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A STATISTICAL STUDY OF  
LIVESTOCK PRODUCTION  
AND MARKETING

*By*

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In co-operation with the Bureau of Agricultural Economics,  
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## PREFACE

The study reported here was undertaken at the Cowles Commission for Research in Economics in the fall of 1950 with the cooperation of the former Bureau of Agricultural Economics, United States Department of Agriculture, and the agricultural economics research group of the University of Chicago. Work on the project was substantially completed in 1952, but the pressure of other activities and the change in locations of the authors have somewhat delayed the preparation of a manuscript for publication.

The reason for the study was, in the first instance, methodological. It was desired to try various methods, recent and traditional, of problem formulation and statistical analysis in an important and promising practical setting. Useful empirical results were sought, but the main emphasis was placed on the development, application, and testing of methods that might prove effective in analyzing interrelated segments of economic activity. The livestock complex seemed an appropriate field for study because of its importance, the availability of data, and the possibility of obtaining guidance from previous studies and from experienced research workers familiar with one or more aspects of the livestock industry.

As the work progressed, the authors sought advice from various sources, and many helpful suggestions were received. However, divergent views were not infrequent, and so it cannot be assumed that any particular procedure followed would be endorsed by all those whose assistance was obtained. At the stage of building a theoretical model, a number of discussions were held with Professors T. W. Schultz and D. Gale Johnson of the University of Chicago, with Roland Welborn of the commercial research department of Swift and Company, and with Karl A. Fox, Richard J. Foote, and Harold Breimyer, who were at that time attached to the division of statistical and historical research of the Bureau of Agricultural Economics. The Agricultural Marketing Service has subsequently taken over this part of the work formerly done by the Bureau of Agricultural Economics.

In tabulating and interpreting data from published sources, substantial help was obtained from R. D. Jennings and Malcolm Clough, formerly of the Bureau of Agricultural Economics. Through the Bureau, access to some unpublished materials was also provided. An earlier draft of the manuscript was read by Professor George Kuznets of the Giannini Foundation, University of California, and substantial portions were read by Professors T. C. Koopmans and Roy Radner of the Cowles Com-

mission and by Dr. Fox. The present version benefits from several of their suggestions, and, in addition, they have provided some criticisms that are likely to be useful in future studies.

The authors are also indebted to the former Bureau of Agricultural Economics for the main financial support for the project, which was conducted with contract funds under the Agricultural Marketing Act of 1946, and to O. V. Wells, then chief of the Bureau of Agricultural Economics and now administrator of the Agricultural Marketing Service, for his continuing interest in the work. Computations were performed at the Cowles Commission under the supervision, at various times, of Dan Waterman, Jagna Zahl, Totaro Miyashita, and Francis Bobkoski.

*March 1955*

CLIFFORD HILDRETH  
F. G. JARRETT

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