

## PART VI

## Livestock, Dairying and Poultry

General Importance

Livestock and poultry farming are secondary activities in Garfield County when compared with the raising of field crops. In 1954, meat animals, poultry and their products contributed only 7.5 percent of the dollar value of all products sold from farms. Animal industries grossed \$655,100 for farmers during 1954. Cattle raising dominates the livestock industry. Cattle raising totaled \$517,900 during 1954--four-fifths of the total income from livestock enterprises. About two-thirds of the county's farms sold livestock during 1954.

Livestock Trends

Livestock and poultry raising has changed considerably in the last 30 years. The total value of all livestock has almost doubled since 1925. In 1954 all livestock in the county were valued at \$1,908,335. Beef cattle and calves alone were valued at \$1,620,000. Major trends include an increase of about one-third in beef cattle numbers between 1939 and 1956. Dairy cattle

Total Value of Garfield County Livestock: \$1,908,335

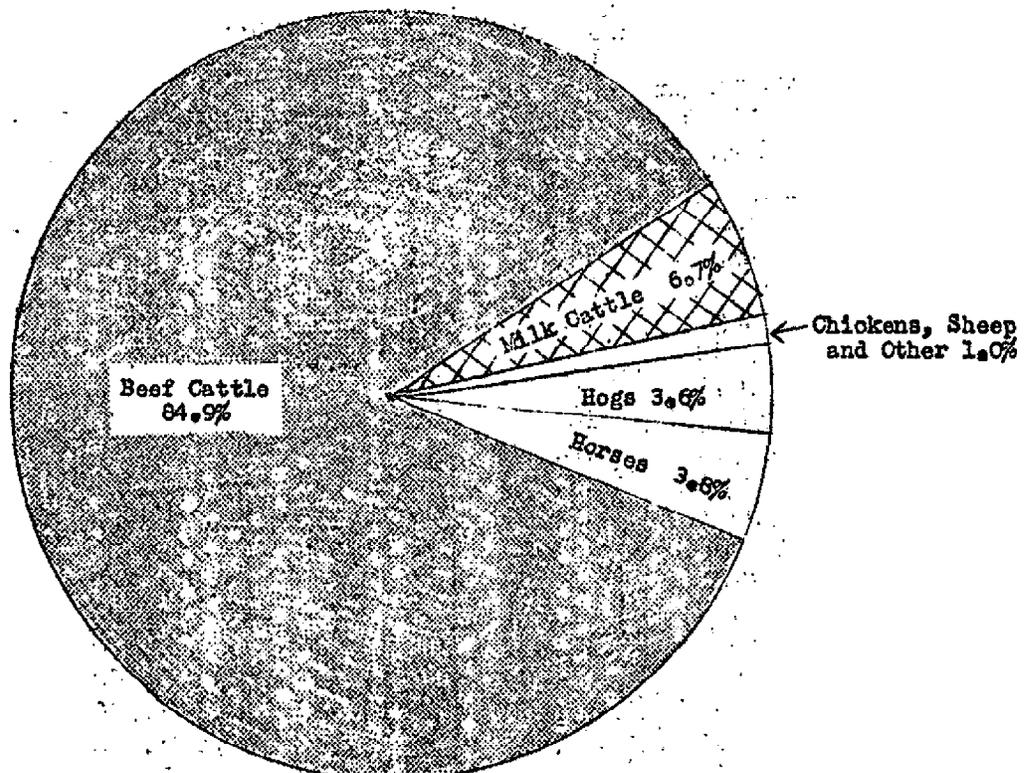


Figure 12.-- Value of Livestock on Farms  
Garfield County, 1954  
(Based on U.S. Census, Agriculture)

numbers increased greatly during the early 1940's and then declined in the post-World War II years. The number of horses and mules on Garfield County farms has declined steadily over the years. In 1925 horses and mules were the most valuable class of livestock. By 1954 they ranked third. Hog numbers reached a peak about 1944 and have declined steadily since that time. Sheep numbers have been on a downward trend since the 1930's. The number of chickens reached a peak about 1944 as did egg production. A rapid decline occurred in the late 1940's in chicken numbers and egg production. The decline since 1950 has been slower. Beef cattle are on the increase at the present time.

Cattle: Beef and Dairy Farming

The cattle population reached a high of 14,200 head in 1956. In 1954 cattle were kept on 254 farm places. Beef breeds outnumber dairy cattle by over ten to one and beef production is the major type of livestock enterprise.

The largest numbers of beef cattle and total cattle were reported in 1944 when 14,200 head of beef cattle and 17,300 head of total cattle were reported. From this peak the number of beef cattle declined to 9,700 head in 1950. Since 1950 a steady upward trend has been in operation. By 1956 there were 13,000 head of beef cattle—one-third more than in 1939. In 1954 Garfield County producers sold 6,397 head of cattle and calves from 213 farms, for a total of \$517,900. This was lower than in 1949 when many producers were selling off their herds. The effect of the beef cattle cycle is evident in the trend in numbers since 1939.

Table 23.- Cattle on Farms  
Garfield County, 1939-1956

Year	January 1 Numbers on Farms		
	All Cattle (head)	Beef Cattle (head)	Dairy Cattle (head)
1939	12,200	9,900	2,300
1940	11,100	8,700	2,400
1941	12,000	9,600	2,400
1942	13,400	10,700	2,700
1943	15,300	12,100	3,200
1944	17,300	14,200	3,100
1945	14,800	12,100	2,700
1946	13,000	11,000	2,000
1947	13,000	11,300	1,700
1948	12,900	11,300	1,600
1949	12,600	10,900	1,700
1950	11,300	9,700	1,600
1951	12,000	10,600	1,400
1952	13,000	11,700	1,300
1953	13,500	12,300	1,200
1954	13,500	12,100	1,400
1955	13,800	12,500	1,300
1956	14,200	13,000	1,200

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

Dairying is a secondary part of the cattle industry. Dairy cattle numbers reached a peak of 3,200 head in 1943. A steady decline has occurred since then with 1,200 head being estimated in 1956. The highest total value of dairy products sales was reached about 1944. By 1949 whole milk sales were double the 1944 total while sales of cream were down to one-third of the 1944 figure. Cream production since 1949 has remained almost constant although the number of farms selling cream declined by one-third. The number of farms selling whole milk dropped one-third between 1949 and 1954 and whole milk sales declined sharply also. Dairy is primarily for supplying local fluid milk and cream markets.

Table 24.- Dairy Products Sold From Farms  
Garfield County, 1939-1954

Year	Whole Milk Sold From Farms		Cream Sold From Farms		Butter Sold From Farms	
	(pounds)	(dollars)	(pounds)	(dollars)	(pounds)	(dollars)
1939	454,805	6,596	117,142	29,285	2,284	640
1944	552,619	17,357	118,439	60,404	255	120
1949	687,233	29,665	39,034	26,028	--	--
1954	848,015	38,893	39,845	20,389	--	--

Source: U. S. Census, Agriculture

### Hogs

In common with a general state-wide trend, the raising of hogs has been declining in recent years. Hog numbers increased about one-fourth between 1939 and 1944 reaching a peak of over 5,200 head. A rapid decline occurred in the late 1940's and a slower downtrend since 1950. There were about 1,700 head reported in 1954. Until recent years, hogs were the second most important source of income from livestock in the county. Over 70 farmers were feeding hogs in 1954 and they sold about 1,600 head grossing \$52,000 in that year. The number of farms selling hogs and the number of hogs sold declined sharply between 1949 and 1954. The income from hog sales declined to about two-fifths of the 1949 total.

### Sheep

In the last 20 years there has been a great decline in sheep numbers in Garfield County. There were 300 sheep reported in 1954 compared to 9,000 in 1939. Sheep were kept on 22 farms in 1954 and flocks were smaller than in earlier years. Large range flocks, common up to 1939, have disappeared. A recent trend of raising farm flocks of 10 to 30 head has caused sheep numbers to increase slightly. In 1954 there were 18 farms with a total of 170 ewes. This was almost twice the number of ewes kept in 1949. Pounds of wool shorn increased from 1,100 pounds in 1949 to 1,900 pounds in 1954. Sales of live sheep totaled 81 head from 12 farms for a gross of \$1,400 in 1954. This was a decline from the number of sheep sold in 1949.

### Horses and Mules

Horses and mules for farm work and transportation have decreased in the last 30 years as tractors and vehicles were put into use. The 500 horses and

mules enumerated by the Census of 1954 were just one-fifth of the total reported for 1939. Sales of horses and mules were made by 12 farms in 1954 which sold 21 head for a gross of \$1,000. A total of 182 farm places in the county reported horses and/or mules in 1954. Only 7 farms reported using horses and/or mules alone for work power in 1954. Most horses being kept are riding types used mainly for recreation.

Table 25.- Hogs, Sheep, Horses and Mules  
Garfield County, 1939-1954

Year	Hogs (head)	Sheep (head)	Horses and Mules (head)
1939	4,362	9,018	2,494
1944	5,242	5,600	1,413
1949	2,571	207	817
1954	1,722	303	492

Source: U. S. Census, Agriculture

### Poultry Farming

Poultry farming is a minor sideline on many Garfield County farms. There were 115 farm places selling poultry and/or poultry products in 1954. Gross sales were \$22,700, ranking poultry farming fourth among the livestock enterprises of Garfield County. Commercial egg production is the leading part of the poultry industry. A total of 97 farms sold 42,200 dozen eggs for a gross return of \$17,900 during 1954. This was a decline of about one-third from the 1949 level. In the post-World War II years there have been less poultry on the county's farms than before and during the war. The sale of chickens for meat is secondary to egg production. In 1954 a total of 4,400 birds were sold from 66 farms for \$4,600.

The raising of turkeys has almost ceased in recent years. During 1954 three farms raised 46 turkeys. In 1949 about 500 were raised on two farms. Light breeds are preferred. No turkeys were kept for breeding in 1954.

Table 26.- Chickens, Egg Production and Turkeys Raised  
Garfield County, 1939-1954

Year	Chickens (birds)	Egg Production (dozens)	Turkeys Raised (birds)
1939	16,637	116,670	791
1944	20,598	173,702	716
1949	11,419	59,494 1/2	475
1954	10,807	42,247 1/2	46

1/2 Eggs sold only, does not include eggs consumed on farm where produced.

Source: U. S. Census, Agriculture