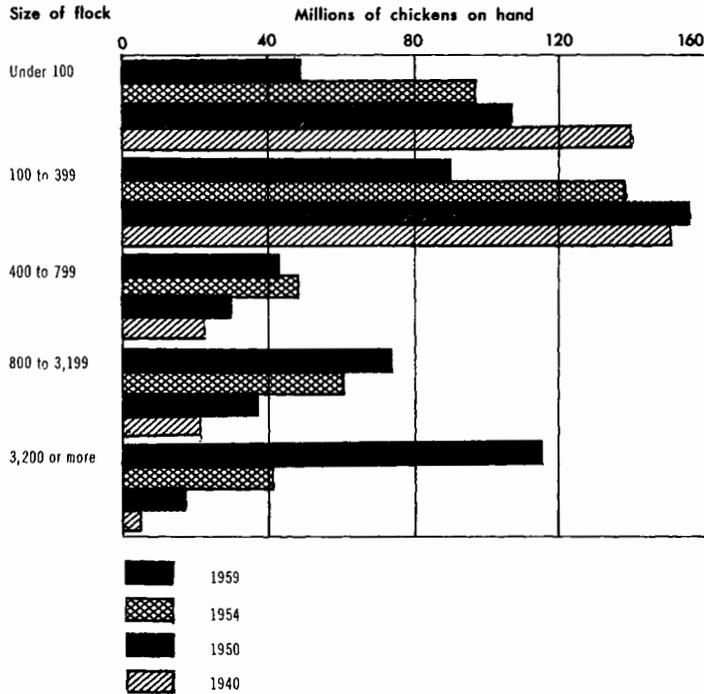


The production of poultry and poultry products has become highly commercialized and there has been a striking increase in specialization in poultry production during the last 5 years. From 1954 to 1959, the number of turkeys raised increased 31 percent and the sales of eggs and broilers increased 25 percent and 78 percent, respectively. In 5 years, the number of farms reporting turkeys raised declined 49 percent and the number of farms reporting sales of eggs and broilers decreased 37 percent and 17 percent, respectively.

NUMBER OF CHICKENS ON HAND BY SIZE OF FLOCK: 1940 TO 1959

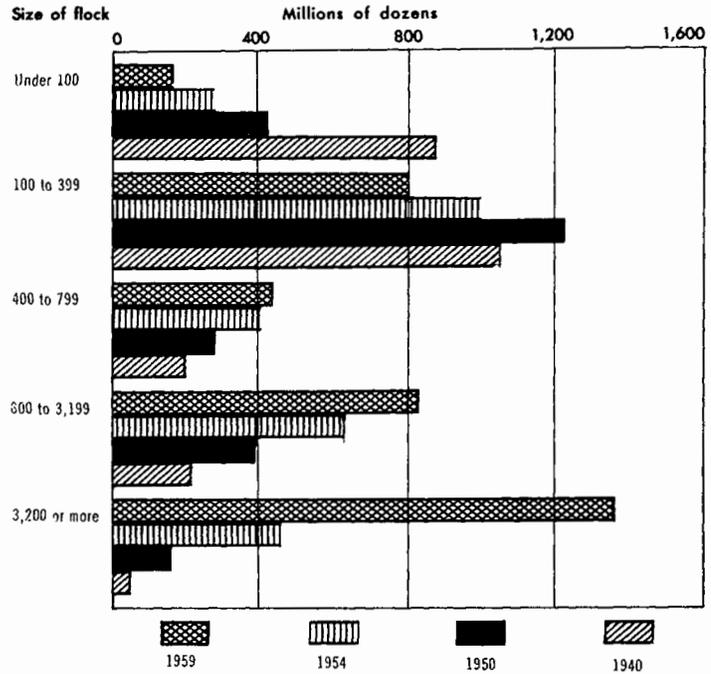


The production of most poultry products is now concentrated on a relatively small number of commercial poultry farms. The 103,000 farms obtaining a half or more of the value of all farm products sold from the sale of poultry and poultry products accounted for 97 percent of the broilers sold, 56 percent of the eggs sold, and 93 percent of the turkeys raised in 1959. The 5,000 commercial poultry farms, each with 6,400 or more chickens 4 months old and over, accounted for over one-fifth of all the eggs sold in 1959. The 15,700 commercial poultry farms with sales of 30,000 or more broilers each accounted for 75 percent of all broilers sold in 1959. The 4,700 commercial poultry farms reporting the raising of 3,200 or more turkeys each in 1959, accounted for 88 percent of all turkeys raised in 1959.

For the United States, 56 percent of the farms reporting chickens have flocks of fewer than 50 chickens 4 months old and over; however, these farms account for less than 8 percent of the chickens on hand, and the average number of chickens 4 months old and over on these farms was 23 in 1959. Of the 1.2 million farms having fewer than 50 chickens on hand, almost 1 million reported no eggs sold in 1959. Less than 3 percent of the farms reporting chickens had 800 or more chickens on hand in 1959 but these farms had 51 percent of the chickens and produced 61 percent of the eggs sold in 1959. Commercial poultry farms having 6,400 or more chickens 4 months old or over on hand, marketed 39 percent of the eggs sold from commercial poultry farms in 1959. The number of farms having flocks of 3,200 or more chickens 4 months old and over doubled from 1954 to 1959. These farms had 35 percent of all chickens

4 months old and over on all commercial farms in 1959. Farms having flocks of 3,200 or more sold 39.7 percent of the eggs in 1959 as compared with only 17.6 percent in 1954.

CHICKEN EGGS SOLD, BY SIZE OF FLOCK: CENSUSES OF 1940 TO 1959



Approximately one-half of the farms with chickens did not report any eggs sold in 1959. Of the 1.1 million farms selling eggs, 598,000, or 54 percent, sold less than 800 dozens and accounted for less than 4 percent of all eggs sold. The 31,000 farms, each selling 20,000 or more dozens of eggs, comprised less than 3 percent of the farms selling eggs, but reported 52 percent of all eggs sold. The 12,000 farms, each selling 50,000 or more dozens, reported 36 percent of all eggs sold.

NUMBER OF BROILERS SOLD IN 16 LEADING PRODUCING STATES: 1959

