

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.