

The fattening of cattle on grain and concentrates occurs on a relatively few very large farms and a large number of relatively small farms.

Size of operation (number sold per farm)	Farms with animals fattened on grain and concentrates and sold for slaughter			
	Cattle excluding calves		Calves	
	Farms Number (1,000)	Farms Number (1,000)	Farms Number (1,000)	Farms Number (1,000)
Any	229,923	18,801	170,877	3,401
1 to 4	37,668	86	58,000	132
5 to 19	72,622	821	73,471	737
20 to 49	57,133	1,758	28,063	807
50 to 99	30,693	2,102	7,238	472
100 to 199	18,356	2,467	2,825	363
200 to 499	9,698	2,795	927	255
500 or more	3,853	8,773	353	636

The cattle feeding industry is highly concentrated in a few specialized areas: Iowa, Nebraska, California, Illinois, Kansas, Colorado, Minnesota, Texas, and Arizona accounted for 72 percent of the cattle and 57 percent of the calves fattened on grain and concentrates and sold for slaughter in 1964.

Milk production—Milk production is one of the major farm enterprises in the United States. The sale of milk and cream from all farms totaled \$4,637 million in 1964. The sale of milk, cream and cattle and calves from commercial dairy farms amounted to \$4,627 million and represented 13 percent of the value of all farm products sold in 1964. Milk and/or cream was sold from 641,000 farms or 21 percent of all farms in 1964. The sale of milk was the most important farm enterprise on 17 percent of all commercial farms in 1964. Farms with milk as the major product, accounted for 89 percent of all milk and cream sold in 1964. The production of milk is concentrated in the New England and Middle Atlantic States and in the 6 States bordering on the Great Lakes. These States accounted for 59 percent of all milk and cream sold in 1964 and had 67 percent of the commercial dairy farms in the United States. About half of all milk sold is used for fluid consumption and production is concentrated in milk sheds in urban areas. Most of the milk for fluid consumption is produced in the 77 milk marketing areas established under Federal programs. In each of these 77 areas, minimum producer prices have been established by marketing orders for milk sold.

The number of farms selling milk or cream has been declining steadily. The number of farms selling dairy products declined 2 million from 1939 to 1964, even though milk production was increasing.

TABLE 14. Farms Selling Whole Milk and Cream, by Regions: 1939 to 1964

Subject and year	United States	The North	The South	The West
Farms with milk and/or cream sold:				
1964	640,785	479,988	117,786	43,011
1959	1,017,508	721,149	220,231	76,128
1954 ¹	2 ¹ ,474,699	1,034,943	323,491	2 ¹ 16,265
1949 ³	2,006,977	1,336,001	522,084	148,892
1944 ³	2 ² ,472,709	1,579,532	701,066	2 ¹ 92,111
1939 ³	2,648,049	1,710,723	737,680	199,646
Farms with whole milk sold:				
1964	544,794	400,886	110,673	33,235
1959	770,221	528,301	186,801	55,119
1954	2,934,143	637,435	221,004	2 ⁷ 5,704
1949	1,096,795	749,119	255,908	91,768
1944	2 ¹ ,163,218	779,193	277,642	2 ¹ 06,383
1939	954,096	677,637	193,543	82,916
Farms with cream sold:				
1964	103,268	84,380	8,037	10,851
1959	426,328	202,079	37,513	422,736
1954	2,540,556	397,508	102,487	240,561
1949	486,135	601,434	199,969	460,732
1944	2 ¹ ,176,457	800,748	286,924	288,785
1939	41,460,493	1,010,407	332,879	4117,207

¹Farms with milk sold plus farms with cream sold.

²Does not include Alaska or Hawaii.

³Farms with any dairy products sold.

⁴Does not include Hawaii.

The number of milk cows has been steadily declining since the peak in 1940, and the number in 1964 was smaller than the number in 1910.

Year	Milk cows on farms (millions)
1964	14.6
1959	16.5
1954	20.2
1950	21.2
1945	22.8
1940	24.1
1930	20.5
1920	19.7
1910	17.1
1900	17.1

From 1954 to 1964, the number of milk cows declined more than 5.5 million or an average of 550,000 per year. Small increases in the demand for milk, increase in milk production per cow, greater attractiveness of other types of farming, increasing off-farm employment of farm operators and members of their families, and technological developments eliminating small sized milk producing units have contributed to both decline in milk cows and to the decrease in the number of farms producing milk for sale.

In 1939, more than 2.6 million farms were selling milk or cream; by 1964 the number of farms had decreased by 2 million. The decrease has been much greater for farms selling cream than for farms selling whole milk.