

Hog producers have fewer options. A hog breeder either sells feeder pigs to others who feed them to market weight or he raises them as market hogs himself. In either case, most market hogs are sold for slaughter 6 months after farrowing. Sheep raisers have several production alternatives. Some lambs are marketed when only a few months old, some are pastured and marketed for slaughter, and others are pastured and then fattened in feedlots or on specialized sheep feeding farms. Broiler production is confined to a fixed cycle with almost all broilers slaughtered at 6 to 10 weeks of age. Most turkeys are grown to a matured market age in 5 to 7 months, but some young turkeys are sold as fryers when less than 16 weeks of age. To a large degree, turkey production is seasonal in nature with most of the annual slaughter taking place between August and February.

### Cattle Production

There is considerable variety among cattle-producing operations on farms in the United States. In 1969, cattle were produced on all census-classified types of farms; but three class 1-5 livestock classifications—livestock farms, dairy farms, and livestock ranches—accounted for 85 percent of the cattle and calves sold that year.

Most of the cattle produced from grazing operations on livestock ranches are sold to farms and feedlots for further feeding. The cattle feeding industry, fattening cattle on grain and concentrates and selling them for slaughter, is highly concentrated in specialized grain-producing areas. Sales of cattle from dairy farms consist primarily of dairy calves or cows and heifers culled from the milking herd.

Table 4. Cattle and Calves—Inventory and Sales for Selected Types of Farms: 1969

	All farms	Class 1-5 farms			
		Total	Livestock farms	Dairy farms	Livestock ranches
Farms.....number..	2,730,250	1,733,683	568,201	260,956	79,683
Farms with cattle.....number..	1,719,403	1,177,723	489,311	259,113	75,223
Cattle and calves, number, 1,000..	106,380	98,227	47,343	17,490	17,448
Cows.....number, 1,000..	45,511	41,942	15,842	10,228	8,362
Heifers and heifer calves.....number, 1,000..	(NA)	25,673	12,241	5,470	3,927
Other cattle.....number, 1,000..	(NA)	30,612	19,259	1,792	5,160
Cattle and calves sold.....farms..	1,645,518	1,188,529	551,683	260,858	77,874
number, 1,000..	74,616	71,101	43,073	7,254	12,921
value dollars, 1,000..	(NA)	14,017,374	9,652,466	844,714	2,334,744
Cattle sold.....farms..	(NA)	891,203	383,732	225,565	63,287
number, 1,000..	(NA)	41,131	28,598	2,670	7,157
Fattened for slaughter, farms..	(NA)	146,748	98,561	13,980	2,611
number, 1,000..	(NA)	22,989	19,543	240	2,523
Calves sold.....farms..	(NA)	947,389	373,668	234,672	69,104
number, 1,000..	(NA)	29,970	14,475	4,584	5,765
Fattened for slaughter, farms..	(NA)	90,888	55,954	4,121	3,283
number, 1,000..	(NA)	2,927	2,271	58	138
Expenditures for livestock purchases.....\$1,000..	8,081,639	7,916,714	5,277,202	376,254	1,032,599

There has been a continuing decline in the number of farms with cattle during the past five decades. From 1940 to 1964, the decrease in farms with cattle was approximately proportionate to the decrease in the total number of farms in the United States. Between 1964 and 1969, however, there was a 9-percent decrease in the ratio of farms with cattle to total farms.

	Farms with cattle (million)	Percent of all farms
1969 .....	1.7	63.0
1964 .....	2.3	72.3
1959 .....	2.7	72.1
1954 .....	3.7	76.3
1950 .....	4.1	75.5
1940 .....	4.8	79.4

Much of this decrease resulted from a significant change in the percentage of cattle enterprises on farms with a value of sales less than \$2,500. In 1964, 70 percent of these farms reported cattle on hand compared to 54 percent in 1969.

		Number of farms		
		Total (1,000)	With cattle (1,000)	Percent with cattle
All farms .....	1969 ..	2,730	1,719	63.0
	1964 ..	3,158	2,284	72.3
Class 1-5 farms .....	1969 ..	1,734	1,178	67.9
	1964 ..	1,817	1,350	74.3
Class 6, part-time and part-retirement farms .....	1969 ..	994	540	54.3
	1964 ..	1,338	933	69.7

The discontinuance of small cattle operations continued to be the principal factor in the decrease of farms with cattle. In 1969, there were only half as many farms with less than 10 cattle as there had been 5 years earlier. Discontinued cattle enterprises of less than 20 head accounted for three-fourths of the decline in farms with cattle between 1964 and 1969. Conversely, the number of farms increased in each herd size group with more than 100 head. Nearly 60 percent of all cattle were located on these farms.

Table 5. Cattle and Calves—Inventory by Number Per Farm: 1969 and 1964

	Farms reporting				Inventory			
	1969		1964		1969		1964	
	Number (1,000)	Percent	Number (1,000)	Percent	Number (1,000)	Percent	Number (1,000)	Percent
Total all farms....	1,719.4	100.0	2,283.9	100.0	106,381	100.0	105,558	100.0
Cattle and calves per farm:								
1 to 9.....	333.4	19.3	661.6	28.9	1,637	1.5	2,889	2.7
10 to 19....	311.0	18.1	406.3	17.8	4,346	4.1	5,663	5.4
20 to 99....	848.6	49.3	1,006.8	44.1	139,021	36.7	44,570	42.2
100 to 199..	145.6	8.5	138.7	6.1	19,404	18.2	18,339	17.4
200 to 499..	62.6	3.6	55.1	2.4	18,040	17.0	15,743	14.9
500 to 999..	12.2	0.7	10.5	0.5	8,066	7.6	6,910	6.5
1,000 to 2,499.....	4.6	0.3	3.8	0.2	6,484	6.1	5,453	5.2
2,500 and over.....	1.4	0.1	1.1	(2)	9,383	8.8	5,991	5.7

<sup>1</sup>Includes data for abnormal farms with 20 heads and over (1,212 farms with 499,732 cattle).

Farms with cattle inventories of 500 head and over had almost one-fourth of the cattle on class 1-5 farms although they made up only one and one-half percent of class 1-5 farms with cattle.