

Animals Sold Alive.—Data for the number and value of animals sold alive in 1959, except for Alaska and Hawaii, are estimates based on reports for only a sample of farms. Corresponding data for 1954 represent totals obtained by adding the reports for all farms. Tables 3, 4, and 5 show the items obtained and indicate the comparability of statistics for the various censuses.

For 1959, for the conterminous United States, farm operators were asked to report separately the number of live animals already sold at the time of enumeration and the number estimated to be sold between the time of enumeration and the end of the calendar year. This procedure was designed to assure more complete reporting of all animal sales made during the year.

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 animals sold alive should exceed the number slaughtered in meat-processing plants.

Livestock slaughter figures are compiled periodically by the U.S. Department of Agriculture. Table 6 in the text presents, for the conterminous United States, a comparison of the number of cattle, hogs, and sheep sold alive as shown by the census with

the estimated number of these animals slaughtered, excluding farm slaughter, for the three most recent censuses.

Table 6.—NUMBER OF SPECIFIED ANIMALS SOLD ALIVE—CENSUS TOTALS COMPARED WITH ESTIMATED NUMBERS SLAUGHTERED OFF FARMS FOR CONTERMINOUS UNITED STATES: 1959, 1954, AND 1949

Kind of livestock and year	Number sold alive, census total	Number slaughtered off farms as estimated by the U. S. Department of Agriculture	
		Total	Under Federal inspection
Cattle and calves...1959...	51,187,000	30,614,000	22,334,000
1954...	44,351,000	37,763,000	26,049,000
1949...	36,319,000	28,841,000	19,671,000
Hogs and pigs.....1959...	80,820,000	81,582,000	68,708,000
1954...	57,419,000	64,827,000	52,894,000
1949...	65,512,000	64,761,000	53,032,000
Sheep and lambs...1959...	25,391,000	15,180,000	13,466,000
1954...	22,336,000	15,920,000	14,148,000
1949...	20,003,000	13,376,000	12,136,000

