

This mechanization, coupled with improved farm-management techniques, particularly in the field of artificial fertilizers, has had a remarkable effect on production particularly in the dairying field. The following table gives a picture of the increase in dairy production over the period since 1923-24:—

Table No. 78.—Table showing Estimated Production of Butterfat from 1923-24 to 1943-44

Season.	Tons of Butterfat (to nearest 100 Tons).*	Butterfat. in Million Pounds.*	Cows in Milk. in Thousands.	Butterfat per Cow (to nearest Pound).
<i>Old Series—</i>				
1923-24	102,000	228.5	1,185	193
1924-25	107,600	241.0	1,196	202
1925-26	104,400	233.9	1,181	198
1926-27	115,500	258.7	1,182	219
1927-28	118,000	264.2	1,243	213
1928-29	129,000	289.1	1,291	224
1929-30	140,200	314.1	1,390	226
1930-31	143,800	322.0	1,500	215
1931-32	151,700	339.8	1,583	215
1932-33	177,300	397.1	1,724	230
1933-34	190,500	426.7	1,816	235
1934-35	183,000	409.9	1,828	224
<i>New Series—</i>				
1935-36	192,300	430.9	1,823	236
1936-37	203,500	455.8	1,805	252
1937-38	191,200	428.4	1,764	243
1938-39	179,600	402.4	1,744	231
1939-40	194,900	436.6	1,740	251
1940-41	210,500	471.5	1,780	265
1941-42	196,400	439.9	1,777	248
1942-43	182,800	409.6	1,736	236
1943-44	173,100	387.8	1,669	232

* Department of Agriculture data.

The steady rise in numbers of cows in milk, and in the aggregate and per-cow production of butterfat from 1919-20 to the outbreak of the war are a clear indication of the development of dairying in the period. When it is remembered that this rise was not due to any great increase in the area devoted to dairying, but rather to the mechanization of the industry and to the better farm-management techniques (including artificial fertilizers), some idea of the importance of these factors can be appreciated. The fall in the number of dairy cows in milk and in the aggregate and per-cow production of butterfat since 1941 is directly due to the inability to obtain phosphatic fertilizers because of war conditions, and is not an indication of a real recession in dairy-farming. There are indications, however, that herd-replacement is proceeding at a very rapid rate at the present time.

D. POPULATION ENGAGED IN AGRICULTURE

The above discussion leads on to the question of the population engaged in agriculture.