

PART VI

LIVESTOCK AND LIVESTOCK PRODUCTS

General Importance

Livestock and livestock products form the most important part of Ferry County's agricultural economy. According to the Census of Agriculture, farmers in the county sold animals and animal products worth \$931,057 in 1959. This figure represents over 70 percent of the value of all farm products sold in the county during that year.

In 1959, Ferry County livestockmen received \$902,204 from sales of livestock and livestock products other than poultry and dairy. Most of this sales figure represents cattle and/or calves sold alive off the farms. Farm sales of dairy products totaled \$15,997 during the same year. Also in 1959, the marketing of poultry and poultry products off the farm added \$12,856 to the county's agricultural economy. The importance of the livestock industry in the county as indicated by the amount of sales is further shown by the fact that most of the area's cropland is devoted to feed crops.

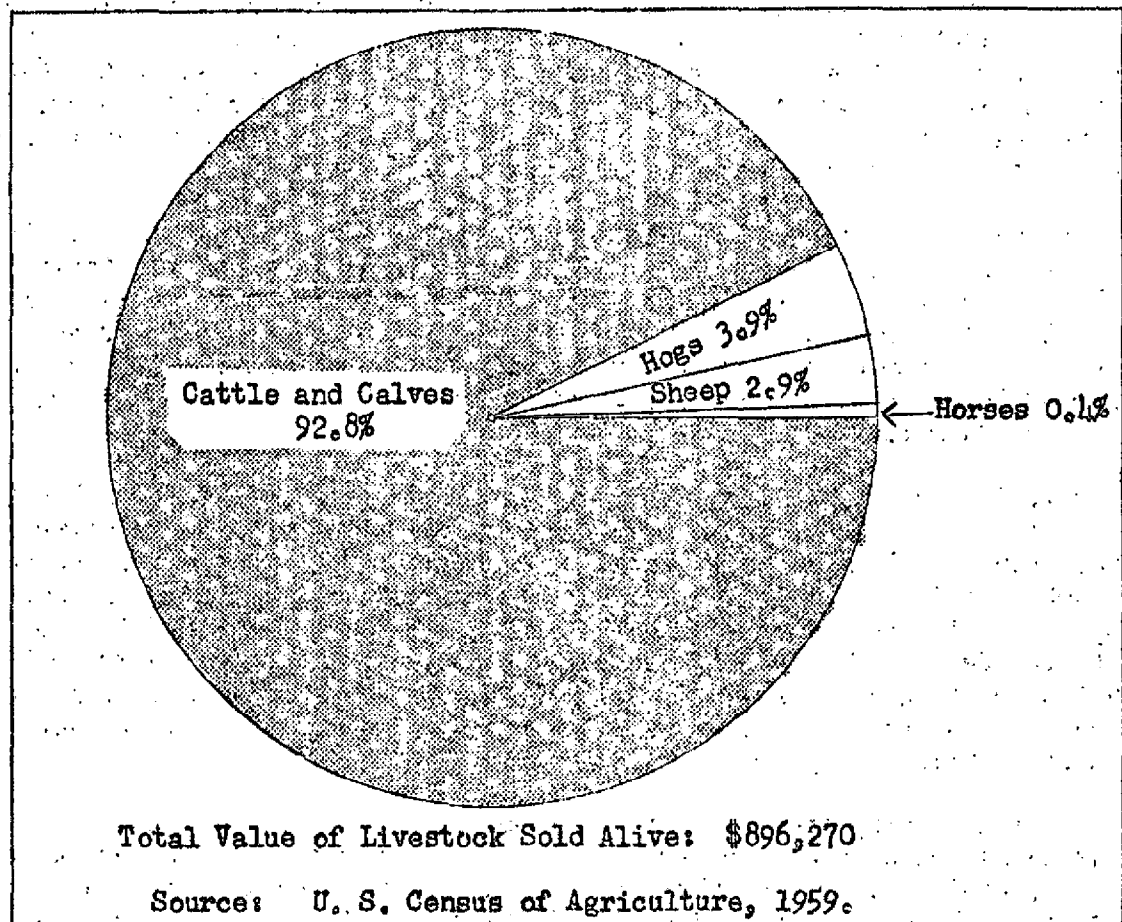


Figure 10. Value of Livestock Sold Alive
Ferry County, 1959

Livestock Trends

Significant changes have occurred in livestock farming in Ferry County since 1940. The value of livestock and livestock products sold increased from \$345,783 in 1940 to \$931,057 in 1959. There were more beef cattle in the county in 1959 than in 1940 while the opposite was true for dairy cattle, chickens, turkeys, hogs, sheep and horses. Changes also have occurred in the production of dairy and poultry products. The production of both milk and cream have decreased since the 1940's. Farm eggs have increased slightly in sales in recent years but the farm marketing of chickens and turkeys has continued to drop.

Cattle: Beef and Dairy

Cattle are the mainstay of Ferry County agriculture. According to the Census of Agriculture, nearly 86 percent of the farms in the county reported cattle and/or calves on hand in 1959. The combined value of cattle and calves plus dairy products sold off Ferry County farms in 1959 amounted to \$847,598 or about 64 percent of the value of all farm products sold during that year.

The overall trend in beef cattle numbers has been upward in Ferry County over the last quarter century. Beef cattle numbered around 8,100 head in 1939 compared with an estimated figure of 16,900 head in 1962. The number of beef cattle reached high levels during World War II and again in the mid-1950's. Favorable market conditions have prompted farmers to increase their cattle herds. Also, stockmen have been able to increase their ability to handle more animals by use of modern machinery and better land use practices.

In 1959, most farms with cattle had herds of less than 100 head. Only 45 farms reported having herds of 100 and over. The majority of the farms with beef cattle are located in the northwestern part of the county between Republic and the international boundary. Beef cattle also are found in the lowlands along the eastern border especially around Inchelium. Others are raised in the southwestern corner of the county. In addition, cattle are taken into the higher range areas during the summer.

Dairying occupies a relatively minor role in Ferry County's agriculture. Adverse climate, small local market and remoteness in relation to metropolitan centers have all hampered the development of extensive dairying in the county. The number of dairy cattle in Ferry County has decreased since World War II. In 1943, the estimated figure was 5,300 head compared with 700 head in 1962. According to the Census of Agriculture, dairy products sold off the farms in 1949 amounted to \$87,423 compared with \$15,997 in 1959. Farm sales of dairy products in 1959 represented only 1.2 percent of the total value of farm products sold in the county during the year.

For many years, cream was the main source of farm income in Ferry County as far as dairy products are concerned, with the farm sales of whole milk in a secondary position. Cream sales off the farms have greatly declined in recent years from 101,868 pounds in 1949 to 10,051 pounds in 1959. Sales of whole milk off the farm has also fallen during the same decade. Farmers sold nearly 460,000 pounds in 1949 compared with 288,328 pounds in 1959. In 1949, 175 farms reported sales of cream in contrast to 26 in 1959. Also, milk was sold by 24 farms in 1949 compared with 5 in 1959. The Census counted 35 farms in the county specializing in dairying in 1949 while only 1 was enumerated in 1959.

Table 21. Livestock Numbers on Farms
Ferry County, 1939-1962

Year	All Cattle (head)	Beef Cattle (head)	Dairy Cattle (head)
1939	11,700	8,100	3,600
1940	12,100	8,400	3,700
1941	13,000	9,300	3,700
1942	14,000	9,200	3,800
1943	16,700	11,400	5,300
1944	17,500	12,700	4,800
1945	15,300	11,500	3,800
1946	14,000	10,700	3,300
1947	14,000	11,100	2,900
1948	12,000	9,100	2,900
1949	12,000	9,600	2,400
1950	12,600	10,300	2,300
1951	12,000	9,700	2,300
1952	13,400	11,200	2,200
1953	14,700	12,800	1,900
1954	16,400	14,800	1,600
1955	18,500	16,900	1,600
1956	18,500	16,900	1,600
1957	17,000	15,700	1,300
1958	17,500	15,800	1,300
1959	16,400	15,800	600
1960	15,100	14,500	600
1961	16,000	15,300	700
1962	17,600	16,900	700

Source: Statistical Reporting Service, U.S.D.A.

Dairy cattle are located on valley farms in the northwestern part of the county. Republic provides a market outlet for cream and milk sold off the local farms.

Table 22. Dairy Products Sold From Farms
Ferry County, 1949-1959

Year	Any Milk or Cream Sold	Whole Milk Sold	Butterfat in Cream Sold
	(dollars)	(pounds)	(pounds)
1949	\$87,423	459,619	101,868
1954	46,510	233,800	71,842
1959	15,997	288,328	10,051

Source: U. S. Census of Agriculture

Poultry Farms

Ferry County's small poultry industry has declined in importance since World War II. Sales of poultry and poultry products from Ferry County farms decreased 44.4 percent from \$23,139 in 1949 to \$12,856 in 1959. Chickens sold numbered 3,044 in 1949 compared with 2,109 in 1959. The total number of farms which sold chickens and/or eggs also declined during this period from 158 in 1949 to 82 in 1959. According to the Census of Agriculture, there were no Ferry County farms specializing in poultry or poultry products in either 1949 to 1959.

The number of chickens four months and older on farms in Ferry County in 1959 was 7,541. The trend in chicken numbers since 1944 has been downward. Chickens are most numerous in the vicinity of Republic but they also are found in the Kettle River Valley north of Curlew.

Eggs sold off Ferry County farms in 1959 amounted to 33,217 dozen compared with 31,095 dozen in 1954 and 34,196 dozen in 1949. The number of farms reporting the sale of eggs was 142 in 1949 and 68 in 1959, representing a decrease of 52 percent over the decade.

Ferry County's turkey production is very minor. The number of birds raised in the county has continued to decline since 1945. In 1959, only 115 turkeys and turkey fryers were reported raised in the county compared with over 2,000 in 1944.

Table 23. Chickens, Eggs and Turkeys
Ferry County, 1939-1959

Year	Chickens <u>1/</u> (birds)	Egg Production (dozens)	Turkeys Raised (birds)
1939	16,490	105,528	1,134
1944	17,613	132,181	2,104
1949	11,346	34,196 <u>2/</u>	444
1954	11,024	31,095 <u>2/</u>	216
1959	7,541	33,217 <u>2/</u>	115

1/ 4 months and over. 2/ Eggs sold.

Source: U. S. Census of Agriculture.

Hogs

In recent years, hogs have ranked second to beef cattle in the amount of income Ferry County farmers have received from the sale of livestock off the farm. Hogs in the county have decreased in numbers since the peak years during World War II. The Census of Agriculture counted 2,392 head in 1944, while 1,365 head were noted in 1959. In 1959, 100 farms reported having hogs and pigs. During the same year, 1,062 hogs were sold alive off 65 of the county farms for a total value of \$35,046. Hogs are primarily raised in the northwestern part of the county north of Republic and in the area around Inchelium.

Sheep

Raising sheep in Ferry County declined during and immediately after World War II but has since then been met with more favor so that sheep numbers have been on

an upward trend in recent years. The sheep count increased over five-fold from 348 head in 1949 to 1,742 head in 1959. For the most part, sheep are kept in small farm flocks in Ferry County. Farms with sheep numbered 36 in 1959 with the majority of the farm flocks composed of less than 25 head. In 1959, 2,000 sheep and lambs worth \$26,000 were sold alive by Ferry County farmers while 14,473 pounds of wool were shorn from 1,538 sheep.

Table 24. Hogs, Sheep, Horses and Mules
Ferry County, 1939-1959

Year	Hogs (head)	Sheep (head)	Horses and Mules (head)
1939	1,678	6,884	2,810
1944	2,392	682	2,766
1949	1,786	348	2,002
1954	1,652	913	1,392
1959	1,365	1,742	858

Source: U. S. Census of Agriculture

Horses and Mules

The number of horses and mules in Ferry County has declined greatly since 1920 as the need for work and draft animals decreased in the wake of farm mechanization. In 1920, there were 4,311 horses and mules on farms and in 1959 there were only 858 head. In 1959, 33 horses and mules were sold off 21 farms for \$3,623.

Ferry County, Washington

Table 25. Livestock Sold From Farms
Ferry County, 1959

Livestock Sold	Number of Farms Reporting	Number Sold	Value in Dollars
Cattle	136	2,338	382,201
Calves	129	3,991	449,400
Horses and Mules	21	33	3,623
Hogs and Pigs	65	1,062	35,046
Sheep and Lambs	17	2,000	26,000
Broilers	--	--	--
Chickens (other than Broilers)	36	2,109	No Data

Source: U. S. Census of Agriculture, 1959.