

The following data indicates the relative importance and some of the characteristics of these types of cattle producers.

There has been a steady decline in the number of farms having cattle and calves since 1920.

Year	Farms with cattle (million)
1964	2.3
1959	2.7
1954	3.7
1950	4.1
1940	4.8
1930	4.8
1920	5.4
1910	5.3
1900	4.7

The decline in the number of farms with cattle since 1950 is the result of the discontinuance of the keeping of cattle on farms having less than 50 head. Farms with less than 50 cattle totaled 3.8 million in 1950 as compared with 1.7 million in 1964. Farms having less than 10 cattle declined from 2.2 million in 1950 to less than .7 million in 1964. On the other hand, farms having 50 to 99 cattle increased from 186,000 in 1950 to 353,000 in 1964, and farms with 100 or more cattle increased twofold during the same period. However, the number of cows has been increasing although part of the variation from census to census is the result of counting at different points in the production cycles.

TABLE 10. Farms, Cattle and Calves on Farms, and Cattle and Calves Sold, by Size of Herd, for the United States: 1964

Subject	All farms, total	Size of herd (number of cattle and calves on hand)									
		1 to 9	10 to 19	20 to 49	50 to 99	100 to 199	200 to 499	500 to 999	1,000 to 2,499	2,500 or more	None
Cattle and calves on hand:											
Farms	2,283,881	661,556	406,338	653,960	352,889	138,656	55,086	10,468	3,824	1,104	-
Percent distribution	100.0	29.0	17.8	28.6	15.5	6.1	2.4	0.5	0.2	(1)	-
Number on hand (1,000)	105,558	2,889	5,663	20,798	23,772	18,339	15,743	6,910	5,453	5,991	-
Percent distribution	100.0	2.7	5.4	19.7	22.5	17.4	14.9	6.5	5.2	5.7	-
Cattle and calves sold:											
Farms	1,990,968	316,640	406,319	653,925	352,855	138,595	55,032	10,452	3,817	1,103	52,230
Percent distribution	100.0	15.9	20.4	32.8	17.7	7.0	2.8	0.5	0.2	(1)	2.6
Number sold (1,000)	62,952	1,856	3,406	10,862	11,635	9,699	9,097	4,234	3,793	6,639	1,730
Percent distribution	100.0	2.9	5.4	17.3	18.5	15.4	14.5	6.7	6.0	10.5	2.7

¹Less than 0.05 percent.

From 1940 to 1964, the number of cows on farms has varied from 33 to 47 million head for the 5 census years. However, during this period the production of meat from steers and heifers slaughtered has more than tripled, from about 4 billion to 15 billion pounds. The significant increase in meat production per cow has resulted from many factors. The almost complete replacement of the practice of keeping steers to two years and sometimes three years of age, by a cow-calf or a cow yearling practice, an in-

crease in the calf crop per 100 cows, a decline in the proportion of dairy cows in the national herd (dairy cows represented 72 percent of all cows in 1940; 31 percent in 1964), the development of the commercial cattle feeding industry, the decline in calf slaughter and improvements in cattle feeding and management have contributed to the large increase in beef production without a proportionate increase in cow numbers.

TABLE 9. Farms by Number of Cattle and Calves per Farm, for the United States: 1950 to 1964

Size of herd (number of cattle per farm)	Number of farms			
	1964	1959	1954 ¹	1950 ¹
Total	2,283,881	2,700,811	3,665,782	4,063,945
1 to 9	661,556	997,766	1,682,606	2,200,709
10 to 19	406,338	489,545	1,557,151	1,592,875
20 to 49	653,960	746,692		
50 to 99	352,889	309,916	288,170	185,672
100 or more	209,138	156,892	137,855	84,689
100 to 199	138,656	104,747	(NA)	(NA)
200 to 499	55,086	40,573	(NA)	(NA)
500 to 999	10,468	7,911	(NA)	(NA)
1,000 or more	4,925	3,661	(NA)	(NA)
1,000 to 2,499	3,824	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)
2,500 or more	1,104	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)

NA Not available.

¹Data for Alaska and Hawaii not included.

Size of herd	Cattle on farms (millions)
1 to 9	3
10 to 19	6
20 to 49	21
50 to 99	24
100 to 199	18
200 to 499	16
500 to 999	7
1,000 to 2,499	5
2,500 or more	6

Farms with 1,000 or more cattle had 10 percent of all cattle.