

While the number of farms selling milk and the number of milk cows have been declining, the production of milk and cream has been steadily increasing.

Year	Whole milk sold (millions of pounds)	Cream sold (million pounds of butterfat)
1964	107,422	128
1959	97,606	254
1954	81,832	460
1949	68,600	582
1944	65,222	805
1939	46,271	1,090
1929	38,347	1,180
1919	21,763	532
1909	16,667	306

While the number of farms with milk cows and the number of farms producing milk has declined, the size of the remaining producing units has increased. The number of farms having less than 10 milk cows declined from almost 3 million in 1950 to 712,000 in 1964. There were only one-third as many farms with 10 to 19 milk cows selling milk or cream in 1964 as in 1950. The number of farms with less than 20 milk cows with milk or cream sold in 1964 was only 30 percent of the number in 1950, while the number of farms with 30 or more milk cows with milk or cream sales more than doubled.

TABLE 15. Farms, Number of Milk Cows, and Whole Milk Sold for Farms Classified by Number of Milk Cows, for the United States: 1939 to 1964

Subject and size of herd (number of milk cows on the farm)	1964		1959 <sup>1</sup>		1954 <sup>1</sup>		1949 <sup>1</sup>		1939 <sup>2</sup>	
	Number	Percent distribution	Number	Percent distribution	Number	Percent distribution	Number	Percent distribution	Number	Percent distribution
Farms with milk cows, total.....	1,133,912	100.0	1,836,785	100.0	2,956,900	100.0	3,681,627	100.0	4,663,431	100.0
Under 30 milk cows.....	986,418	87.0	1,712,884	93.3	2,862,204	96.8	3,617,872	98.3	4,622,823	99.1
1 to 4.....	572,649	50.5	1,057,828	57.6	1,800,443	60.9	2,308,273	62.7	3,148,291	67.5
5 to 9.....	139,231	12.3	252,467	13.7	494,371	16.7	717,196	19.5	922,486	19.8
10 to 19.....	160,315	14.1	261,740	14.2	417,676	14.1	473,095	12.9	467,340	10.0
20 to 29.....	114,223	10.1	140,849	7.7	149,724	5.1	119,308	3.2	84,706	1.8
30 to 49.....	100,971	8.9	89,338	4.9	70,948	2.4	46,940	1.3	30,520	0.7
50 to 99.....	37,633	3.3	27,969	1.5	19,026	0.6	16,815	0.5	8,091	0.2
100 or more milk cows or more.....	8,890	0.8	6,594	0.4	4,722	0.2	(NA)	(NA)	1,997	(*)
100 to 199.....	6,698	0.6	4,900	0.3	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	1,633	(*)
200 or more.....	2,192	0.2	1,694	0.1	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	364	(*)
No milk cows on farms.....	16,889	-	(NA)	-	(NA)	-	633,839	(NA)	(NA)	-
Number of milk cows (1,000) total.....	14,623	100.0	16,824	100.0	(NA)	(NA)	21,367	100.0	21,936	100.0
Under 30 milk cows.....	6,897	47.2	10,584	62.9	(NA)	(NA)	18,232	85.3	20,017	91.3
1 to 4.....	1,009	7.0	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	4,421	20.7	6,002	27.4
5 to 9.....	934	6.4	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	4,758	22.3	6,048	27.6
10 to 19.....	2,237	15.3	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	6,295	29.5	6,032	27.5
20 to 29.....	2,717	18.6	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	2,758	12.9	1,935	8.8
30 to 49.....	3,701	25.3	3,247	19.3	(NA)	(NA)	1,692	7.9	1,081	4.9
50 to 99.....	2,385	16.3	1,784	10.6	(NA)	(NA)	3,444	16.8	511	2.3
100 or more milk cows.....	1,639	11.2	1,208	7.2	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	327	1.5
100 to 199.....	858	5.9	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	206	0.9
200 or more.....	782	5.3	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	121	0.6
Whole milk sold (1,000 pounds) all farms, total.....	105,995,628	100.0	97,606,342	100.0	(NA)	(NA)	68,670,452	100.0	46,228,509	100.0
Under 30 milk cows.....	38,390,916	36.2	50,063,237	51.3	(NA)	(NA)	50,013,794	72.8	35,883,822	77.5
1 to 4.....	869,292	0.8	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	2,883,586	4.2	8,974,831	4.3
5 to 9.....	2,729,340	2.6	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	9,152,322	13.4	8,229,975	17.8
10 to 19.....	13,868,213	13.1	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	23,718,865	34.5	17,297,331	37.4
20 to 29.....	20,924,072	19.7	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	14,229,023	20.7	8,381,685	18.1
30 to 49.....	31,494,664	29.7	24,288,911	24.9	(NA)	(NA)	9,530,074	13.9	5,442,098	11.8
50 to 99.....	20,621,012	19.5	13,277,499	13.6	(NA)	(NA)	9,126,984	13.3	2,847,213	6.2
100 or more milk cows.....	15,489,036	14.6	9,976,695	10.2	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	2,055,416	4.4
100 to 199.....	7,706,341	7.3	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	1,243,430	2.7
200 or more.....	7,782,695	7.3	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	811,986	1.8
No milk cows on farms.....	1,426,304	-	(*)	-	(NA)	(NA)	928,939	-	(*)	-

NA Not available.

<sup>1</sup>Data for continental U.S. are based on reports for only a sample of farms for 1959, 1954, and 1949.

<sup>2</sup>Data are by number of cows milked during 1939.

<sup>3</sup>50 or more milk cows.

<sup>4</sup>Less than 0.05 percent.

<sup>5</sup>Number of farms having whole milk sold to plants or dealers plus number of farms having milk sold directly to consumers or stores.

<sup>6</sup>Number of farms having no milk cows on hand on Census date but sold whole milk in 1949.

<sup>7</sup>Whole milk sold from farms with no milk cows included with under 30 milk cows.

<sup>8</sup>Whole milk sold from farms with no milk cows included with 1 to 4 milk cows.

For many years, whole milk was transported from farm to processing plant or to receiving stations in 10-gallon cans. Recently, bulk handling of milk was adopted to decrease the cost of handling and transporting milk. In 1959, the use of bulk milk tanks for the storage and handling of milk on farms was considered to be in use on a sufficient number of farms to justify the inclusion of a question on the agriculture questionnaire in 6 States. Approximately 59,000 farms had bulk milk tanks in these States in 1964.

The installation of bulk milk tanks on farms required considerable investment and milk production was discontinued on many small sized milk producing units because the operators did not desire or could not make the necessary investment and other changes required by the conversion to bulk milk tanks. Of the 545,000 farms selling whole milk in 1954, about 200,000 were equipped with bulk milk tanks.

In 1964, over 96 percent of all milk and cream sold was sold as whole milk. The proportion of