Livestock, poultry, and their products sold

14

than 5.4

direction of further reduction. The number of milk cows has
time, beginning in

been steadily

1900.

which once played an important role in milk production, have

From

been declining rapidly in

increased the size of their operations.

advancements in the form of new equipment and facilities

farms keeping milk cows has been accompanied by a

larger herds. This has been made possible by technological

accounted

eliminating small-sized-milk producing units have contributed to

in milk cows and to the decrease in the number of

farms producing milk for sale.

In 1964, more than 588,000 class 1-5 farms were selling dairy

products; by 1969, the number of farms had decreased by

228,000 to 360,000. 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 over 2

million in 1954 to 278,000 in 1969. There were approximately

one-half as many farms with 10 to 19 milk cows in 1969 as in

1964. There was a decrease of 42 percent from 1964 to 1969 in

the number of farms with less than 20 milk cows. The number

of farms with 30 milk cows and over decreased from 147,000 in

1964 to 132,000 in 1969. However, there has been a continuing

increase in the number of farms with more than 200 milk cows

over the past 10 years. These farms increased 13.4 percent

from 1964 to 1969.

The production of milk is largely concentrated in the Northeast,
The Great Lakes, and California. These 16 States accounted for

63 percent of the total value of dairy products sold from

class 1-5 farms in 1969, and had 58 percent of the class 1-5 farms

reporting dairy products sold in the United States.

Milk cows on farms

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Number</th>
<th>Percent</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1969</td>
<td>United States</td>
<td>11,174,521</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>The Northeast</td>
<td>2,022,877</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>The North Central</td>
<td>5,396,943</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>The South</td>
<td>2,442,386</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>The West</td>
<td>1,312,316</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1964</td>
<td>United States</td>
<td>14,622,604</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>The Northeast</td>
<td>2,533,397</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>The North Central</td>
<td>7,326,656</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>The South</td>
<td>3,190,520</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>The West</td>
<td>1,572,031</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The number of farms reporting milk cows declined by almost 50

percent from 1964 to 1969. About 568,000 U.S. farms had

milk cows in 1969, compared with some 1.1 million in 1964 and

1.8 million in 1959. The steady decline in the number of

farms keeping milk cows has been accompanied by a corre-

sponding increase in size of the remaining milk cow herds;

therefore, today’s milk supply is being produced by fewer, but

larger herds. This has been made possible by technological

advancements in the form of new equipment and facilities

which permitted the small milk-cow herds to be expanded

considerably. Therefore, producers who have been able and

will be willing to invest in new equipment and facilities have

greatly increased the size of their operations. Small milk-cow herds

which once played an important role in milk production, have

been declining rapidly in number, and seem to be headed in the

direction of further reduction. The number of milk cows has

been steadily declining since their peak in 1940, and the

number, beginning in 1959, has been smaller than the number in

1900.

From 1969 to 1969, the number of milk cows declined more

than 5.4 million or an average of 540,000 per year. Increases in

milk production per cow, attractiveness of other types of

farming, increasing off-farm employment of farm operators and

members of their families, and technological developments

eliminating small-sized-milk producing units have contributed to

both decline in milk cows and to the decrease in the number of

farms producing milk for sale.

The value of dairy products sold increased, on class 1-5 farms,

from $4,637 million in 1964 to $5,418 million in 1969. A