

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
Herbert Hoover, Secretary
BUREAU OF THE CENSUS
W. M. Stewart, Director

UNITED STATES
CENSUS OF AGRICULTURE
1925

SUMMARY STATISTICS, BY STATES
FINAL FIGURES



PRICE 20 CENTS (Paper)

Sold only by the Superintendent of Documents, U. S. Government Printing Office
Washington, D. C.

UNITED STATES
GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE
WASHINGTON
1928

CONTENTS

	Page
Introduction.....	III-VI
Map of United States showing geographic divisions.....	2
UNITED STATES TABLES	
1.—Farms and farm property: 1925, 1920, and 1910.....	3
2.—Crops and livestock products: 1924, 1919, and 1909.....	3
STATE TABLES	
I.—Farms and farm acreage: 1925, 1920, and 1910.....	4
Supplemental—Farmers, by color and tenure, and farms operated by croppers, for the Southern States: 1925.....	14
II.—Farm values, mortgage debt, and miscellaneous items: 1925, 1920, and 1910.....	16
III.—Livestock on farms, January 1, 1925; and livestock products, 1924 and 1919.....	28
IV.—Value of crops and acreage and production of principal crops: 1924.....	38
V.—Farm population by age, sex, color, and tenure: 1925.....	52
VI.—Number of farms reporting specified crops, woodland burned over, and firewood cut, 1924, specified classes of livestock, 1925, and woodland cleared, 1920-1924; with number of cords of wood cut and acreage of woodland burned over and cleared.....	60
VII.—Acreage in farms, acreage in crop land harvested, value of farm land and buildings, and value of farm buildings, by size of farm: 1925.....	68
VIII.—Cooperative marketing—Value of farm products sold and of supplies purchased, with number of farms reporting, by tenure: 1924.....	74
IX.—Number of farms, by size and tenure: 1925.....	78
X.—Farm operators classified according to number of years on farm, by tenure: 1925.....	82
Supplemental—Farm operators classified according to number of years on farm, by color and tenure, for the Southern States: 1925.....	88
XI.—Value of buildings, with number of farms reporting, by tenure: 1925.....	90
XII.—Area of plowable pasture, woodland pasture, other pasture, and woodland not used for pasture, with number of farms reporting, by tenure: 1925.....	92
XIII.—Number of tractors on farms, with number of farms reporting, and number of farms reporting radio outfits, by tenure: 1925.....	96
XIV.—Number of farms reporting various classes of roads and various distances from nearest market town, by tenure: 1925.....	98
XV.—Number of horses and mules, beef cattle, dairy cattle, and swine, with number of farms reporting, by tenure: 1925.....	104
XVI.—Acreage and production of corn harvested for grain, winter wheat, spring wheat, oats threshed for grain, cotton, and tobacco, with number of farms reporting, by tenure: 1924.....	108
XVII.—Acreage of corn cut for silage, oats cut and fed unthreshed, flaxseed, velvet beans, sugar beets for sugar, white potatoes, and sweet potatoes and yams, with number of farms reporting, by tenure: 1924.....	116
XVIII.—Expenditures for feed, fertilizer, farm labor, lumber, posts, firewood, etc., with number of farms reporting, by tenure: 1924.....	122
XIX.—Mortgage debt on farms operated by full owners reporting such debt, by size of farm: 1925.....	126
XX.—Mortgage debt on farms operated by full owners reporting such debt, by value of farm: 1925.....	136

INTRODUCTION

ACT AUTHORIZING THE CENSUS OF AGRICULTURE: 1925

The act of March 3, 1919, under which the census of 1920 was taken, provided also for a census of agriculture to be taken in 1925 and every 10 years thereafter. In taking the farm census of 1925, in accordance with this act, the Bureau of the Census employed the same methods of enumeration that it has used in the decennial censuses; the figures are, therefore, the results obtained from the tabulation of the information given by farm operators to census enumerators in a personal canvass of the individual farms and ranges of the United States.

CENSUS DATES

The censuses of 1925 and 1920 relate to January 1 of those years and the crop years 1924 and 1919. The census of 1910 relates to April 15, 1910, and the crop year 1909.

EXPLANATION OF TERMS USED IN STATE TABLE I

Farm.—A "farm," for census purposes, is all the land which is directly farmed by one person, either by his own labor alone or with the assistance of members of his household or hired employees. The land operated by a partnership is also a farm. A "farm" may consist of a single tract of land, or of a number of separate tracts, and these several tracts may be held under different tenures, as where one tract is owned by the farmer and another tract is rented by him. When a landowner has one or more tenants, renters, croppers, or managers, the land operated by each is considered a "farm."

In applying the foregoing definition of a "farm" for census purposes, enumerators were instructed to report as a "farm" any tract of 3 or more acres used for agricultural purposes, and also any tract containing less than 3 acres which produced at least \$250 worth of farm products in the year 1924.

The definition used in 1920 and 1910 contained the following additional provision with regard to a farm of less than 3 acres: "or which required for its agricultural operations the continuous services of at least one person." It is possible that the difference in the number of farms shown for some States in 1925 and 1920 is partly the result of this change in the definition of a farm.

Farmer.—A "farmer" or "farm operator," according to the census definition, is a person who operates a farm, either performing the labor himself or directly supervising it. The number of farmers shown by the census of agriculture is, therefore, the same as the number of farms. Owners of farms who do not themselves conduct or direct the farm operations are not reported as farmers.

Color of farmer.—Farmers in the Southern States are classified as white and colored, the colored including Negroes, Indians, Chinese, and Japanese.

Tenure.—Farm operators are classified, according to the tenure under which they operate their farms, into four general classes, as follows:

Full owners are farmers who own all the land which they operate.

Part owners are farmers who operate some land which they own, together with additional land which they rent. Part owners, therefore, have some of the characteristics of full owners and some of the characteristics of tenants.

Managers are farmers who operate farms or ranches for the owners, receiving wages or salaries for their services.

Tenants are farmers who operate hired land only. In the present report separate figures are shown for three classes of tenants—namely, (1) cash tenants, who pay a cash rental, as \$7 per acre of crop land or \$500 for the use of the whole farm; (2) croppers (reported only for the Southern States), who are defined as share tenants, to whom landlords furnish all the work animals; and (3) all other tenants, including those giving a share of the products for the use of the land or a share for part and cash for part.

Relationship to landlord.—The figures indicating the relationship of tenants to landlords, in States of the North and West, show what percentage of the whole number of "Cash tenants" or "Other tenants," as the case may be, answered "Yes" to the following question on the schedule: "Do you rent this farm from

your own or your wife's parent, grandparent, brother, or sister?" These figures are important because the terms of tenancy are likely to be different where the tenant is closely related to the landlord than where the owner-tenant contract is purely a matter of business.

Farm land.—The acreage designated as "all land in farms" includes considerable areas of land not actually under cultivation and some not even used for pasture, since each farmer was asked to report as a unit all the land under his control or rather all the land which he thought of as a part of his farm; care was taken, however, to avoid reporting as a part of a farm operated by the owner any acreage operated by a tenant, whether a cash tenant, cropper, or other tenant. Isolated tracts of timberland and other areas not connected with the farm were not to be included.

The following classes of farm land are shown separately:

1. **Crop land harvested in 1924**, comprising all land from which cultivated crops were harvested, all land from which hay was cut, including wild hay cut within the limits of the farm, and all land in gardens, orchards, and vineyards. A given acreage was counted but once, even though two or more crops were harvested from it.

2. **Crop failure**, comprising land from which no crop was harvested in 1924 because of crop failure or destruction from any cause, including drought, flood, insects, or disease.

3. **Idle or fallow land**, comprising land which was lying idle all of 1924 or which was in cultivated summer fallow. This class, together with the crop land harvested and the crop failure, makes up the area designated "Crop land, total."

4. **Plowable pasture**, comprising land used only for pasture in 1924 which could be plowed and used for crops without clearing, draining, or irrigating.

5. **Woodland pasture**, comprising woodland used for pasture at any time during 1924. (See definition of woodland below, under Item 7.)

6. **Other pasture**, comprising all land used for pasture in 1924 which was not included under plowable pasture or woodland pasture. These three classes together constitute the item designated "Pasture land, total."

7. **Woodland not used for pasture**, woodland being defined as including all farm wood lots, natural or planted, and cut-over land with young growth, but excluding land having only chaparral or woody shrubs.

8. **All other land in farms**, including all rough, swampy, or waste land not in forest, pasture, nor crops, and also the land occupied by buildings, barnyards, feed lots, roads, etc.

EXPLANATION OF TERMS USED IN STATE TABLE II

Farm values.—The farmer was asked to report, first, the total value of his farm (land and buildings), including all the land which he operated, both owned and hired. He was asked to give the current market value—that is, the amount for which the farm would sell under normal conditions, not at forced sale. The tabulated results of this inquiry are shown as "Value of land and buildings" and represent the total value of farm real estate.

The farmer was also asked to report the value of the buildings alone on his farm. This value was necessarily estimated, and the figures obtained are probably somewhat less satisfactory than the figures for the total real-estate value.

The figure shown for "Land, excluding buildings," is obtained by subtracting the value of the buildings from the basic value of land and buildings together.

In comparing the values of farm properties as reported at the census of 1925 with those reported in 1920 and 1910, the variations in the purchasing power of the dollar should be kept in mind.

Mortgage debt.—Mortgage-debt figures are given only for farm owners, the number of mortgaged farms being given for full owners and part owners combined, and the amount of the mortgage debt for full owners alone. The number of owners reporting mortgage debt is the number who gave the amount of the debt in response to a question reading as follows: "Amount of mortgage debt on all farm land and buildings owned by you (anywhere in the United States)."

In the mortgage-debt inquiry at earlier censuses the question was limited to debt on the farm covered by the schedule. It appears, however, from an examination of the returns, that the change in the form of the question has made very little difference in the returns; hence the figures presented in the accompanying tables should be closely comparable with the figures published for 1920 and 1910.

Farm expenditures comprise amounts expended by farmers during the year 1924 for selected items defined on the schedule, as follows:

Feed, defined as "hay, grain, mill feed, and other products, for use as feed for domestic animals and poultry."

Fertilizer, including manure and also lime and limestone.

Farm labor, exclusive of housework, money wages only, not including value of rent or board furnished.

Lumber, etc., purchased for use on farm, including timber, wooden posts, poles, and firewood.

Cooperative marketing.—Two items are shown under this heading—namely, the value of farm products sold to or through farmers' marketing organizations in 1924 and the value of all farm supplies purchased from or through farmers' organizations in 1924.

Farm facilities.—The number of tractors and the number of farms reporting radio outfits need no explanation. The figures given under the heading "Silos" represent the number of farms reporting corn cut for silage. In most parts of the country this is practically the same as the number of farms using silos, though in a few States crops other than corn are used to some extent for silage.

Kind of road.—Under this heading the farms are classified according to the answer to the following question: "What kind of road adjoins this farm?"

EXPLANATION OF TERMS USED IN STATE TABLE III

Livestock.—The term "Livestock" includes all domestic animals, poultry, and bees. The value shown in the table is the value of specific classes of livestock shown in the table, plus an estimate for certain unimportant classes which were not included on the 1925 farm schedule—namely, asses and burros, turkeys, ducks, geese, guinea fowls, pigeons, and bees. The value of this group, which is shown in the table under the heading "Other livestock," was estimated for 1925 on the basis of the percentage of the total value represented by these classes in 1920.

The values shown in the table for the various kinds of livestock were obtained by multiplying the average values per head obtained through the Bureau of Agricultural Economics of the United States Department of Agriculture by the number of animals of each class. The values for dairy products and for crops were obtained in a similar way, by multiplying the average value per unit by the number of units produced.

Cattle—beef and dairy.—The classification of cattle as beef and dairy is shown in the table only for heifers and for cows. Beef cattle were defined on the schedule, both in 1920 and in 1925, as "cattle kept mainly for beef production," and dairy cattle were defined as "cattle kept mainly for milk production." In many parts of the country, however, especially where the cattle usually kept are of a general-purpose type, it is difficult for either the enumerator or the farmer to classify the cattle on this basis. In many cases, therefore, the classification as beef or dairy seems to have been largely a matter of individual opinion, and there are a number of cases where a comparison of the 1925 figures with those for 1920 shows radical changes. It is believed, however, that on the whole the 1925 classification is more nearly accurate than that made in 1920.

Cows 2 years old and over.—This designation is used, for brevity, in place of an item which appeared on the schedule as "Cows and heifers 2 years old and over."

Breeding sows.—The complete designation for this item is "Sows and gilts for breeding purposes, 6 months old and over."

Cows milked.—The number of cows milked is a new item, not obtained in any previous census of agriculture. Each farmer was asked to report the total number of cows milked during all or any part of the year 1924. In the tabulation the figures reported on schedules having dairy cows were classified as dairy cows milked (though a few beef cows milked were doubtless included); the cows reported milked on schedules showing beef cows only, or showing neither dairy nor beef cows, in the inventory section, were tabulated as beef cows milked.

Milk products.—The figure given for milk production represents the total production of milk, including an estimate for those farms reporting cows milked but not reporting the amount of milk produced. This estimate for 1924 was made on the basis of the average production per cow milked, as shown by the complete schedules, that for 1919 was made on the basis of the number of dairy cows on hand.

Butterfat sold.—Where farmers sell cream (or milk) and receive payment for the number of pounds of butterfat contained therein, the butterfat content for which they thus receive payment is reported as butterfat sold. The figure for cream sold represents, therefore, only that cream sold by the gallon or similar unit.

Wool.—The figures for wool production represent the total production, including estimates for the incomplete reports. The estimates are based on the average production of wool per sheep on hand, as shown by the complete reports.

Eggs and chickens.—The production of eggs and the number of chickens raised are, likewise, totals including estimates for the incomplete reports.

EXPLANATION OF TERMS USED IN STATE TABLE IV

Value of crops.—The value of crops shown in Table IV represents the value of those crops alone whose production was reported for 1924. Since the value of these crops was considerably less than the total value of all crops, a comparative figure representing the value of the same crops in 1919 (with the exception of sorghums cut for hay) has been added to the table. These two figures are fairly comparable, though the crops not included may have been more important in 1924 than in 1919, or vice versa. In any case the crop values shown for 1924 should not be compared with the total value of crops reported for 1919 when all crops whatsoever were included.

All crop values, like the livestock values, have been computed on the basis of average price or unit values furnished by the Bureau of Agricultural Economics of the United States Department of Agriculture.

Acreage and production.—The acreage shown for the several crops represents the acreage harvested, which is sometimes less than the acreage planted. The production represents the quantity actually harvested in the form indicated. For example, the number of bushels of oats shown includes only oats actually threshed. The number of bushels of corn includes only corn husked or snapped at the rate of 56 pounds of shelled corn or 70 pounds of ear corn per bushel.

Corn.—For the first time in any Federal census the total acreage of corn for all purposes has been obtained for 1924. Corn harvested for grain includes corn snapped, husked, or (at the time of the enumeration) to be husked, for grain. The acreage of corn for fodder includes the area from which the whole plant was cut for green or dry fodder and not husked or snapped. Corn was reported as hogged off where the whole plant was hogged or grazed off by any kind of livestock and none of the corn was husked or snapped.

Oats.—A new question calling for the acreage of "Oats cut for grain when ripe or nearly ripe and fed unthreshed" was introduced at this census. Previous census schedules called only for oats cut green for hay and for both acres and bushels of oats cut for grain. Doubtless some farmers who fed unthreshed oats raised in 1919 and 1909 reported the acreage, together with an estimate of the number of bushels that would have been produced if the grain had been threshed.

Annual legumes cut for hay.—One of the questions asked on the schedule for 1919 called for the total acreage of annual legumes cut for hay. In place of this question on the schedule for 1924 were three questions calling for the acreage of soy beans, of cowpeas, and of peanuts cut for hay.

Total production of hay.—On the schedule for 1924 there was one question asking for the "Total quantity of hay of all kinds, both tame and wild." The enumerators apparently found it more difficult to obtain accurate figures for the hay production in this form than was the case where the tonnage of each kind of hay was asked for separately. Included in the hay production of some sections of the country is an undetermined tonnage of sorghums cut for hay, the acreage of which was reported under an inquiry reading as follows: "Sorghums cut for silage, hay, or fodder." Allowance should be made for these facts in making use of this figure.

EXPLANATION OF TERMS USED IN STATE TABLE V

Farm population.—The farm population, as reported for 1925, comprises all persons living on farms, including, of course, considerable numbers of persons engaged in occupations other than farming.

The figures for 1925 are not strictly comparable with those reported in 1920, since the definition used in 1920 included not only all persons living on farms, but in addition those farm laborers (and their families) who, while not living on farms, did live in rural territory outside any incorporated place. It is believed that the number of farm laborers thus included was not very great, but the fact of their inclusion should be kept in mind in making any comparisons between the farm population figures for 1925 and 1920.

The farm population classified as colored includes Negroes, Indians, Chinese, and Japanese.

STATE TABLES VI TO XX, INCLUSIVE

The terms used in these tables, with one exception, have been sufficiently explained above. The data for "Distance from nearest market town," Table XIV, are published as returned by the enumerators, though the distances in many cases indicate that the farmer had in mind the town in which he usually did his marketing, rather than the nearest town in which he might have sold his farm products.

SUMMARY FOR THE UNITED STATES

MAP OF UNITED STATES SHOWING GEOGRAPHIC DIVISIONS

