

**Livestock production**—Cattle, hogs and sheep are the principal meat animals produced in the United States. The following data provide some measure of the relative importance of each group of animals in 1964.

Subject	Number of farms having	Number of farms selling	Value of animals sold alive (\$1,000,000)
Cattle .....	2,283,881	1,990,968	8,162
Hogs .....	1,081,438	802,620	2,334
Sheep .....	234,789	215,613	354

Animals for meat are grown principally in the Midwestern and Western United States. The production of hogs for sale is highly concentrated in the Corn Belt States and sheep production is concentrated on the range areas of the West.

Each kind of meat animal has a different production cycle. Farmers who produce calves usually sell them as feeder animals, often to specialized cattle feeders who grow them to market weights. The interval between the birth of calves and marketing of cattle is longer and more variable than for hogs or sheep. Calves may be marketed as veal calves, as fed calves or they can be pastured for periods of varying lengths and then put in feed lots. The range in age of cattle and calves when slaughtered, excluding breeding stock, is from a few months to 2 or 3 years. A large proportion of sheep and

lambs are raised on rangelands in the Western United States or on hilly terrain in other areas. Some lambs are marketed when only a few months old; some are pastured and marketed for slaughter; and some are pastured and then fattened in feedlots or on specialized lamb or sheep feeding farms. Farmers who produce pigs either sell them as feeder pigs or feed them to slaughter weights and market them about 6 months after farrowing.

**Cattle production**—Cattle are produced under greatly varying conditions in the United States. A considerable number of cattle sold are moved to other farms for use in milk production, or for fattening for slaughter. The cattle and calves sold in 1964 came from four significantly different types of farms—Commercial dairy farms, livestock ranches, commercial livestock farms and noncommercial farms. Most of the cattle sold from dairy farms represent cows, heifers, etc., culled from the milking herd, cows and heifers produced for sale as milk cows to other dairy farmers, and calves. Livestock ranches are largely engaged in the production of cattle by grazing and most of the cattle and calves sold from these ranches go to farms and feedlots for further fattening. Cattle and calves sold from noncommercial farms consist largely of beef type animals sold in very small lots.

TABLE 8.—Farms, Number of Cattle on Farms, and Number Sold, for Selected Types of Farms, for the United States: 1964

Subject	All farms	Commercial dairy farms	Commercial livestock ranches	Other commercial livestock farms	Noncommercial farms
1 Number of farms.....	3,157,857	366,967	66,282	514,529	992,145
2 Number of farms with cattle.....	2,283,881	365,069	63,374	468,195	696,125
3 Number of cattle and calves..... (1,000)...	105,558	19,940	14,584	37,944	9,870
4 Cows..... number (1,000)...	47,342	11,716	7,488	12,434	4,952
5 Heifers and heifer calves..... number (1,000)...	29,047	6,341	3,415	10,073	2,861
6 Other cattle..... number (1,000)...	29,169	1,883	3,681	15,436	2,057
7 Cattle and/or calves sold..... farms.....	1,990,968	365,508	64,225	475,751	515,129
8     number (1,000).....	62,952	8,595	9,301	31,012	3,806
9     value (\$1,000).....	8,162,202	539,108	1,142,249	5,079,376	301,188
10 Cattle excluding calves sold..... farms.....	1,359,665	307,842	49,920	370,361	(NA)
11     number (1,000).....	34,606	2,757	4,840	21,814	(NA)
12     value (\$1,000).....	6,030,123	396,167	762,549	4,145,824	(NA)
13 Fattened on grain and concentrates and sold for slaughter..... farms.....	229,923	15,199	3,034	130,971	(NA)
14     number (1,000).....	18,801	335	1,697	15,279	(NA)
15 Calves sold..... farms.....	1,577,504	334,840	56,083	314,411	(NA)
16     number (1,000).....	28,346	5,838	4,460	9,198	(NA)
17     value (\$1,000).....	2,132,085	142,941	379,699	933,560	(NA)
18 Fattened on grain and concentrates and sold for slaughter..... farms.....	170,877	16,292	4,286	56,142	(NA)
19     number (1,000).....	3,401	152	382	1,929	(NA)
20 Expenditures for the purchase of livestock and poultry..... (\$1,000).....	4,177,410	234,372	421,354	2,460,986	112,438
Average per farm:					
21 Number of cattle and calves.....	33	54	220	74	10
22 Number of heifers and heifer calves.....	9	17	52	20	3
23 Number of cows other than milk cows.....	10	2	112	22	4
24 Number of cattle and calves sold.....	20	23	140	60	4
25 Number of cattle and calves fattened on grain and concentrates and sold for slaughter.....	7	1	31	33	(NA)
26 Number of cattle excluding calves sold.....	11	8	73	42	(NA)
27 Fattened on grain and concentrates and sold for slaughter.....	6	1	26	30	(NA)
28 Number of calves sold.....	9	16	67	18	(NA)
29 Fattened on grain and concentrates and sold for slaughter.....	1	( <sup>1</sup> )	6	4	(NA)
Average value per animal sold:					
30 Cattle excluding calves..... dollars..	174	144	158	190	(NA)
31 Calves..... dollars..	75	24	85	101	(NA)
32 Average expenditure for the purchase of livestock and poultry per farm..... dollars..	1,323	639	6,357	4,783	113

NA not available.  
<sup>1</sup>Less than 1.