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Abstract of

THE GEOGRAPHY OF ILLINOIS LIVESTOCK AUCTION MARKETS

The number, distribution, and scale of Illinois livestock auction markets have been constantly changing since auctions first appeared in the early 1900s. Between 1958 and 1987, the number of auctions has decreased from 63 to 40, distribution of sale barns has become less dense, and sales through these businesses have increased over 20 million dollars.

This study examines these transformations during the 1958-1987 period and investigates four possible variables

that might have been associated with changes: 1) decline in

livestock available for sale; 2) regional variation in the

Illinois sale barns. Although substantial regional variations occurred in the switch from mixed crop and livestock production to cash grain farming, these did not

scale of operation of Illinois auctions Postulated