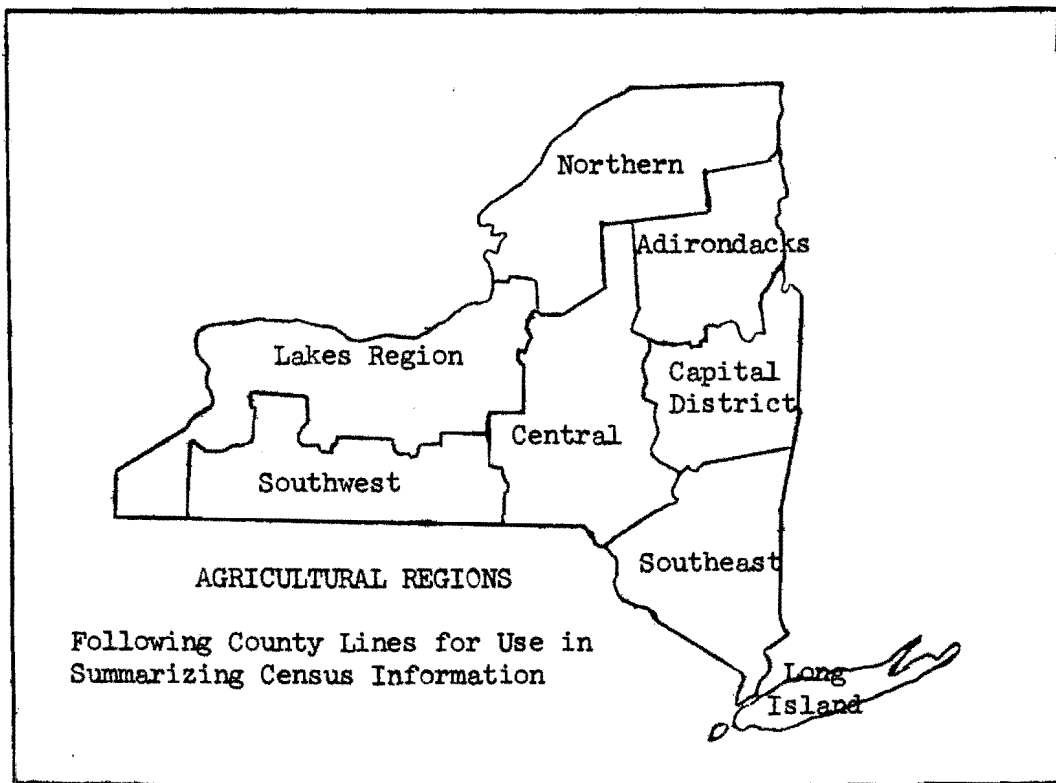


TYPE OF FARMING IN NEW YORK



S. W. Warren

Department of Agricultural Economics
Cornell University Agricultural Experiment Station
New York State College of Agriculture
A Statutory College of the State University
Cornell University, Ithaca, New York

TYPE OF FARMING IN NEW YORK

This report describes type-of-farming in New York State. The basic information is from the 1964 Census of Agriculture.

The state was divided into eight areas - as shown on the cover - and the type of farming for each area is reported. In using census data it was necessary to follow county lines in separating the eight areas.

LAND IN FARMS

The total land area of New York State is 30,600,000 acres. Of this, 12,275,000 acres - 40 percent of the total - was in farms in 1964. The use of the land in farms is shown in table 1. More than 60 percent of the harvested cropland was used for hay.

Table 1. LAND IN FARMS, NEW YORK, 1964
United States Census

<u>Crop or use</u>	<u>Acres</u>
Hay	2,925,000
Corn	620,000
Oats	490,000
Wheat	191,000
Potatoes, dry beans, and other vegetables	331,000
Fruit	148,000
Other crops	<u>38,000</u>
Total harvested crops	4,743,000
Open pasture	3,293,000
Woodland pastured	816,000
Woodland not pastured	1,912,000
Other land (idle, crop failure, soil bank, farmsteads, roads, etc.)	<u>1,511,000</u>
Total land in farms	12,275,000

NUMBER OF FARMS

The census' definition of a farm was based on a combination of acres in the place and the estimated value of agricultural products sold. Places of less than 10 acres were counted as farms, if the estimated sales of agricultural products for the year amounted to at least \$250. Places of 10 or more acres were counted as farms, if the estimated sales of agricultural products for the year amounted to at least \$50.

Using this definition, the 1964 census counted 66,510 farms in New York State.

In general, all farms with a value of sales amounting to \$2,500 or more were classified as commercial. Farms with value of sales \$50 to \$2,499 were classified as commercial, if the farm operator was under sixty-five years of age and he did not work off the farm 100 or more days during the year. Using this classification, 48,376 farms - 73 percent of the total number - were "commercial".

The commercial farms were classified as to type. To be classified as a particular type, a farm had to have sales of a particular product or group of products amounting in value to fifty percent or more of the total value of all farm products sold during the year. The delineation of the various farm types is described on page 3.

Table 2 shows the distribution of New York's commercial farms by type. Almost two-thirds were "dairy". The remaining third were of many types.

Table 2. COMMERCIAL FARMS BY TYPE, NEW YORK, 1964
United States Census

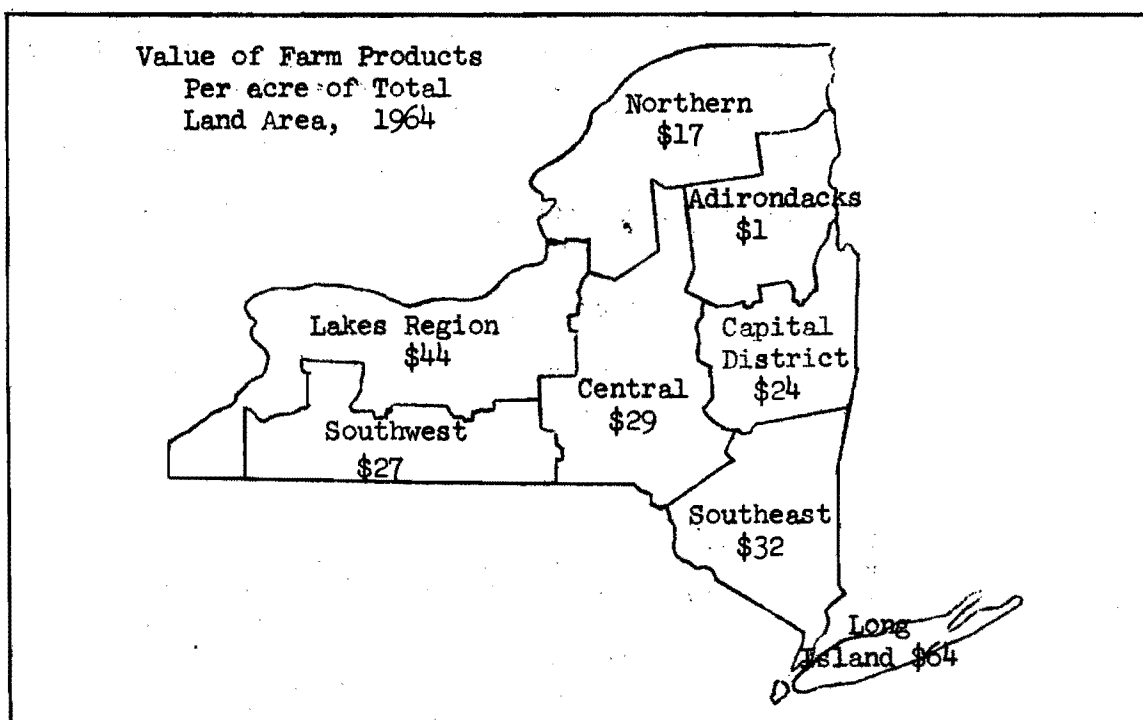
<u>Type</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Per cent of total</u>
Dairy	31,195	64.5
Poultry	1,993	4.1
Other livestock	2,565	5.3
Cash grain	1,569	3.2
Potato	718	1.5
Vegetable	1,430	3.0
Fruit	2,639	5.4
Miscellaneous	2,795	5.8
General	<u>3,472</u>	<u>7.2</u>
Total	48,376	100.0

CLASSIFICATION OF FARMS BY TYPE, 1964 CENSUS

<u>Type of Farm</u>	<u>Products Included</u>
Dairy	Milk and cream. A farm having value of sales of dairy products amounting to less than fifty percent of the total value of farm products sold was also classified as a dairy farm if: A) milk and cream sold accounted for more than thirty percent of the total value of products sold and-B) milk cows represented fifty percent or more of total cows and-C) the value of milk and cream sold plus the value of cattle and calves sold amounted to fifty percent or more of the total value of all farm products sold.
Poultry	Chickens, chicken eggs, ducks, turkeys, and other poultry products.
Other livestock	Cattle, calves, hogs, sheep, goats, wool and mohair.
Cash grain	Corn, sorghum, small grain, soybeans for beans, cowpeas for peas, dry field and seed beans and peas.
Tobacco	Tobacco
Cotton	Cotton
Other field crops	Peanuts, potatoes (Irish and sweet), sugar cane for sugar or syrup, sweet sorghum for syrup, broom corn, popcorn, sugarbeets, mint, hops, and sugar beet seed. (For New York State it is assumed that all "other crop farms" were specialized in potatoes).
Vegetable	Vegetables
Fruit and nut	Berries, other small fruits, tree fruits, grapes and nuts.
Miscellaneous	Nursery and greenhouse products, forest products, mules, horses, colts, ponies, fur bearing animals, bees, honey, goat milk.
General	Field seed crops, hay, grass and silage. A farm was also classified as general, if it had cash income from three or more sources and did not meet the criteria for any other type.

VALUE OF FARM PRODUCTS SOLD

The total value of farm products sold from New York farms in 1964 was \$853,000,000. One measure of the intensity of farming in a region is the value of farm products per acre of total land area. As shown on the map below, this varied from \$1 in the Adirondacks to \$64 on Long Island.



The value of farm products per acre of total land area for New York and some other states was as follows in 1964:-

New York	\$28
Pennsylvania	\$27
Iowa	\$72
Kansas	\$22
Georgia	\$22
Montana	\$4
California	\$35
48 States	\$18

Each of these figures was calculated by dividing the total value of farm products by the total land area which includes the land not in farms as well as that in farms.

SIZE OF FARMS

Using value of farm products sold as a measure of size, the census shows the size of the farms of each type. Potato farms averaged more than \$60,000 farm products per farm, table 3. Cattle, hog, sheep, cash grain, and general farms averaged less than \$10,000 per farm.

Sixty percent of the dairy farms were in the "middle group" with \$10,000 to \$40,000 farm products sold. No other type of farming had more than 35 percent in this "middle group".

As indicated on page 3, the "miscellaneous" farms include a wide variety. Some of these farms are large nursery and greenhouse businesses. Others are small forest product "farms".

Table 3. SIZE OF NEW YORK FARMS, BY TYPE, 1964
United States Census

Type of farm	Number of farms	Average size (value of farm products sold per farm)	Per cent of farms		
			Selling less than \$10,000 farm products	Selling \$10,000 to \$40,000 farm products	Selling over \$40,000 farm products
Dairy	31,195	\$16,200	36	60	4
Poultry	1,993	40,200	40	34	26
Cattle, hog, sheep	2,565	7,200	86	12	2
Cash grain	1,569	9,200	73	24	3
Potato	718	61,600	14	35	51
Vegetable	1,430	26,400	49	35	16
Fruit	2,639	20,400	53	35	12
Miscellaneous	2,795	18,200	66	24	10
General	3,472	8,200	81	16	3
Total	48,376	\$17,200	46	47	7

TYPE OF FARMING BY REGIONS

A summary of the 1964 Census information for each of the eight regions shown on the cover is given on pages 6-13.

THE LAKES REGION

This is a part of the "Lake States" region of the United States. Thirty percent of the state's farm products were produced here in 1964. The topography is favorable for farming and the influence of the lakes moderates the climate.

Dairy farms were the most common, but accounted for less than half of the total number of farms. This region produces a high proportion of the state's vegetables and fruit for processing. One-eighth of the farms were specialized in fruit.

5,900,000 total acres	21,445 farms
1,561,000 acres in crops	14,539 commercial farms
26 per cent in crops	68 per cent commercial
<u>Value of farm products sold</u>	<u>Per cent of state total</u>
\$257,000,000 total	Land area 19.3
\$44 per acre of total land area	Crop acres 32.9
\$165 per acre of crops	Number of farms 32.2
\$12,000 per farm	Number of commercial farms 30.1
	Value of farm products sold 30.1

Commercial Farms Classified by Type

<u>Type</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Per cent of total</u>
Dairy	6,524	44.9
Poultry	584	4.0
Cattle, hog, sheep	862	5.9
Cash grain	1,356	9.3
Potato	129	0.9
Vegetable	764	5.3
Fruit	1,932	13.3
Miscellaneous	747	5.1
General	<u>1,641</u>	<u>11.3</u>
Total	14,539	100.0

Counties included are:- Cayuga, Chautauqua, Erie, Genesee, Livingston, Monroe, Niagara, Onondaga, Ontario, Orleans, Oswego, Seneca, Wayne, Yates.

SOUTHWEST

The western part of the Plateau Country - a hill and valley region. Almost three-fourths of the farms are dairy. The other one-fourth include all types found in the state. Northern Steuben County is the major potato region of upstate New York.

3,900,000 total acres	9,815 farms
701,000 acres in crops	6,597 commercial farms
18 per cent in crops	67 per cent commercial

<u>Value of farm products sold</u>	<u>Per cent of state total</u>	
\$105,000,000 total	Land area	12.7
\$27 per acre of total land area	Crop acres	14.8
\$150 per acre of crops	Number of farms	14.8
\$10,700 per farm	Number of commercial farms	13.6
	Value of farm products sold	12.3

Commercial Farms Classified by Type

<u>Type</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Per cent of total</u>
Dairy	4,770	72.3
Poultry	226	3.4
Cattle, hog, sheep	438	6.7
Cash grain	132	2.0
Potato	107	1.6
Vegetable	33	0.5
Fruit	139	2.1
Miscellaneous	257	3.9
General	<u>495</u>	<u>7.5</u>
Total	6,597	100.0

Counties included are:- Allegany, Cattaraugus, Chemung, Schuyler, Steuben, Tioga, Tompkins, Wyoming.

CENTRAL

This is hill and valley country. Soils vary widely in lime content and in water-handling capacity. The area includes some of the best farming opportunities in the state, and some of the poorest. More than four-fifths of the farms are specialized in dairy. Less than two percent of the farms were specialized in crop production.

5,100,000 total acres	12,272 farms
853,000 acres in crops	9,457 commercial farms
17 per cent in crops	77 per cent commercial

<u>Value of farm products sold</u>	<u>Per cent of state total</u>	
\$150,000,000 total	Land area	16.7
\$29 per acre of total land area	Crop acres	18.0
\$176 per acre of crops	Number of farms	18.5
\$12,200 per farm	Number of commercial farms	19.6
	Value of farm products sold	17.6

Commercial Farms Classified by Type

<u>Type</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Per cent of total</u>
Dairy	7,871	83.2
Poultry	262	2.8
Cattle, hog, sheep	480	5.1
Cash grain	29	0.3
Potato	31	0.3
Vegetable	73	0.8
Fruit	22	0.2
Miscellaneous	289	3.1
General	<u>400</u>	<u>4.2</u>
Total	9,457	100.0

Counties included are:- Broome, Chenango, Cortland, Delaware, Herkimer, Madison, Oneida, Otsego.

NORTHERN NEW YORK

The farming in this area is concentrated in the lowlands along Lake Ontario, the Saint Lawrence River, Lake Champlain, and the Black River. In following county lines it is necessary to include the northern Adirondacks.

This is the most specialized farming area of the state with more than 85 percent of the farms classified as dairy. Only one percent of the farms were specialized in crop production.

5,200,000 total acres	8,380 farms
674,000 acres in crops	6,779 commercial farms
13 per cent in crops	81 per cent commercial
<u>Value of farm products sold</u>	<u>Per cent of state total</u>
\$88,000,000 total	Land area 17.0
\$17 per acre of total land area	Crop acres 14.2
\$131 per acre of crops	Number of farms 12.6
\$10,500 per farm	Number of commercial farms 14.0
	Value of farm products sold 10.3

Commercial Farms Classified by Type

<u>Type</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Per cent of total</u>
Dairy	5,879	86.7
Poultry	76	1.1
Cattle, hog, sheep	211	3.1
Cash grain	10	0.1
Potato	27	0.4
Vegetable	17	0.3
Fruit	15	0.2
Miscellaneous	187	2.8
General	<u>357</u>	<u>5.3</u>
Total	6,779	100.0

Counties included are:- Clinton, Franklin, Jefferson, Lewis, St. Lawrence.

THE ADIRONDACKS

Hamilton County is entirely within the Adirondacks, and Essex and Warren Counties are almost all in the mountains. These three counties have about three-fifths of the total Adirondack area. In following county lines, the other two-fifths of the area is included in the Northern, Central, and Capital District regions.

The three counties designated as "Adirondacks" account for almost one-tenth of the state's land area, but less than one percent of the farming. The "miscellaneous" farms in this area are mostly small places where forest products are the major source of income.

2,900,000 total acres	558 farms
31,000 acres in crops	310 commercial farms
1 per cent in crops	56 per cent commercial
<u>Value of farm products sold</u>	<u>Per cent of state total</u>
\$4,000,000 total	Land area 9.5
\$1 per acre of total land area	Crop acres 0.6
\$129 per acre of crops	Number of farms 0.8
\$7,200 per farm	Number of commercial farms 0.6
	Value of farm products sold 0.5

Commercial Farms Classified by Type

<u>Type</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Per cent of total</u>
Dairy	165	53.2
Poultry	7	2.3
Cattle, hog, sheep	17	5.5
Cash grain	0	-
Potato	4	1.3
Vegetable	2	0.6
Fruit	7	2.3
Miscellaneous	53	17.1
General	<u>55</u>	<u>17.7</u>
Total	310	100.0

CAPITAL DISTRICT

The "Capital District" is dominated by the urban complex of Albany-Troy-Schenectady and other cities. There is some intensive farming in the best valleys, but in general the farming is rather extensive. The dominant type of farming is dairy, but there are small numbers of farms of a wide variety of types.

2,900,000 total acres	6,538 farms
478,000 acres in crops	4,770 commercial farms
16 per cent in crops	73 per cent commercial
<u>Value of farm products sold</u>	<u>Per cent of state total</u>
\$71,000,000 total	Land area 9.5
\$24 per acre of total land area	Crop acres 10.1
\$150 per acre of crops	Number of farms 9.8
\$10,900 per farm	Number of commercial farms 9.9
	Value of farm products sold 8.3

Commercial Farms Classified by Type

<u>Type</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Per cent of total</u>
Dairy	3,547	74.4
Poultry	218	4.6
Cattle, hog, sheep	284	5.9
Cash grain	24	0.5
Potato	5	0.1
Vegetable	84	1.8
Fruit	50	1.0
Miscellaneous	245	5.1
General	<u>313</u>	<u>6.6</u>
Total	4,770	100.0

Counties included are:- Albany, Fulton, Montgomery, Saratoga, Schenectady, Schoharie, Washington, Rensselaer.

SOUTHEAST

A diverse region which includes the Catskill Mountains, Hudson Valley apple farms, muckland vegetables of Orange County, large poultry farms which might be called "egg factories", country estates, and intensive dairy farming. For many years, this area has enjoyed special price advantages in the milk market. The average size of farm as measured by value of farm products sold was above all other regions except Long Island.

3,800,000 total acres	6,068 farms
388,000 acres in crops	4,695 commercial farms
10 per cent in crops	77 per cent commercial
<u>Value of farm products sold</u>	<u>Per cent of state total</u>
\$120,000,000 total	Land area 12.4
\$32 per acre of total land area	Crop acres 8.2
\$309 per acre of crops	Number of farms 9.1
\$19,800 per farm	Number of commercial farms 9.7
	Value of farm products sold 14.1

Commercial Farms Classified by Type

<u>Type</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Per cent of total</u>
Dairy	2,411	51.4
Poultry	503	10.7
Cattle, hog, sheep	267	5.7
Cash grain	11	0.2
Potato	8	0.1
Vegetable	348	7.4
Fruit	460	9.8
Miscellaneous	492	10.5
General	<u>195</u>	<u>4.2</u>
Total	4,695	100.0

Counties included are:- Columbia, Dutchess, Greene, Orange, Putnam, Rockland, Sullivan, Ulster, Westchester.

LONG ISLAND

This is part of the Middle Atlantic region of the United States. A large part of the land is urban, but because of the intensity of the farming, the "island" accounted for seven percent of New York's farm products in 1964. "Miscellaneous" farms were the most numerous. Most of the "miscellaneous" farms on Long Island are specialized in nursery products, turf production, and greenhouse products.

One-third of the farms were specialized in potato production. The "island" produced 53 percent of the state's potatoes. The poultry farms include the nation's major duck producing area. The average size of farm as measured by the value of farm products sold was much larger than in any other region of the state.

900,000 total acres	1,434 farms
57,000 acres in crops	1,229 commercial farms
6 per cent in crops	86 per cent commercial
<u>Value of farm products</u>	<u>Per cent of state total</u>
\$58,000,000 total	Land area 2.9
\$64 per acre of total land area	Crop acres 1.2
\$1,018 per acre of crops	Number of farms 2.2
\$40,400 per farm	Number of commercial farms 2.5
	Value of farm products sold 6.8

Commercial Farms Classified by Type

<u>Type</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Per cent of total</u>
Dairy	28	2.3
Poultry	117	9.5
Cattle, hog, sheep	6	0.5
Cash grain	7	0.6
Potato	407	33.1
Vegetable	109	8.9
Fruit	14	1.1
Miscellaneous	525	42.7
General	<u>16</u>	<u>1.3</u>
Total	1,229	100.0