

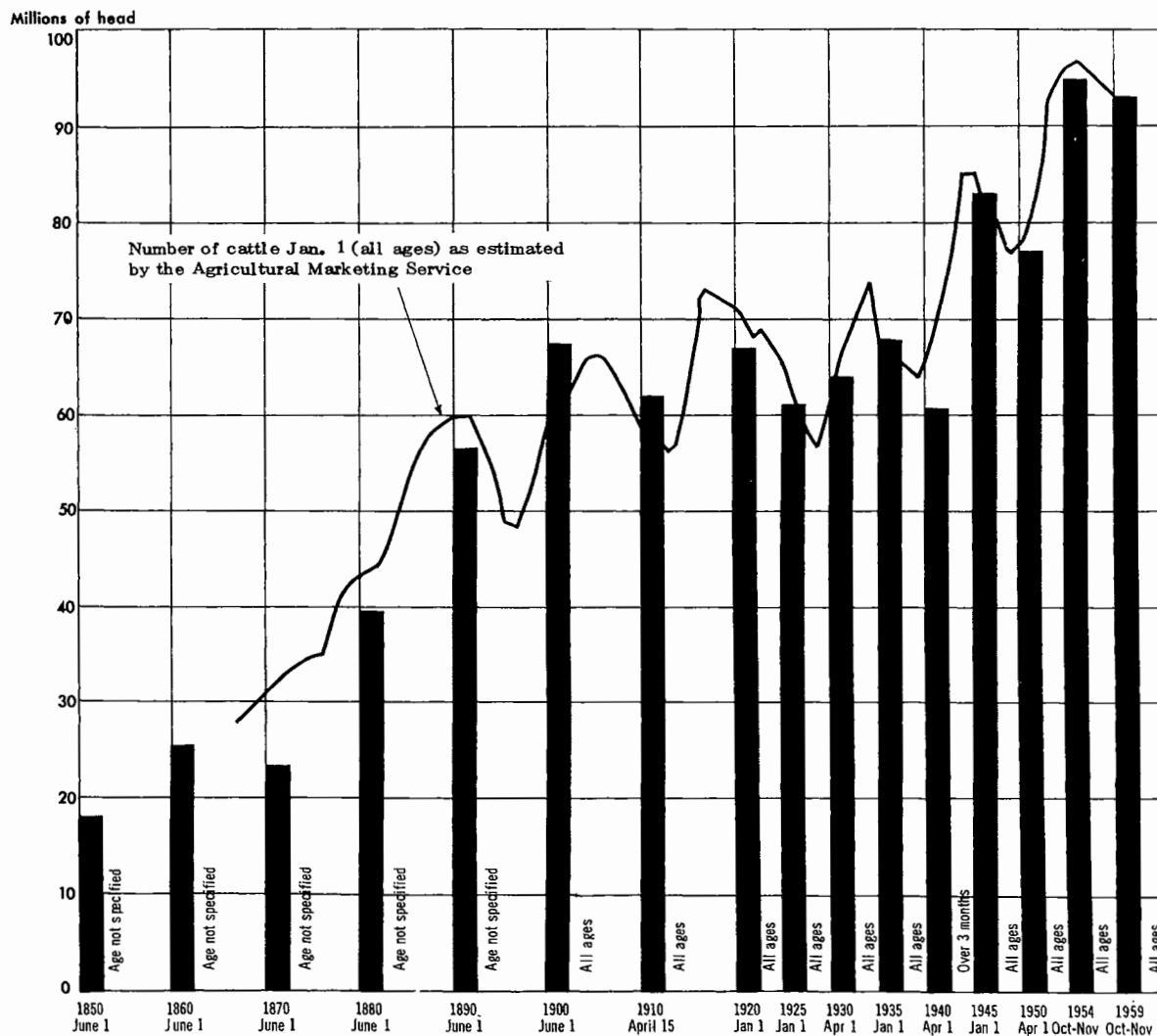
The information given in tables 2, 3, 4, and 5 provides a brief description of the time of the year the census was taken, the wording of the inquiries, and a summary of the age and sex classification used for each census. The summaries also indicate the availability of data for various kinds and classes of livestock for each census.

For censuses prior to 1954, the inquiries and instructions on the questionnaire 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. The counting of the number of livestock on the place at the time the agriculture questionnaire was filled was specified for 1959 and 1954.

As the number of livestock relates to the date of enumeration, the average date of enumeration should be considered in making comparisons between censuses. The average date of enumeration for the four most recent censuses is shown by States in table 28.

For some kinds of livestock there are cyclical 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. Therefore, the count for a kind or class of livestock for two specified 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 numbers.

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 CONTERMINOUS UNITED STATES



Problems in the Enumeration of Livestock and Livestock Products.—Several problems were anticipated in connection with the enumeration of livestock and livestock 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. Other places enumerated as farms, such as feedlots, drylot dairies, and broiler-producing establishments, are of such nature that they may not be considered locally as farms. Prior to the enumeration in 1959,

lists were prepared of many of the large livestock farms and ranches as well as of unusual farms such as feedlots. One set of these lists was given to the enumerator, another to his crew leader, and a third set was retained in the central office. These lists were checked against the agriculture questionnaires by the enumerator's supervisor and again during the office processing of the 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.