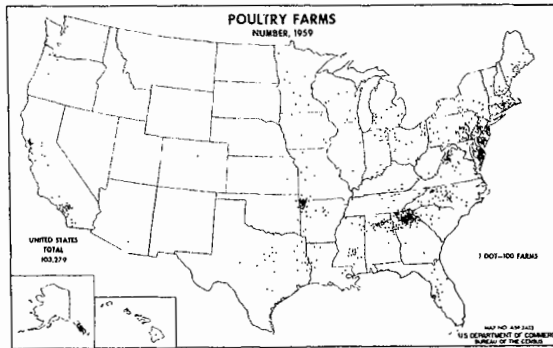


and 55.0 percent of the sheep and lambs sold from livestock ranches.

Poultry farms.—Poultry farms comprised 103,279 of the 2.4 million commercial farms in 1959. They had almost half the chickens 4 months old and over, accounted for 60.0 percent of the chicken eggs, 93.3 percent of the chickens including broilers sold, and 80.1 percent of the value of poultry and poultry products sold from all commercial farms. A total of 68.4 percent of the poultry farms were located east of the Mississippi River. The greatest concentrations of poultry farms were in the broiler-producing areas in Georgia, Alabama, Mississippi, Arkansas, Delaware, and Maryland. Over 90 percent of the poultry farms were owner-operated.

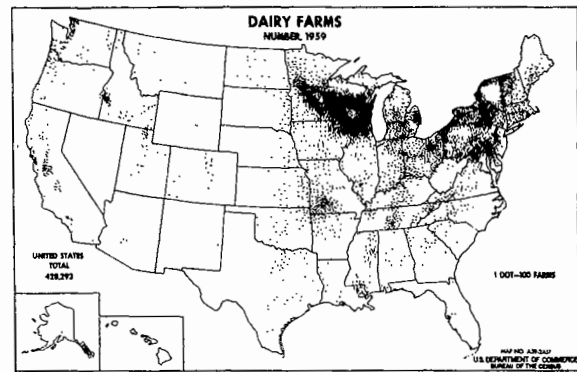


The 11,151 poultry farms with gross sales of farm products of \$40,000 or more were distinctly different from the poultry farms with a smaller value of farm products sold. The average value of farm products sold per farm of these large-scale poultry farms was \$81,426 as compared with \$12,013 for all other commercial poultry farms. These 11,151 farms accounted for 45 percent of all farm products sold by poultry farms, and 46.4 percent of all poultry and poultry products sold from all commercial poultry farms. The expenditures for feed on these farms were 43.8 percent of the feed expenditures of all poultry farms and 12.2 percent of the feed expenditures for all commercial farms.

Poultry farms also included many farms with relatively small operations. There were 48,881 poultry farms with a value of farm products sold of less than \$10,000. These farms comprised 47.3 percent of all poultry farms, but only accounted for 12.1 percent of all farm products sold and 11.4 percent of all poultry and poultry products sold from all poultry farms. A total of 45.9 percent of the operators of these small-scale poultry farms were 55 years old or over. A total of 44.7 percent of the operators worked off their farm, and 31.8 percent worked off their farm 100 days or more. The families of the operators of 37.6 percent of these farms obtained more income from off the farm operated than from the sale of agricultural products.

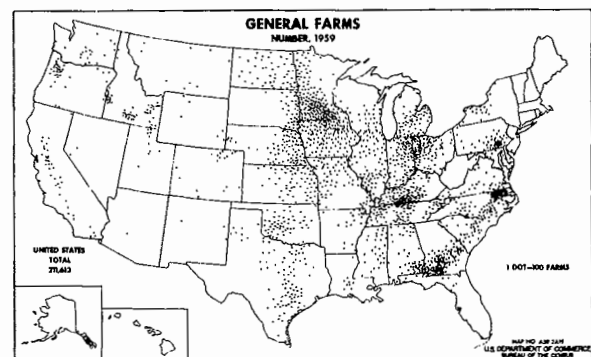
Dairy farms.—Dairy farms represented the second largest group of specialized farms in 1959. They contained 9.1 percent of all land in farms, 12.5 percent of cropland harvested, accounted for 15.7 percent of all farm products sold, and 85.6 percent of all dairy products sold from all commercial farms in 1959. Dairy farms comprised 17.7 percent of all commercial farms and had 18.7 percent of all regular hired workers in 1959. Dairy farms were most concentrated in the New England States, New York, Pennsylvania, New Jersey, Delaware, Maryland, Ohio, Illinois, Indiana, Michigan, Wisconsin, Minnesota, and along the Pacific Coast.

There were large differences in the size of operations of dairy farms. There were 8,538 large-scale dairy farms with a value of farm products sold of \$40,000 or more. These farms accounted for 17.2 percent of all dairy products sold on dairy farms and 14.7 percent of dairy products sold from all commercial farms. Almost 60 percent of these farms had 100 or more milk cows. The



expenditures for feed on these farms represented more than one-fifth of the expenditures for feed for all dairy farms and 5.3 percent of the feed expenditures for all commercial farms. There also were 30,342 dairy farms with sales of farm products of less than \$2,500. Over 98 percent of these farms had less than 20 milk cows. They accounted for only 0.9 percent of the dairy products sold from all dairy farms.

General farms.—General farms comprised 8.8 percent of all commercial farms, contained 6.1 percent of the land in farms, and 9.6 percent of the land from which crops were harvested for all commercial farms in 1959. They accounted for 7.0 percent of the total value of all farm products sold from all commercial farms in the United States.



General farms were most numerous in the North Central States. Other areas of concentration were in Kentucky, Tennessee, Georgia, Alabama, Oklahoma, and Texas.

There were several important sources of sales for general farms. In some areas, there were two or three important sources. In other areas, a larger number of farm enterprises provided the sources of income. There were wide differences in the kinds of crops, as well as in the kinds of livestock, contributing to the sale of farm products on general farms. In the South, tobacco and cotton were important crops contributing to sales from general farms. In the Corn Belt corn, soybeans, and Irish potatoes were important. In other areas Irish potatoes, beans, and wheat were the principal crops. In some areas dairy products comprised the principal sources of livestock and livestock products sales. In other areas hogs and cattle were important. In a few areas, poultry and poultry products formed the principal source of sales of livestock and livestock products.

Miscellaneous farms.—The 37,155 miscellaneous commercial farms comprised principally farms producing nursery and greenhouse products, although the total includes some farms on which the sale of forest products or of horses was the principal source of income. The sale of horticultural specialties and forest products accounted for 91.3 percent of the value of all farm products sold on miscellaneous farms. Over three-fourths of the value of all farm products produced on miscellaneous farms were sold from 7,894 farms with a value of farm products sold of \$20,000 or more.