

PART VI

Livestock, Dairying and Poultry

General Importance

Dairying and poultry farming are the most important activities in Jefferson County agriculture. In the 1954 Census there were 75 farms specializing in dairying of which nearly 60 sold milk as a major or sideline product. There were 15 farms specializing in poultry and nearly 75 more produced poultry and eggs on a part-time basis. The entire livestock farming industry accounted for about \$708,260 in sales according to 1954 Census data.

The value of livestock approximated \$565,125 when last enumerated by the Census of 1950. Cattle are the most valuable domestic animals raised, valued at about \$488,075. Chickens are second, valued at \$21,665, on all the poultry-raising farms.

Livestock Trends

Livestock raising has changed considerably since 1920 with the over-all value of herds and flocks having increased. The number of head of beef cattle

Total Value of Jefferson County Livestock: \$565,125

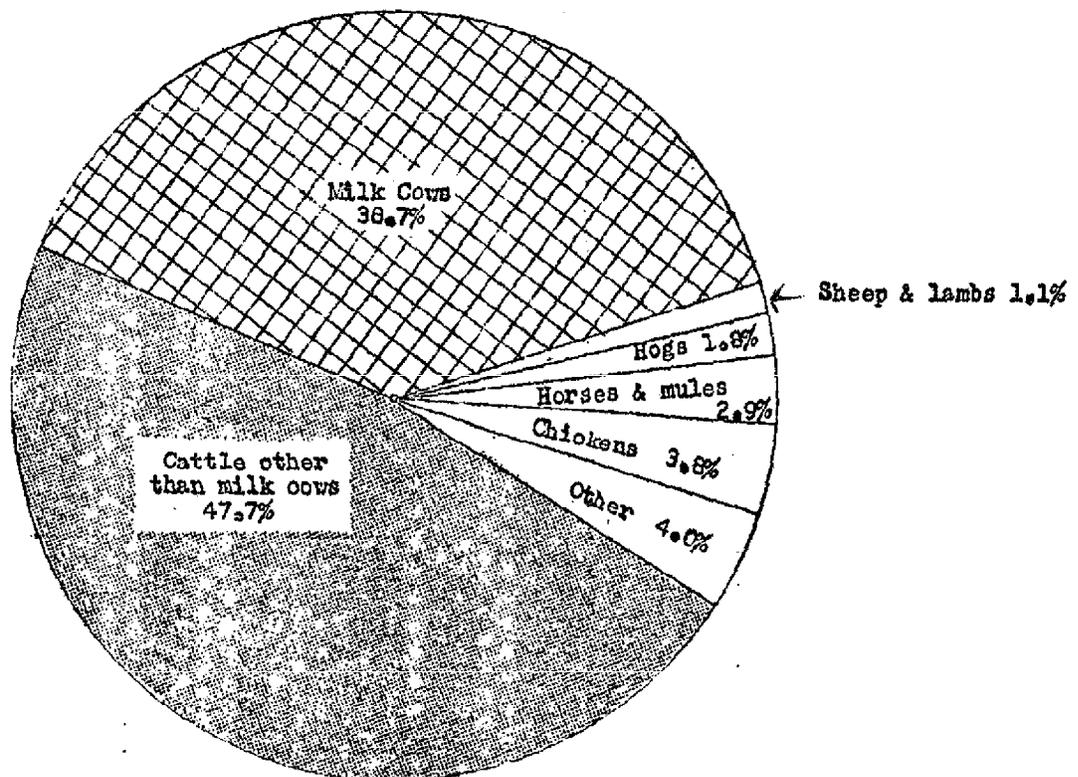


Figure 11.- Value of Livestock on Farms
Jefferson County, 1950
(Based on U.S. Census, Agriculture)

has tended to increase since 1939 whereas the number of dairy cattle has fluctuated since 1939, resulting in fewer but more productive milk cows in Jefferson County in 1956 than there were in the period 1939 to 1946. There have been distinct downward trends in the number of horses, mules and hogs compared with 1920. On the other hand, small-scale livestock farmers have been raising more sheep since 1940. Poultry raising has been decreasing in number of farms and in number of larger chickens since World War II. The changes in livestock farming have gone up and down with changes in employment conditions off the farms and in sales opportunities which change as new areas of competition enter the marketing area.

Cattle: Dairy and Beef Farming

Dairy and beef cattle combined totaled a new high of 6,000 head in 1956. They are kept on 330 farms (over 90 percent of the farms) in Jefferson County.

Several conditions have caused a change-over from dairy to beef livestock raising since 1939. During World War II and after 1950 off-farm employment was good, leading many small-scale part-time farmers to abandon dairying and take up beef raising which requires fewer hours of labor. New state regulations and sanitation laws for the manner in which grade A or fluid milk for household consumption is handled on farms caused many small producers to abandon dairying because the costs in equipment could not be borne. Feeding and labor costs also caused some to give up dairy farming.

Table 19.- Cattle on Farms
Jefferson County, 1939-1956

Year	All Cattle (head)	Beef Cattle (head)	Dairy Cattle (head)
1939	4,500	1,100	3,400
1940	4,600	1,200	3,400
1941	4,900	800	4,100
1942	5,000	700	4,300
1943	5,000	700	4,200
1944	5,000	400	4,600
1945	4,900	500	4,400
1946	4,900	500	4,400
1947	3,900	600	3,300
1948	4,000	1,200	2,800
1949	4,100	1,300	2,800
1950	4,400	1,400	3,000
1951	4,000	1,000	3,000
1952	4,900	2,100	2,800
1953	5,000	2,100	2,900
1954	5,500	2,600	2,900
1955	5,900	2,700	3,200
1956	6,000	2,700	3,300

Source: U.S.D.A., AMS, Agric. Estimates Divn.
State of Washington

Jefferson County farmers, through their cooperative marketing association and other outlets, sell over 9,8 million pounds of whole milk and 50,000 pounds of cream annually. Commercial milk production has increased since 1940. This greater production is caused by several factors: the increase in dairy cows since 1948, higher production per cow, and better farm practices and management. The Census of 1954 did not record commercial farm butter sales, but it found that 58 farm households were churning some butter for their own use.

Hogs

Hogs are a minor type of livestock raised in Jefferson County. From a peak in 1939 of 535 head, they have been decreasing until in 1954 about 260 head were raised on 58 farms or an average of little over four head per farm. Most of the farms keep one or two feeder hogs for slaughter and farm household use. This practice, common before 1940, is less in recent years as more farm places buy meat from stores. This trend has caused a reduction in feeder hogs kept on farms.

Horses and Mules

Horses and mules for farm work, logging and transportation have decreased in the last 30 years, being replaced by tractors, trucks and other machines. There were about 435 horses in Jefferson County in 1920. By 1954 there were only 165 head enumerated by the Census. Only a few of these farms were using horses for farm work. Most of the horses are for pleasure such as riding and also as pack animals for hunting and fishing trips in the Olympic Mountains.

Sheep

In contrast to many areas in Washington, sheep raising has increased in the Olympic Peninsula in recent years. From a low of 305 head in 1944, sheep more than doubled by 1954 to 620 head. There were 25 farms keeping sheep and lambs in 1954 compared with only 9-13 between 1945 and 1950. More lambs were being sold and more wool was being shorn. Sheep have been adopted as a side-line on general farms and on specialized farms as well to produce a lamb crop. Sheep are well adapted to utilize woodland pastures, fern patches and sloping brush land common in the area.

Table 20.- Hogs, Sheep, Horses and Mules
Jefferson County, 1939-1954

Year	Hogs (head)	Sheep (head)	Horses and Mules (head)
1939	535	420	370
1944	430	305	260
1949	415	375	330
1954	260	620	165

Source: U. S. Census, Agriculture

Poultry Farming: Chickens, Eggs, Turkeys

Jefferson is the twenty-sixth ranking poultry county in Washington. In dollar value of products sold from farms, poultry raising is the second major type of farming. Sales of eggs, fryers, other meat chickens, turkeys, and other poultry returned an estimated \$123,530 to Jefferson farmers in 1954.

Table 21.- Chickens, Egg Production and Turkeys Raised
Jefferson County, 1939-1954

Year	Chickens	Egg Production	Turkeys Raised
	(birds)	(dozens)	(birds)
1939	23,223	289,098	14,605
1944	24,576	225,799	21,300
1949	17,331	118,782 1/2	9,859
1954	22,028	183,061 1/2	2,721

1/2 Eggs sold by farmers; does not include eggs consumed on farms.

Source: U. S. Census, Agriculture

Total Value of Poultry and Poultry Products Sold
in 1954 - \$123,530

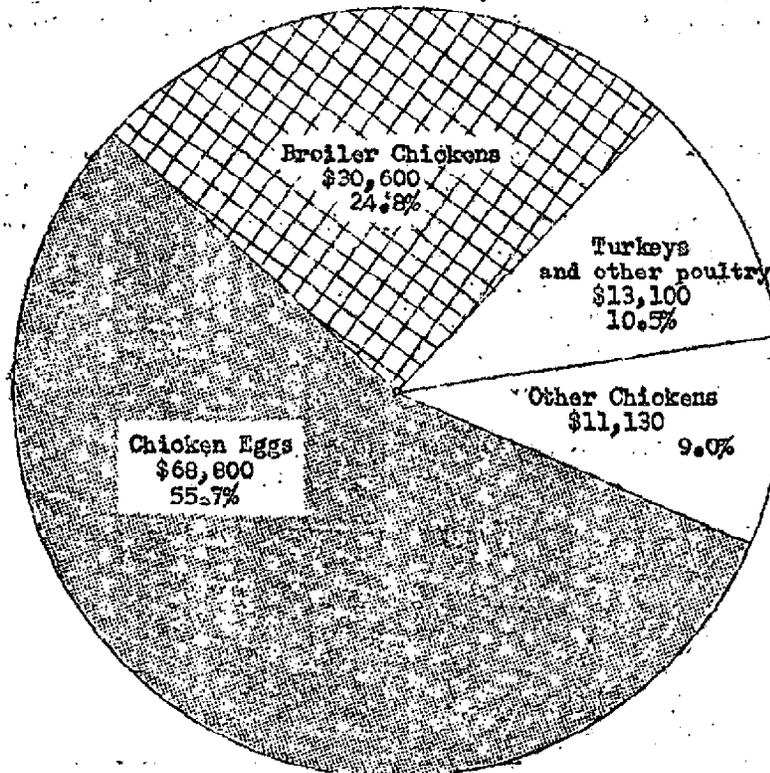


Figure 12.- Divisions of Jefferson County Poultry Industry
By Products Sold in 1954
(Based on U.S. Census, Agriculture)

Commercial egg production is the leading part of the poultry industry. About 183,100 dozen were produced in 1954 and returned \$68,800 to a total of 70 poultry farms. The number of chickens kept on hand for egg production has been decreasing since the peak period during World War II. While egg production has declined, the raising of fryer chickens has increased. Five farms were specializing in broilers (fryer chickens) in 1954, selling about 34,350 birds worth a total of \$30,600. Fryer chickens were in second position in the poultry products industry.

Turkeys raised for market in the 1950's are fewer than in the 1940's. About 3,000 turkeys are raised per year on six commercial farms with some farms keeping small flocks. Two farms specialize in breeding and hatchery production of turkeys. During World War II years commercial turkey raising was highly developed on Marrowstone Island where in some years over 20,000 birds were raised.

Goats, Rabbits and Fur Animals

Jefferson County is not an important area in specialized animal industries. About 150 head of goats were kept on 14 farms in 1954. Nearly all the goats are of the dairy type and their products are used mainly on the farms or marketed in local neighborhoods. Most of these goats also are kept to keep down brush, grass and weeds surrounding orchards and farmsteads. Rabbits are grown on some farms, generally for home use. There were two fur farming operations enumerated in the 1950 Census. Farms which sell small animals and their products numbered eight and their total gross sales amounted to about \$1,050 per year when last enumerated in 1949.

Bees and Honey

The last agricultural Census of bee-keeping in Washington in 1950 showed that about 30 hives were being kept on the 15 farms reported having bees. This indicates that bee-keeping is for farm-household use mainly and for some neighborhood sales. Farms keeping bees averaged about two hives per farm. Bee-keeping is not as common as it was in the earlier years of settlement.