

The production of turkeys has become concentrated on a relatively small number of farms. While almost 42,000 farms raised some turkeys in 1964, more than 94 percent of the turkeys were raised on 4,531 farms and 3,402 commercial poultry farms accounted for more than 87 percent of the total number of turkeys raised. Because considerable numbers of turkeys are raised under contract with feed manufacturers, poultry meat processors, hatcheries and cooperatives, the control over turkey production is much more concentrated than these census data indicate. Turkey production is concentrated in a relatively few States. Two States, California and Minnesota, raised 29 percent of all turkeys in 1964; in 1949, these two States produced 26 percent of all turkeys.

TABLE 24. Farms and Number of Turkeys Raised for Farms Classified by Number Raised, for the United States: 1964

Farms with number of turkeys raised—	Farms		Number raised	
	Total	Percent distribution	Total (1,000)	Percent distribution
All farms, total....	41,862	100.0	104,750	100.0
Less than 25.....	29,719	71.0	219	0.2
25 to 99.....	4,124	9.9	171	0.2
100 to 299.....	1,070	2.6	162	0.2
300 to 999.....	691	1.7	379	0.4
1,000 to 2,499.....	681	1.6	1,127	1.1
2,500 to 4,999.....	1,046	2.5	3,750	3.6
5,000 or more.....	4,531	10.8	98,942	94.5

TABLE 25.—Farms and Number of Turkeys Raised, Classified by Number Raised: 1959, 1949, and 1939

Farms reporting number of turkeys raised as--	Farms reporting			Percent distribution			Number raised (1,000)		
	Total			1959 ¹	1949	1939	1959 ¹	1949	1939
	1959 ¹	1949	1939						
All farms, total.....	88,399	162,244	389,352	100.0	100.0	100.0	80,396	36,438	27,934
Under 50.....	72,910	121,036	278,102	82.5	74.6	71.4	685	(NA)	(NA)
50 to 399.....	6,667	27,367	102,010	7.5	16.9	26.2	793	(NA)	(NA)
400 to 799.....	1,035	4,132	4,439	1.2	2.5	1.1	550	(NA)	(NA)
800 to 1,599.....	1,191	3,566	2,650	1.3	2.2	0.7	1,370	(NA)	(NA)
1,600 or more.....	6,596	6,143	2,151	7.5	3.8	0.6	76,998	(NA)	(NA)
1,600 to 3,199.....	1,476	(NA)	(NA)	1.7	(NA)	(NA)	3,565	(NA)	(NA)
3,200 to 9,999.....	2,976	(NA)	(NA)	3.4	(NA)	(NA)	17,148	(NA)	(NA)
10,000 or more.....	2,144	(NA)	(NA)	2.4	(NA)	(NA)	56,285	(NA)	(NA)

NA Not available. ¹Data are estimates based upon reports for sample of farms.

Other poultry production—The important poultry production other than eggs, chickens, broilers, and turkeys were started pullets, ducks, geese, and miscellaneous poultry. The importance of each of these types of production in 1964 were:

Subject	Number of farms selling	Number sold
Started pullets.....	8,214	87,198,603
Ducks.....	12,639	12,508,146
Geese.....	8,116	1,068,962

The production and sale of started pullets was one of the significant developments in the farm poultry industry during the last few years. The 87 million started pullets produced and sold from farms was equal to 25 percent of the hens and pullets 4 months old and over on farms in December 1964. Many of these started pullets were produced under contract.

Of the 12,639 farms selling ducks in 1964, 57 were in Suffolk county, New York, and 54 percent of all ducks sold in 1964 came from this producing area. Geese, guineas, etc. are produced in small lots and farms selling these are widely scattered geographically.

TABLE 26. Number of Cattle, Hogs, and Sheep Sold Alive—Census Totals Compared with Estimated Number Slaughtered Off Farms, for the Conterminous United States: 1939 to 1964

Kind of livestock and year	Number sold alive, census total ¹		Number slaughtered off farms as estimated by the U.S. Department of Agriculture ¹	
	Number (1,000)	Percent of estimated number slaughtered	Total (1,000)	Under Federal inspection (1,000)
Cattle and calves...1964	62,887	165.2	38,072	29,953
1959	51,187	167.2	30,614	22,333
1954	44,351	117.4	37,763	26,049
1949	36,319	125.9	28,841	19,671
1944	36,107	111.1	32,508	21,724
1939	27,309	121.4	22,486	14,710
Hogs and pigs.....1964	83,454	100.5	83,018	71,667
1959	80,820	99.1	81,582	68,708
1954	57,419	83.9	64,827	52,894
1949	65,512	101.2	64,761	53,032
1944	68,122	80.6	84,517	69,017
1939	49,192	93.6	52,581	41,368
Sheep and lambs...1964	22,080	152.3	14,595	12,947
1959	25,391	167.3	15,180	13,466
1954	22,336	140.3	15,920	14,148
1949	20,003	149.5	13,376	12,136
1944	28,735	115.9	24,793	21,875
1939	28,637	136.2	21,017	17,241

¹Data are for conterminous U.S. Data for 1959 are estimates based upon reports for a sample of farms.