

higher prices, farms which were classified as some other type in 1964, may have been classified as livestock farms in 1969.

Table 11 provides a comparison of the characteristics and relative importance of livestock farms by value-of-sales class.

Livestock ranches—The classification "livestock ranch" was used in 17 Western States, Florida, Louisiana, Hawaii, and Alaska. It was used for livestock operations primarily engaged in production of livestock by grazing. This classification was not used in 29 States in which livestock production is generally considered as consisting primarily of feeding crops or purchased feed to livestock.

Livestock ranches made up only 4.6 percent of all class 1-5 farms and accounted for less than 2 percent of cropland harvested on these farms, yet they contained 32 percent of the land in farms and 57 percent of the land used for pasture and grazing on class 1-5 farms. In 1969, 18 percent of the cattle and calves, 47 percent of the sheep and lambs, and 83 percent of the goats on class 1-5 farms were located on livestock ranches.

Livestock ranches are spread throughout the western half of the United States. Frequently they are interspersed with other types of farms, but in some areas they constitute the principal unit of agricultural production. Their characteristics vary somewhat from area to area. For example, the Edwards Plateau of Texas concentrated in sheep and goat production while other areas specialize in beef production. Ranches with leased acreages or grazing permits are common in the Mountain and Pacific States where large acreages of State and Federal land are used for grazing.

The sale of livestock and livestock products (other than dairy and poultry products) accounted for 97 percent of the value of farm products sold from livestock ranches.

There were 10.7 thousand livestock ranches selling farm products valued at \$40,000 or more, and these class 1 ranches accounted for 73 percent of the value of sales from livestock ranches. They also sold 66 percent of the cattle and 69 percent of the sheep marketed from livestock ranches.

Data in table 12 provide a comparison of the characteristics for various value-of-sales classes of livestock ranches.

Class 1-5 Farms

Table 13. General Farms—Characteristics by Economic Class: 1969

	All general farms	Class 1	Class 2	Class 3	Class 4	Class 5
Percent distribution:						
Number of farms.....	100.0	8.9	15.5	23.0	26.0	26.5
Land in farms.....	100.0	27.4	22.2	22.9	15.8	11.7
Value of land and buildings.....	100.0	35.3	20.8	19.0	14.0	11.0
Total cropland.....	100.0	27.8	23.0	23.3	15.5	10.4
Cropland harvested.....						
Total value of all agricultural products sold.....	100.0	31.6	23.7	22.3	13.8	8.5
Value of all crops sold.....	100.0	45.7	22.5	17.2	9.8	4.8
Value of all livestock, poultry, and their products sold.....	100.0	50.3	20.3	15.3	9.2	4.9
Average per farm:						
Land in farm.....acres..	499	1,375	642	446	274	198
Value of land and buildings.....dollars..	110,190	434,287	147,146	90,775	59,202	45,938
Total cropland.....acres..	286	887	423	289	170	113
Cropland harvested.....acres..	193	681	294	187	103	62
Land irrigated.....acres..	234	641	192	126	83	60
Value of all agricultural products sold.....dollars..	19,138	97,796	27,750	14,263	7,201	3,467
Value of machinery and equipment.....dollars..	14,050	46,362	20,141	12,557	8,225	6,298
Value of all crops sold.....dollars..	6,076	27,109	7,377	3,988	2,227	1,265
Value of all livestock, poultry, and their products sold.....dollars..	3,768	15,895	5,490	2,964	1,608	859
Corn for all purposes.....acres..	56	165	84	52	29	18
Wheat for grain.....acres..	71	158	100	71	40	23
Alfalfa for hay.....acres..	63	188	69	53	42	36
Expenditures for—						
Farm production expenses.....	15,777	85,216	20,579	10,753	5,585	3,873
Livestock and poultry.....	2,788	12,062	3,398	1,794	987	735
Feed for livestock and poultry.....	1,639	6,751	2,396	1,273	723	459
Seeds, bulbs, plants, and trees.....	690	2,814	918	518	287	202
Commercial fertilizer purchased.....	1,895	8,628	2,420	1,247	707	447
Lime.....	367	1,020	446	275	199	177
Other agricultural chemicals.....	987	4,953	873	415	222	135
Gasoline and other petroleum fuel and oil for the farm business.....	1,135	4,284	1,618	1,015	599	411
Hired farm labor.....	2,790	14,750	2,163	1,022	583	482
Contract labor.....	2,796	8,697	1,655	971	652	488
Machine hire and customwork.....	1,196	5,761	1,176	766	517	375
All other production expenses.....	6,404	32,820	8,265	4,522	2,364	1,909
Income from government farm programs.....dollars..	3,550	14,476	4,202	2,671	1,593	1,066
Workers by number of days worked:						
150 days and over.....	2	4	2	1	1	1
Under 150 days.....	5	14	6	5	4	3
Percent of farms with—						
Income from government farm programs.....	58.8	68.5	67.1	63.8	55.4	49.7
Tractors other than garden tractors and motor tillers....	92.1	97.9	96.5	94.4	90.4	87.2
Fertilizer used.....	87.5	97.9	95.5	92.0	85.4	77.6
Percent of farms operated by—						
Full owners.....	46.9	18.4	25.4	38.1	55.5	68.4
Part owners.....	38.3	67.3	55.0	44.3	30.9	20.7
Tenants.....	14.8	14.4	19.7	17.6	13.6	10.9