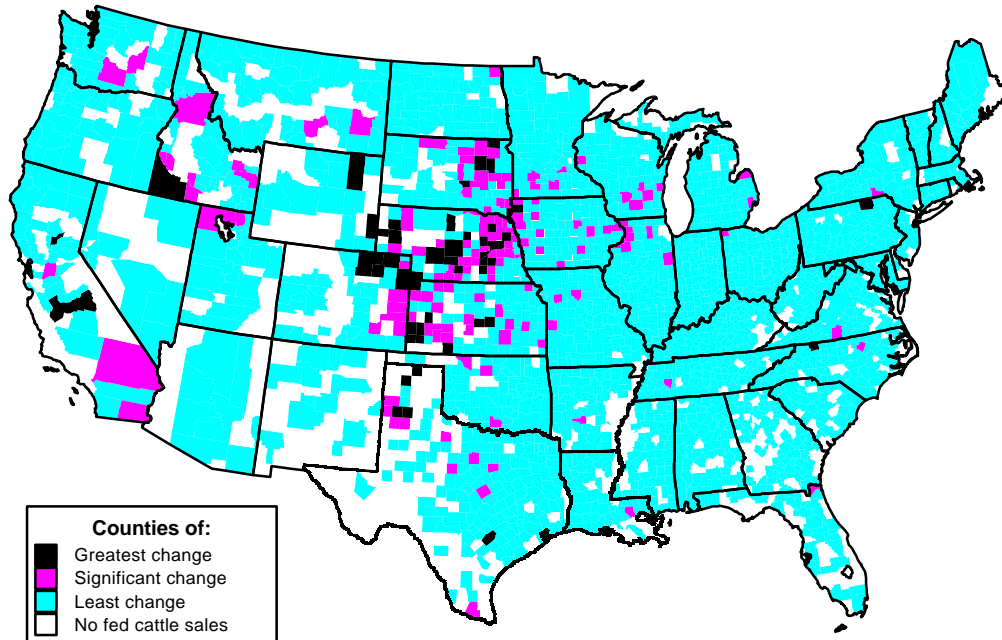


Figure 13

**Structural change in fed cattle sales, 1978-92**

Source: Compiled by ERS using census of agriculture data.

Compared with the other livestock industries, many more counties with a beef cow inventory experienced significant structural change during the study period, about 25 percent (table 4). However, the U.S. average change in per farm inventory of the beef herd is much lower than that of other commodities. Among all counties with beef cows, the per farm beef cow inventory declined 2 percent compared with an increase of 100 percent or more in other livestock industries while the variation among counties is much less. Counties with above-average change are located throughout the country in all regions, but primarily are in the West, Plains, and Southeast (fig. 14). Counties of greatest structural change are heavily concentrated in the Central and Southern Plains. The per farm beef cow inventory increased 27 percent over the study period in counties of greatest change, compared with a decline of 9 percent in counties of least change.

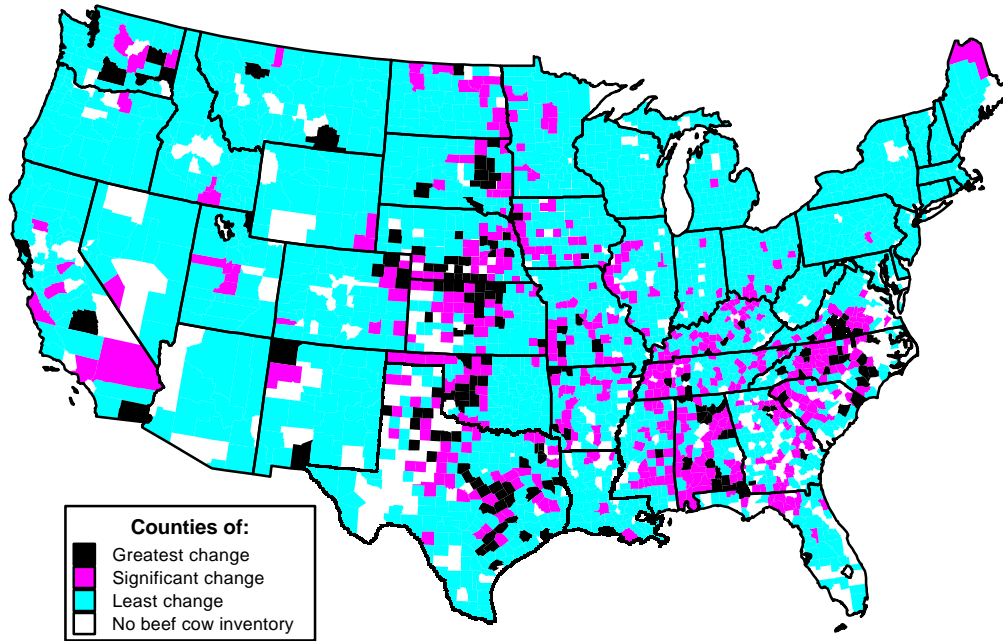
Structural change was significant during 1969-92 in about 11 percent of U.S. counties with broiler sales (table 4), while the overall industry grew dramatically. Growth in the broiler industry appears to have been shared among a few counties in the major producing areas of the Nation. The proportion of U.S. sales from counties with above-average change increased

from 48 to 58 percent. Per farm sales increased the most in the traditional production areas of the Southeast and Mid-Atlantic (fig. 15). In counties of greatest structural change, per farm sales increased more than 300 percent during the study period, but also increased 172 percent in counties where structural change is least.

In egg production, only about 7 percent of U.S. counties with a layer hen and pullet inventory had significantly above-average structural change during the 1969-92 period (table 4). However, the proportion of the U.S. layer inventory increased in these counties from 20 to nearly 70 percent. Counties with above-average change are spread throughout the country in all regions with no apparent geographic pattern (fig. 16). Counties of greatest structural change are mainly in the eastern half of the Nation, including specific counties in Pennsylvania and Ohio where growth in the layer inventory was greatest during the 1969-92 period. The per farm layer inventory increased more than 2,000 percent over the study period in counties of greatest change, while the portion of national inventory in these counties increased from 4 to nearly 30 percent.

Figure 14

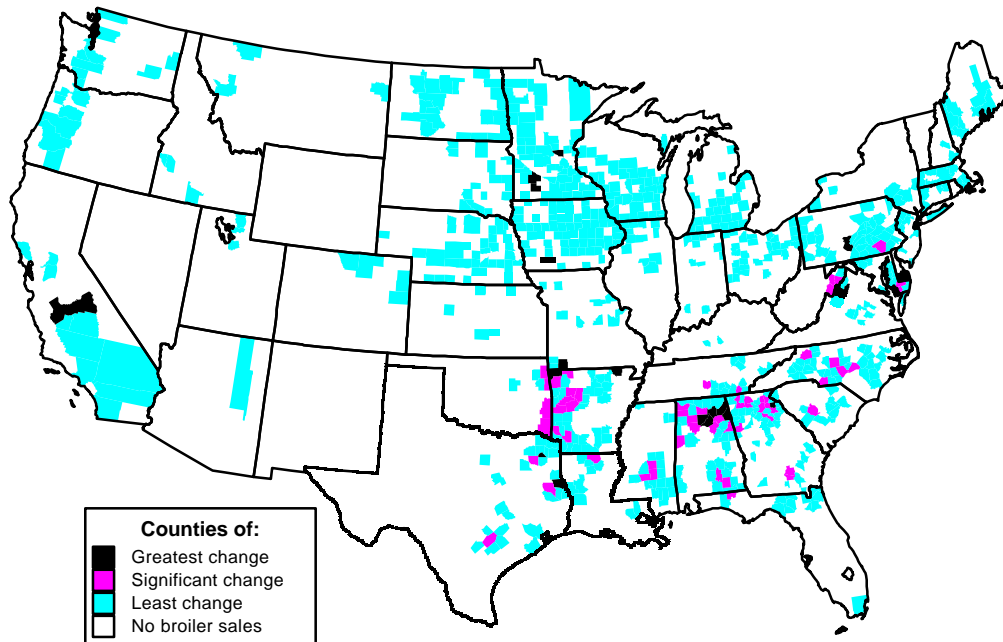
### Structural change in the beef cow inventory, 1969-92



Source: Compiled by ERS using census of agriculture data.

Figure 15

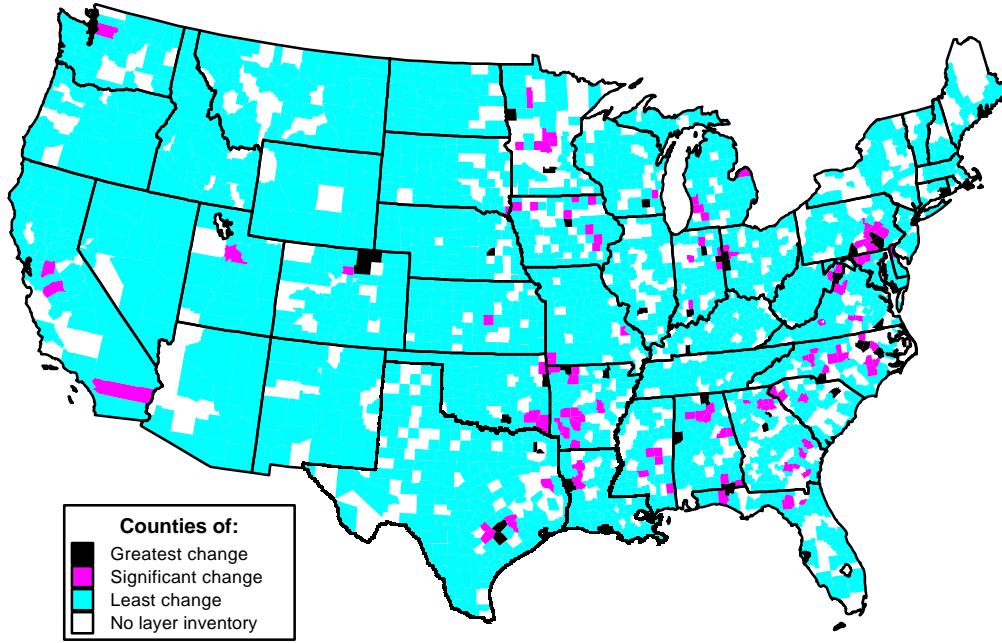
### Structural change in broiler sales, 1969-92



Source: Compiled by ERS using census of agriculture data.

Figure 16

**Structural change in the layer hen and pullet inventory, 1969-92**



Source: Compiled by ERS using census of agriculture data.