

State Livestock Population Drops¹

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The overall livestock population on North Dakota farms was smaller on January 1, 1950, than a year earlier. January 1 inventory numbers of poultry were higher this year.

The downward trend for most species of livestock started during 1944 and has continued each year through 1949. Hog numbers were up on January 1, 1949, but slipped again this year. This is partially explained by earlier marketings of spring-farrowed pigs during the last months of 1949. Total numbers of all cattle and calves dropped one per cent during 1949, from 1,558,000 at the beginning of the year to 1,542,000 head at the end of the year.

However, milk cows showed a gain in numbers. On January 1, 1949, there were an estimated 417,000 head on North Dakota farms but by January 1, 1950, the milk cow population had increased one per cent to 421,000 head. This is the first upturn in milk cow numbers since 1944.

Stock sheep numbers at 346,000 head were down nine per cent from a year earlier. This is the smallest January 1 number of sheep on hand since 1925. Horse numbers continue to dwindle. On January 1 this year 153,000 were on hand in the state. This is the smallest number since 1891.

More poultry was on North Dakota farms at the beginning of this year than on January 1, 1949. Chicken numbers were up eight per cent to 4,872,000 birds. Turkey numbers at 44,000 were up ten per cent but still comprised only a small fraction of the 1939-48 average of 218,000 birds.

The total inventory value of all livestock on North Dakota farms January 1, 1950, was eleven per cent below that of January 1, 1949. It amounted to 234 million dollars at the beginning of 1950 compared with 264 million at the beginning of 1949. The lower value was due both to smaller inventory numbers and lower values per head.

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NORTH DAKOTA LIVESTOCK ON FARMS

January 1, 1942 - 1950

Year	Horses	All Cattle	Milk ¹ Cows ²	Stock Sheep ³	Hogs	Chickens	Turkeys
Number on Farms January 1 (Thousand Head)							
1939-48 Avg.	299	1616	544	793	604	5536	218
1942	352	1617	590	1052	587	5448	323
1943	341	1733	608	1020	957	6911	297
1944	314	1915	620	898	1101	7197	178
1945	286	1915	583	754	640	6288	153
1946	240	1781	525	618	621	6108	99
1947	202	1656	488	519	484	5316	79
1948	178	1590	444	452	411	5022	40
1949	164	1558	417	380	444	4508	40
1950	153	1542	421	346	413	4872	44

Farm Value Per Head, January 1 (Dollars)							
1939-48 Avg.	44.40	67.60	93.10	9.53	26.60	.90	3.90
1942	46.00	53.60	72.00	8.60	20.80	.71	2.85
1943	52.00	70.50	97.00	10.00	29.10	.93	4.00
1944	50.00	66.50	93.00	9.20	21.90	1.10	4.55
1945	37.00	66.30	92.00	8.70	26.90	1.12	4.75
1946	25.00	74.70	104.00	9.90	30.70	1.12	5.00
1947	30.00	97.80	135.00	13.80	45.60	1.28	5.60
1948	36.00	126.00	173.00	15.20	57.80	1.27	5.90
1949	38.00	143.00	197.00	16.10	48.80	1.49	7.70
1950	34.00	132.00	190.00	15.90	34.00	1.18	5.90

Total Farm Value, January 1 (Thousand Dollars)							
1939-48 Avg.	13,894	111,832	49,710	7,165	15,950	5,165	694
1942	16,346	86,673	42,480	9,047	12,211	3,868	921
1943	17,724	122,091	58,976	10,150	27,864	6,427	1,188
1944	15,573	127,348	57,660	8,254	24,118	7,917	810
1945	10,582	126,964	53,636	6,560	17,216	7,043	727
1946	6,000	133,041	54,600	6,118	19,065	6,841	495
1947	6,060	161,957	65,880	7,162	22,070	6,804	442
1948	6,408	200,340	76,812	6,870	23,756	6,378	236
1949	6,232	222,794	82,149	6,118	21,667	6,717	308
1950	5,202	203,554	79,990	5,501	14,042	5,749	260

NUMBER ON FARMS BY CLASSES (Thousand Head)

	January 1			January 1	
	1950	1949		1950	1949
All Cattle	1542	1558	All Sheep & Lambs	388	432
Milk Animals			No. on Feed.....	42	52
Cows 2 yrs. +.....	421	417	Total Stock Sheep	346	380
Heifers 1-2 yrs.....	94	90	Ewe Lambs.....	45	50
Heifer Calves.....	154	156	Wether & R. Lambs....	4	5
Other Animals			Ewes 1 yr. +.....	285	313
Cows 2 yrs. +.....	362	345	Rams 1 yr. +.....	10	10
Heifers 1-2 yrs.....	117	125	Wethers 1 yr. +.....	2	2
Other Calves	283	288	All Hogs	413	444
Steers 1 yr. +.....	74	100	Pigs 6 Mo.—.....	78	77
Bulls 1 yr. +.....	37	37	Sows & Gilts.....	138	130
			Other Hogs 6 Mo. +....	197	237

¹Included in all cattle.²Cows and heifers two years and older kept for milk.³Does not include sheep and lambs on feed.⁴Included in all cattle.⁵Does not include sheep and lambs on feed.⁶Cows and heifers two years old and older, kept for milk.