

PART VI

Livestock, Dairying and Poultry

General Importance

Livestock and poultry raising is the most important farming activity of Clallam County. In 1954 about 86 percent of all farm products sold were derived from livestock and poultry. The value of all animals and animal products marketed was \$2,459,780 compared with \$206,200 received for all crops sold. Dairying is the most important specialized type of activity. In recent years, dairy products have been worth about \$1,789,695 per year making up over 62 percent of all commercial farm sales. Clallam County is ranked ninth in value of dairy products and fifteenth in poultry and egg sales. In general terms, Clallam County is highly specialized in dairying.

Livestock and poultry kept on farms make up a large part of farm property value. Based on prices received by farmers prevailing in 1954 animals and poultry had a total value of about \$2,791,725 in 1954. Dairy cows and heifers had an estimated value of \$1,494,000 and beef cattle \$1,112,800.

Total Value of Clallam County Livestock \$2,791,725

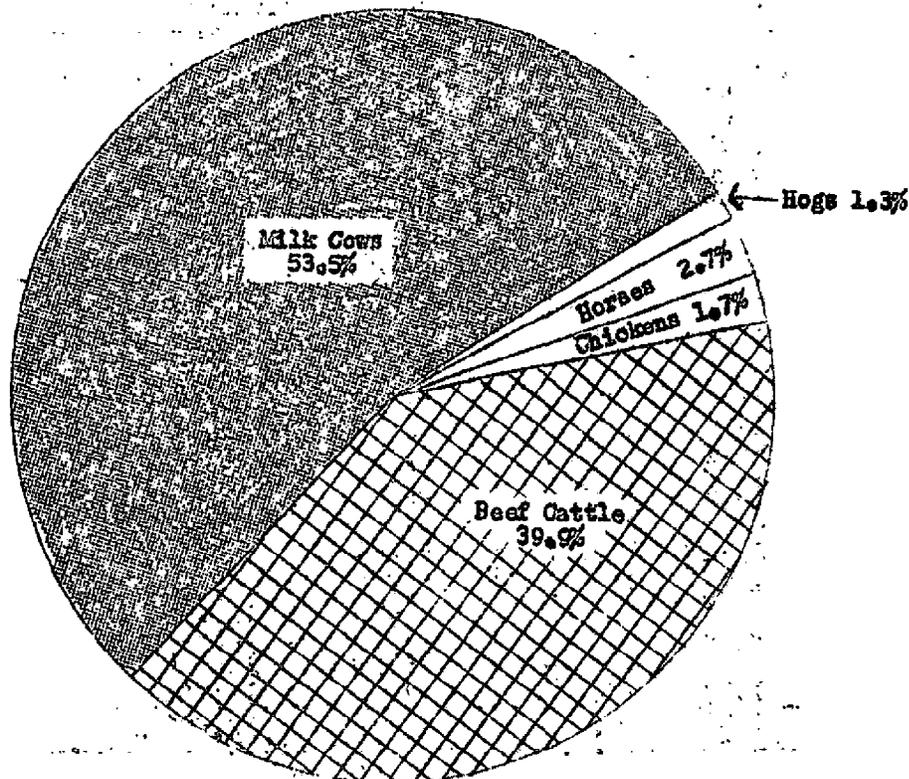


Figure 12.- Value of Livestock on Farms
Clallam County, 1954.
(Based on U.S. Census, Agriculture)

Livestock Trends

The value of livestock kept on farms in 1954 was nearly four times that of 1920, being \$720,000 in 1920 and \$2,791,725 in 1954. The total cattle population has gone up from about 7,200 head in 1920 to as high as 19,000 head in 1957. Beef cattle have been increased more than four times in the last 20 years but dairy cattle have remained more constant ranging from 11,300 head in 1939 to 13,100 head in 1956. The keeping of hogs, sheep, horses, goats and bees has decreased since 1939. Livestock farmers have specialized more in beef and dairy cattle in the last 15 years.

Dairy Cattle and Dairying

Dairying has been the primary farm activity of Glallam County for over 50 years. Since 1940 it has been relatively stable and the dairy cattle population has not changed greatly. In terms of milk cows and dairy heifers kept on farms, the largest number was reached at the end of World War II in 1945. In that year all dairy cattle were estimated at 13,400 head. In more recent years herds have been reduced slightly but have been improved in average milk production per animal.

Table 20.- Cattle on Farms
Glallam County, 1939-1958

Year	All Cattle (head)	Beef Cattle (head)	Dairy Cattle (head)
1939	12,200	900	11,300
1940	12,400	1,000	11,400
1941	12,800	700	12,100
1942	12,900	600	12,300
1943	13,400	700	12,700
1944	11,800	800	13,200
1945	11,200	800	13,400
1946	12,700	600	12,100
1947	12,000	400	11,600
1948	12,000	600	11,400
1949	13,500	1,900	11,600
1950	11,500	2,400	12,100
1951	11,000	2,100	11,900
1952	11,600	3,100	11,500
1953	16,800	4,500	12,300
1954	17,700	5,100	12,600
1955	18,300	5,700	12,600
1956	19,000	5,900	13,100
1957	17,000	4,200	12,800
1958	16,800	4,000	12,800

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

A general trend in dairying has been a reduction in number of dairy farms and an increase in the average size of dairy herds. Smaller dairy farms with less than 20 milk cows have become fewer while larger dairy farm operations

have become more common. According to recent Census data farms selling whole milk went down from 288 in 1949 to 226 in 1954. Farms classified as of the dairy type decreased from 312 to 241 in the same period.

Most Clallam County dairy cattle are concentrated in the Sequim-Dungeness lowland. Dairy herds are large in this area averaging over 50 head per farm and several farms raise and sell registered Guernsey, Holstein and Jersey dairy cattle. Secondary dairy areas are in the Port Angeles vicinity and the Forks Prairie district of western Clallam County.

Beef Cattle

In recent years there has been a change from dairying to raising of beef animals on many farms. Numerous small dairy farms changed over to beef cattle. Raising beef requires less investment in equipment and fewer hours of labor than dairying. Hardy cattle breeds such as Angus and Herefords are able to forage well in the woodland pastures and cut-over lands common in the valleys and foothills of Clallam County. Most beef cattle are raised in the lowlands of eastern Clallam County in the vicinities of Port Angeles, Agnew, Dungeness and Sequim. In recent years more beef cattle herds have been built up in the western districts of Sappho and Forks. Many of the new herds are small in size and are kept by part-time farmers. Rapid expansion of beef cattle is one of the major agricultural changes to have occurred in Clallam County since 1939. Since 1939 beef cattle have increased by over four times the number kept in that year. Following the peak of 5,900 head in 1956 there has been a slight downward cycle in the beef cattle population.

Hogs

About 200 farms were keeping hogs in 1954 but the commercial raising of hogs was being practiced on only 55 farms. Since 1939 the total number of hogs kept on farms has gone down from nearly 1,500 head to less than 950. In earlier years many farmers kept hogs to utilize skimmed milk left from cream separators. Most hogs were a sideline on dairy farms which shipped cream. Recent factors causing the decline in the swine industry have been the increased costs of feeding since farm supplies of skimmed milk became scarce and secondly the amount of labor needed for commercial production. Another change has been decline of farm butchering and home curing of bacon and ham, once a common practice in western Washington.

Table 21.- Hogs, Sheep, Horses and Mules

Year	Hogs (head)	Sheep (head)	Horses and Mules (head)
1939	1,494	655	1,039
1944	1,288	745	830
1949	1,310	543	683
1954	939	573	504

Source: U.S. Census, Agriculture

Sheep

The raising of sheep as a minor sideline has been steady since 1939. About 25 to 30 farms keep sheep and the total number in the county has ranged from about 550 to 750 head per year. Sheep are mainly in small farm flocks averaging about 26 head. Recent trends in sheep raising include an increase in number of farms keeping small flocks and a slight decrease in total number raised in the county. Most sheep are kept in the drier and irrigated Dungeness-Sequim lowlands. Because of dense forest growth and predatory animals, sheep are not kept in significant numbers in the western and mountainous regions of Clallam County.

Horses

Horses and mules kept on farms for work, logging and transportation purposes have decreased sharply. Tractors, trucks and other machines have replaced these animals. In contrast to earlier years, teams of horses are rarely used today for logging, plowing, land clearing and freighting. Since 1920, when there were 1,300 horses in Clallam County, their number had declined to only 504 in 1954. In recent years about 250 farms have kept one or two horses for riding and some have contracted for packing in the Olympic Mountain areas with the Forest Service and elk and deer hunting parties. Less than 15 farms breed horses and make commercial sales. Horses are well distributed over the populated regions of Clallam County.

Poultry Farming

Poultry raising is the third most important type of farming in Clallam County, being under dairying and beef farming in commercial value. The poultry industry has been about steady since 1940 with some increase in chicken and egg production and a drop in turkey production.

Chickens kept on farms numbered over 48,000 in 1954 compared with about 39,500 in 1939. Eggs produced for sale were at a new peak volume of 457,000 dozen by 1954. Chicken raising is carried on on over 500 farms and of these farms about 235 sold or shipped market eggs. Only 2 farms specialized in broilers in 1954.

Table 22.- Chickens, Egg Production, Turkeys

Year	Chickens (birds)	Egg Production (dozens)	Turkeys Raised (birds)
1939	39,473	352,684	2,911
1944	48,826	384,322	6,947
1949	35,555	236,522 1/	4,181
1954	48,267	457,172 1/	3,218

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

Source: U.S. Census, Agriculture

The turkey raising industry has declined since the peak year of 1944. In 1944 about 6,950 turkeys were raised for market but by 1954 commercial turkeys raised were down to 3,200 birds. About 30 farms located mainly in the drier climatic belt surrounding Sequim specialize in turkeys.

Beekeeping, Bees and Honey

The last agricultural Census of beekeeping in Washington in 1950 showed that Clallam County had a relatively small industry. About 45 farms kept bees and produced honey for home use and some local trading. In general, the farms keeping bees had five or less hives each. Total hives in the county in 1950 numbered only 110. Only two farms reported raising honey commercially. Total annual production is less than 1,000 pounds and is not sufficient for the market within Clallam County. Beekeeping and honey production is lower than in 1920. The Census of 1920 showed that there were about 555 hives and about 9,000 pounds of honey produced per year in the early 1920's.

Small Animal Industry, Goats, Rabbits, Fur Farming

A small number of farms specialize in, or raise on a sideline basis, small animals such as goats, rabbits and fur bearers. Small animal industry is not as well developed in Clallam County as in some of the metropolitan counties of the Puget Sound Basin.

Goat raising includes a few animals kept on about 30 farms. The most recent Census in 1954 enumerated about 210 goats. Nearly all of these goats are of the dairy type and are found mainly in the dairy farming areas. Rabbits are raised on about 125 farms. As a sideline, rabbits are raised for local use. A few fryer rabbits are marketed locally.

Fur farming is on a minor scale. In recent years about five small fur farms have been in operation. Ranch mink is the major type of product and this type of farming is in the vicinity of Port Angeles.