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**CHAPTER I**  
**FARMS, ACREAGE, AND VALUE**

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## CHAPTER I.—FARMS, ACREAGE, AND VALUE

**Introduction.**—This chapter presents the data collected in the 1935 Census of Agriculture for the number of farms, land in farms classified according to use in the year preceding the census, the number of farms reporting each class of land, irrigated land from which crops were harvested, and the value of farms which is a composite of the value of land and of the value of buildings. Supplemental information is given for the total land area with the proportion in farms, and certain derived averages and percentages are presented to aid in interpreting the basic data. Comparative data are shown for all items for the Census of 1930 and, when available, are given for the important items for all census years beginning with 1850, the date of the first relatively complete census of agriculture in the United States. In 1850, information was first secured for the number of farms, farm acreage, and value of farms, though in the 1840 census information was secured for certain agricultural products and the numbers of various kinds of farm animals.

Figures for the continental United States (comprising the 48 States and the District of Columbia) have been summarized in tables 1 and 2 of this chapter, while data for each of the States, the District of Columbia, and for the nine geographic divisions, or groups of States, are shown in tables 3 to 12, inclusive. These geographic divisions are made up, for the most part, of States having many characteristics in common, and statistics presented in this form afford a basis for comparison between areas larger than the individual States. The two summary tables present all available comparative data for the items listed above for every census year. The first nine geographic division and State tables present only current comparative data obtained from the censuses of 1935 and 1930, and the remaining geographic division and State table (12) presents historical data for all census years for most of the important items.

The present classification of the use of land was first used in 1925. In all previous census years, farm land was classified between "Improved land" and "Unimproved land" and in several years the "Unimproved land" was further broken down into "Woodland" and "Other unimproved land." The data for these earlier years are carried in table 1 to afford either a direct, or an approximate, comparison with the more recent classification of land use. For such comparison, the acreage of improved land shown for the earlier census years should be roughly comparable to "Land available for crops" plus a portion of the acreage in "All other land in farms" for the later years. The figures shown under "Crop land harvested" for each of the years 1879 to 1919 represent the total of the acreages of individual crops harvested which would make the

grand totals slightly high for exact comparison with those for 1934, 1929, and 1924.

Data for the more recent classification by use of land for the census years 1935, 1930, and 1925 are summarized in table 2 and are presented by divisions and States for the two latest censuses in several division and State tables. To make a more effective comparison of the uses of land between the different census years, several of the related uses have been combined in some of the tables.

Values of farm property for the 1935 Census were restricted to the value of farms (land and buildings) and to the values of specified kinds of livestock. The latter are shown in chapter V, entitled "Livestock and Livestock Products."

Some of the data relating to farms and farm property, which are presented in this chapter as simple totals, have also been classified by size of farm and by color and tenure of the farm operator. The data by size of farm are shown in chapter II and those by color and tenure of the farm operator in chapter III. No presentations of any of these data are made by minor civil divisions such as townships, beats, wards, and militia districts though such tabulations were made.

**Approximate land area of the United States.**—No official change was recorded in the total land area of the continental United States between 1930 and 1935 though there was a compensating change in the areas of Oklahoma and Texas.

The land area of the United States for each census year from 1850 to 1935 is shown in tables 1 and 12. Changes during this period and their principal causes are shown in footnote 1 of table 1.

**Number of farms and farm acreage.**—The definition of a farm used in the 1935 Census was similar to that used in 1930 and 1925. The following guide was carried on the reverse side of every 1935 farm schedule:

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 likewise considered 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 when 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. Thus on a plantation the land operated by each cropper or tenant should be reported as a separate farm, and the land operated by the owner or manager by means of wage hands should likewise be reported as a separate farm.

Do not report as a farm any tract of land of less than 3 acres, unless its products in 1934 were valued at \$250 or more.

A ranch, nursery, greenhouse, hatchery, feed lot, or apiary was considered a farm. Establishments keeping fur-bearing animals or game, fish hatcheries, stockyards, parks, etc., were not considered as farms unless combined with farm operations.

TABLE 1.—NUMBER OF FARMS, ALL LAND IN FARMS, SPECIFIED CLASSES OF FARM LAND, AND VALUE OF FARMS IN THE UNITED STATES: 1850 TO 1935

[Crop land harvested and irrigated land are for the calendar year preceding the date of the census. Leaders indicate that data are not available. Figures for divisions and States in tables 3 to 12]

ITEM	1935	1930	1925	1920	1910
Number of farms.....	6,812,350	6,288,648	6,371,640	6,448,343	6,361,602
Approximate land area of the United States <sup>1</sup> .....acres..	1,903,216,640	1,903,216,640	1,903,216,640	1,903,215,360	1,903,289,600
Proportion in farms.....percent..	55.4	51.8	48.6	50.2	46.2
All land in farms.....acres..	1,054,515,111	986,771,016	924,319,352	955,883,715	878,798,325
Improved land <sup>2</sup> .....acres..	.....	.....	.....	503,073,007	478,451,750
Crop land harvested <sup>3</sup> .....acres..	295,624,176	359,242,091	344,549,267	<sup>3</sup> 348,548,549	<sup>3</sup> 311,293,382
Total woodland.....acres..	185,474,965	149,945,725	143,771,161	24,621,257	190,865,553
Irrigated land <sup>4</sup> .....acres..	.....	<sup>4</sup> 19,547,544	.....	<sup>4</sup> 19,191,716	<sup>4</sup> 14,433,285
Irrigated land from which crops were harvested.....acres..	13,034,174	<sup>4</sup> 14,633,252	.....	( <sup>5</sup> )	( <sup>5</sup> )
Farms reporting irrigated land <sup>4</sup> .....number..	296,189	<sup>4</sup> 265,147	.....	<sup>4</sup> 222,789	<sup>4</sup> 162,723
Increase or decrease (-) from preceding census:					
Number of farms.....	523,702	-82,992	-76,703	86,841	624,130
All land in farms.....acres..	67,744,095	62,451,664	-31,564,363	77,085,390	40,206,651
Improved land <sup>2</sup> .....acres..	.....	.....	.....	24,621,257	63,953,263
Crop land harvested <sup>3</sup> .....acres..	-63,617,915	14,692,824	-3,999,282	37,255,167	28,075,102
Total woodland.....acres..	35,529,240	6,174,564	-23,959,633	-23,134,759	.....
Percent increase or decrease (-) from preceding census:					
Number of farms.....	8.3	-1.3	-1.2	1.4	10.9
All land in farms.....acres..	6.9	6.8	-3.3	8.8	4.8
Improved land <sup>2</sup> .....acres..	.....	.....	.....	5.1	15.4
Crop land harvested <sup>3</sup> .....acres..	-17.7	4.3	-1.1	12.0	9.9
Total woodland.....acres..	23.7	4.3	-14.3	-12.1	.....
Percent of total farm land represented by—					
Improved land <sup>2</sup> .....	.....	.....	.....	52.6	54.4
Crop land harvested <sup>3</sup> .....	28.0	36.4	37.3	36.5	35.4
Total woodland.....	17.6	15.2	15.6	17.5	21.7
Average acreage per farm (based on all farms):					
All land in farms.....acres..	154.8	156.9	145.1	148.2	138.1
Improved land <sup>2</sup> .....acres..	.....	.....	.....	78.0	75.2
Crop land harvested <sup>3</sup> .....acres..	43.4	57.1	54.1	54.1	48.9
Total woodland.....acres..	27.2	23.8	22.6	26.0	30.0
Value of farms (land and buildings).....	\$32,858,844,012	\$47,879,838,358	\$49,467,647,287	\$66,316,002,602	\$34,801,125,697
Increase or decrease (-) from preceding census.....	-\$15,020,994,346	-\$1,587,808,929	-\$16,848,355,315	\$31,514,876,905	\$18,186,478,206
Percent increase or decrease (-).....	-31.4	-3.2	-25.4	90.6	109.5
Average value per farm.....	\$4,823	\$7,614	\$7,764	\$10,284	\$5,471
Average value per acre.....	\$31.16	\$48.52	\$53.52	\$69.38	\$39.60

ITEM	1900	1890	1880	1870	1860	1850
Number of farms.....	5,737,372	4,564,641	4,008,907	2,659,985	2,044,077	1,449,073
Approximate land area of the United States <sup>1</sup> .....acres..	1,903,461,760	1,903,337,600	1,903,337,600	1,903,337,600	1,903,337,600	1,884,375,680
Proportion in farms.....percent..	44.1	32.7	28.2	21.4	21.4	15.6
All land in farms.....acres..	838,501,774	623,218,619	536,081,835	407,735,041	407,212,538	293,560,614
Improved land <sup>2</sup> .....acres..	414,498,487	357,616,755	284,771,042	188,921,099	163,110,720	113,032,614
Crop land harvested <sup>3</sup> .....acres..	<sup>3</sup> 283,218,280	<sup>3</sup> 219,705,564	<sup>3</sup> 166,186,584	.....	.....	.....
Total woodland.....acres..	.....	.....	190,255,744	159,310,177	.....	.....
Irrigated land <sup>4</sup> .....acres..	<sup>4</sup> 7,744,467	<sup>4</sup> 3,715,758	.....	.....	.....	.....
Irrigated land from which crops were harvested.....acres..	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Farms reporting irrigated land <sup>4</sup> .....number..	<sup>4</sup> 113,829	<sup>4</sup> 54,136	.....	.....	.....	.....
Increase or decrease (-) from preceding census:						
Number of farms.....	1,172,731	555,734	1,348,922	615,908	595,004	.....
All land in farms.....acres..	215,373,155	87,136,784	128,346,794	522,503	113,651,924	.....
Improved land <sup>2</sup> .....acres..	56,881,732	72,845,713	95,849,943	25,810,379	50,078,106	.....
Crop land harvested <sup>3</sup> .....acres..	63,512,716	53,518,980	.....	.....	.....	.....
Total woodland.....acres..	.....	.....	30,945,567	.....	.....	.....
Percent increase or decrease (-) from preceding census:						
Number of farms.....	25.7	13.0	50.7	30.1	41.1	.....
All land in farms.....acres..	34.6	16.3	31.5	0.1	38.7	.....
Improved land <sup>2</sup> .....acres..	15.9	25.6	50.7	15.8	44.3	.....
Crop land harvested <sup>3</sup> .....acres..	28.9	14.2	.....	.....	.....	.....
Total woodland.....acres..	.....	.....	19.4	.....	.....	.....
Percent of total farm land represented by—						
Improved land <sup>2</sup> .....	49.4	57.4	53.1	46.3	40.1	38.5
Crop land harvested <sup>3</sup> .....	33.8	35.3	31.0	.....	.....	.....
Total woodland.....	.....	.....	35.5	39.1	.....	.....
Average acreage per farm (based on all farms):						
All land in farms.....acres..	146.2	136.5	133.7	153.3	199.2	202.6
Improved land <sup>2</sup> .....acres..	72.2	78.3	71.0	71.0	79.8	78.0
Crop land harvested <sup>3</sup> .....acres..	49.4	48.1	41.5	.....	.....	.....
Total woodland.....acres..	.....	.....	33.2	34.9	.....	.....
Value of farms (land and buildings).....	\$16,614,647,491	\$13,279,252,649	\$10,197,096,776	\$7,444,054,462	\$6,645,045,007	\$3,271,575,426
Increase or decrease (-) from preceding census.....	\$3,335,394,842	\$3,082,155,873	\$2,753,042,314	\$799,009,455	\$3,373,469,581	.....
Percent increase or decrease (-).....	25.1	30.2	37.0	12.0	103.1	.....
Average value per farm.....	\$2,896	\$2,909	\$2,544	\$2,790	\$3,251	\$2,258
Average value per acre.....	\$19.81	\$21.31	\$19.02	\$18.26	\$16.32	\$11.14

<sup>1</sup> An increase of 1,280 acres from 1920 to 1925 resulted from reclamation of Potomac River flats in the District of Columbia; a decrease of 74,240 acres from 1910 to 1920 was due to losses of 29,440 acres in Wyoming caused by the building of the Pathfinder and Shoshone Reservoirs and 44,800 acres in Montana due to the building of several reservoirs for irrigation projects; a net decrease of 172,160 acres from 1900 to 1910 resulted from a loss in California of 281,600 acres due to the encroachment of the Salton Sea, a loss in Arizona of 19,200 acres due to the building of Roosevelt and Laguna Reservoirs, and gains due to drainage of lakes and swamps of 26,240 acres in Illinois and 102,400 acres in Indiana; an increase of 124,160 acres from 1890 to 1900 resulted from 122,880 acres in California added due to Tulare Lake being dry and 1,280 acres of Potomac River flats reclaimed in the District of Columbia; and an increase of 18,961,920 acres from 1850 to 1860 resulted from the Gadsden Purchase. Changes in the approximate land area of the individual States, other than those given above, were due for the most part to changes in boundaries occasioned by the organization of new States.

<sup>2</sup> Nominally includes all land regularly tilled or mowed; land in pasture that has been cleared or tilled; land lying fallow; land in gardens, orchards, vineyards, and nurseries; and land occupied by buildings, yards, barnyards, etc.

<sup>3</sup> Prior to 1924 the total acreage of crops for which figures are available, except for 1919 when 14,502,932 acres of corn cut for forage were excluded (as most of this was probably duplicated in the acreage of corn harvested as grain) and 55,180 acres in nurseries, greenhouses, and flowers.

<sup>4</sup> Prior to 1934 data are for 19 irrigation States only. For these States and comparability of data for 1934 and 1929 see table 7.

<sup>5</sup> For 1919 and 1909 the returns for crops grown under irrigation were not considered complete.

# FARMS, ACREAGE, AND VALUE

**TABLE 2.—NUMBER OF FARMS, ALL LAND IN FARMS, AND THE SEVERAL CLASSES OF LAND ACCORDING TO USE, IN THE UNITED STATES: 1935, 1930, AND 1925**

[The several classes of land according to use are for the calendar year preceding the date of the census. Figures for divisions and States in tables 3 to 12]

ITEM	1935	1930	1925	ITEM	1935	1930	1925
Number of farms.....	6, 812, 350	6, 288, 648	6, 371, 640	Number of farms reporting:			
All land in farms..... acres	1, 054, 515, 111	986, 771, 016	924, 319, 352	Crop land harvested.....	6, 369, 188	5, 961, 692	-----
Crop land harvested..... acres	295, 624, 176	359, 242, 091	344, 549, 267	Crop failure.....	1, 249, 252	551, 322	-----
Crop failure..... acres	63, 681, 777	12, 706, 583	13, 017, 949	Crop land, idle or fallow.....	2, 031, 966	1, 384, 592	-----
Crop land, idle or fallow..... acres	56, 028, 978	41, 287, 216	33, 892, 686	Plowable pasture.....	2, 864, 794	2, 704, 976	-----
Plowable pasture..... acres	98, 579, 038	109, 159, 914	113, 567, 498	Woodland pasture.....	2, 186, 106	1, 931, 368	-----
Woodland pasture..... acres	108, 095, 711	85, 321, 900	76, 703, 946	Other pasture.....	2, 019, 431	1, 765, 003	-----
Other pasture..... acres	311, 225, 652	269, 672, 710	217, 687, 145	Woodland not pastured.....	1, 909, 067	1, 611, 198	-----
Woodland not pastured..... acres	77, 379, 254	64, 623, 825	67, 067, 215	All other land in farms.....	6, 003, 964	4, 751, 311	-----
All other land in farms..... acres	43, 900, 525	44, 756, 777	57, 833, 646	Percent of all farms reporting:			
Land used for crops <sup>1</sup> ..... acres	359, 305, 953	371, 948, 674	357, 567, 216	Crop land harvested.....	93.5	94.8	-----
Average acreage per horse or mule <sup>2</sup>	23.2	21.1	17.3	Crop failure.....	18.3	8.8	-----
Percent failure.....	17.7	3.4	3.6	Crop land, idle or fallow.....	29.8	22.0	-----
Land available for crops <sup>3</sup> ..... acres	513, 913, 969	522, 395, 804	505, 027, 400	Plowable pasture.....	42.1	43.0	-----
Proportion used for crops..... percent	69.9	71.2	70.8	Woodland pasture.....	32.1	30.7	-----
Total pasture land <sup>4</sup> ..... acres	517, 900, 401	464, 154, 524	407, 958, 589	Other pasture.....	29.6	28.1	-----
Total woodland <sup>5</sup> ..... acres	185, 474, 965	149, 945, 725	143, 771, 161	Woodland not pastured.....	28.0	25.6	-----
Increase or decrease (—) from preceding census:				All other land in farms.....	88.1	75.6	-----
Number of farms.....	523, 702	-82, 992	-76, 703	Average acreage per farm reporting:			
All land in farms..... acres	67, 744, 095	62, 451, 664	-31, 564, 363	Crop land harvested..... acres	46.4	60.3	-----
Crop land harvested..... acres	-63, 617, 915	14, 692, 824	-3, 999, 282	Crop failure..... acres	51.0	23.0	-----
Crop failure..... acres	50, 975, 194	-311, 366	-----	Crop land, idle or fallow..... acres	27.6	29.8	-----
Crop land, idle or fallow..... acres	14, 741, 762	7, 394, 530	-----	Plowable pasture..... acres	34.4	40.4	-----
Plowable pasture..... acres	-10, 580, 876	-4, 407, 584	-----	Woodland pasture..... acres	49.4	44.2	-----
Woodland pasture..... acres	22, 773, 811	8, 617, 954	-----	Other pasture..... acres	154.1	152.8	-----
Other pasture..... acres	41, 552, 942	51, 985, 565	-----	Woodland not pastured..... acres	40.5	40.1	-----
Woodland not pastured..... acres	12, 755, 429	-2, 443, 390	-----	All other land in farms..... acres	7.3	9.4	-----
All other land in farms..... acres	-856, 252	-13, 076, 869	-----	Average acreage per farm (based on all farms):			
Land used for crops <sup>1</sup> ..... acres	-12, 642, 721	14, 381, 458	-----	All land in farms..... acres	154.8	156.9	145.1
Land available for crops <sup>3</sup> ..... acres	-8, 481, 835	17, 368, 404	-----	Crop land harvested..... acres	43.4	57.1	54.1
Total pasture land <sup>4</sup> ..... acres	53, 745, 877	56, 195, 935	-----	Crop failure..... acres	9.4	2.0	2.0
Total woodland <sup>5</sup> ..... acres	35, 529, 240	6, 174, 564	-23, 959, 633	Crop land, idle or fallow..... acres	8.2	6.6	5.3
Percent increase or decrease (—) from preceding census:				Plowable pasture..... acres	14.5	17.4	17.8
Number of farms.....	8.3	-1.3	-1.2	Woodland pasture..... acres	15.9	13.6	12.0
All land in farms.....	6.9	6.8	-3.3	Other pasture..... acres	45.7	42.9	34.2
Crop land harvested.....	-17.7	4.3	-1.1	Woodland not pastured..... acres	11.4	10.3	10.5
Crop failure.....	401.2	-2.4	-----	All other land in farms..... acres	6.4	7.1	9.1
Crop land, idle or fallow.....	35.7	21.8	-----	Percent of total farm land represented by—			
Land used for crops <sup>1</sup> .....	-3.4	4.0	-----	Crop land harvested.....	28.0	36.4	37.3
Land available for crops <sup>3</sup> .....	-1.6	3.4	-----	Crop failure.....	6.0	1.3	1.4
Total pasture land <sup>4</sup> .....	11.6	13.8	-----	Crop land, idle or fallow.....	5.3	4.2	3.7
Total woodland <sup>5</sup> .....	23.7	4.3	-14.3	Plowable pasture.....	9.3	11.1	12.3
				Woodland pasture.....	10.3	8.6	8.3
				Other pasture.....	29.5	27.3	23.6
				Woodland not pastured.....	7.3	6.5	7.3
				All other land in farms.....	4.2	4.5	6.3
				Land used for crops <sup>1</sup> .....	34.1	37.7	38.7
				Land available for crops <sup>3</sup> .....	48.7	52.9	54.6
				Total pasture land <sup>4</sup> .....	49.1	47.0	44.1
				Total woodland <sup>5</sup> .....	17.6	15.2	15.6

<sup>1</sup> Crop land harvested and crop failure.

<sup>2</sup> Averages for 1934 and 1924 based on number of horses and mules 2 years old and over Jan. 1, 1935 and 1925, respectively, and average for 1920 on horses and mules over 27 months old Apr. 1, 1930.

<sup>3</sup> Crop land harvested, crop failure, idle or fallow crop land, and plowable pasture.

<sup>4</sup> Plowable pasture, woodland pasture, and other pasture.

<sup>5</sup> Woodland pasture and woodland not pastured.

For most of the earlier census years slight differences appeared in the definition of a farm. Practically all of these differences would affect only the number of farms recorded as under 3 acres in size. The relative number in this group has never been very large, ranging from a high of 0.7 percent of all farms in both 1930 and 1900, to a low of 0.1 percent in 1880. A discussion of the definitions and consequent changes in the number of farms may be found in more detail in chapter II, "Size of farms."

The number of farms in the continental United States on January 1, 1935 was 6,812,350, or an increase of 8.3 percent over the 6,288,648 farms on April 1, 1930. This increase in the number of farms between 1930 and 1935 reflects, in a major degree, the effects of the depression in checking the flow of population from farms to factories and mines, and in causing many who were dependent upon industrial pursuits to turn to the farm for all, or a part, of their livelihood. In general, the largest increases in the number of farms were in or near mining or industrial areas and in a considerable portion of the areas sometimes designated as "Subsistence farming." Some of the areas showing large increases included Connecticut, Rhode Island, and

eastern Massachusetts; northeastern Ohio and western Pennsylvania; the southern Appalachians; the Ozark and Ouachita Mountains; the Birmingham industrial area; and northern Minnesota and Wisconsin. The Great Plains region and the Cotton Belt show little increase. Decreases in the number of farms were, for the most part, in scattered counties throughout the Cotton Belt with the largest decreases in the Mississippi-Yazoo Delta. On a State basis, farms decreased in number in this 5-year period only in the District of Columbia, Georgia, and Mississippi.

On the 1935 census date, 1,054,515,111 acres were in farms as compared with 986,771,016 acres in 1930. The increase in this approximate 5-year period was 67,744,095 acres, or 6.9 percent. The largest relative increases in farm area were in the Southern and Mountain States.

An increase in the number of farms after 1930 was foreshadowed by the farm census of that year. The census of 1930 closely followed two periods of great industrial activity, one preceding 1920 and the other preceding 1930, with accompanying relatively high wages in the city and a scarcity of farm labor and an

abandonment of farms. In the period from 1920 to 1925 and again from 1925 to 1930 the number of farms in the country, as a whole, decreased. However, in 1930 there was evidence of a distinct change, as it was shown that during the 12 months preceding April 1, 1930, the migration of persons to farms exceeded the migration from farms by about 308,000. A reversal from a downward to an upward trend in the number of farms was also indicated at that time by the taking up of idle farms, reasonably cheap farm labor, and a slackening in industrial activity.

As the depression threw more and more persons out of work in industry, it was only natural that a number of these, especially those with farm background, should turn to the country. It is also probable that a number of persons who had been living on tracts of land in the country on which they had conducted no farming operations began, in straitened times, to produce enough from agriculture that their lands would classify as farms. No information is at hand as to whether the high point in the number of farms was reached before or after 1935, but there is evidence that, with improved industrial conditions, cities, in 1935, were again drawing people in increasing numbers from country areas.

Different factors have affected the number of farms and the acreage in farms since these data were first secured in 1850. Throughout the early part of this period the opening to settlement of vast areas of new land caused a westward migration of persons to take up this land. In recent years the available supply of desirable land in the public domain has been so diminished or restricted as to settlement that additions to the number of farms and to the farm acreage, where occurring since 1900, have been mainly due to other causes.

A factor making for an increase in the number of farms but without a corresponding increase in the farm acreage has been the breaking up of large farms, plantations, and ranches. In the South, the change in the management of farm land often affects the number of farms, for in one year a plantation may be operated as a unit (one farm for census purposes) with the aid of hired labor, while in another year a part or the whole of such land may be operated by croppers or other classes of tenants, and each such separate operation would be reported to the census as a farm.

A change in the date of enumeration coupled with the date when operators move from one farm to another may affect the number of farms but not the farm acreage. In a winter-vegetable area, where many operators do not reside on the land, a census taken shortly after January 1 of any year would perhaps ensure a practically complete enumeration of both farms and acreage, whereas in one taken after April the enumeration would be more difficult. In other areas, where the operator does not reside upon the land, farm activity is more noticeable after April 1 than immediately after January 1, and an enumeration as of April 1 could be made easier than one as of January 1.

Since the number of farms in 1935 was 8.3 percent greater than in 1930 and the farm area 6.9 percent greater, the average acreage per farm declined slightly, being 154.8 acres in 1935 and 156.9 acres in 1930. The average acreage per farm in this period declined in 19 of the 21 Northern States, 8 of the 16 Southern States, and 9 of the 11 Western States.

The land in farms in 1935 represented 55.4 percent of the total land area of the country against 51.8 percent in 1930. Among the States, the percentage in farms in 1935 varied from lows of 5.2 percent in Nevada, 11.9 percent in Utah, and 17.2 percent in Florida to highs of 96.6 percent in Iowa, 94.8 percent in Nebraska, and 91.7 percent in Kansas. Some of the land area not in farms is used for agricultural purposes, as in the Western States where a considerable acreage of such land is used for grazing of livestock.

**Uses of 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 or grazing, since each farm operator was asked to report as a unit all the land he considered a part of his farm, but not to include isolated tracts of timberland or other areas not connected with his farm.

Figures for the following eight classes of farm land, census of 1935, are based upon the use made of the land in 1934:

1. **Crop land harvested**, comprises land from which cultivated crops were harvested, land from which hay (including wild hay) was cut, and land in small fruits, orchards, vineyards, nurseries, and greenhouses. Where two or more crops were harvested in 1934 from the same acreage, such acreage was included only once in the acreage of crop land harvested. However, the acreage and the quantity of the individual crops were reported separately as crops harvested. Thus, in some counties the total of the acreage of crops may greatly exceed the acreage designated as crop land harvested.

2. **Crop failure.**—The land from which no crop was harvested in 1934 because of destruction by wind, hail, drought, floods, insects, disease, or from any cause, or failure to harvest because of low prices or lack of labor is given under crop failure. If a crop was harvested, even though the yield was very low, the land from which the crop was actually harvested was included in the acreage designated as crop land harvested rather than in the acreage designated as crop failure. The acreage designated as crop failure does not represent the entire acreage of crops which failed, but only that acreage of land in crops that failed and which was not successfully replanted to a crop that was harvested in 1934.

3. **Idle or fallow land**, comprises crop land, which was lying idle or which was in cultivated summer fallow, or land on which crops were planted for soil improvement or the prevention of erosion, and which was not pastured, or from which no crop of any kind was harvested in 1934.

4. **Plowable pasture**, comprises land used only for pasture in 1934 which could have been used for crops without clearing, draining, or irrigating. (Land from which a crop was harvested in 1934 but which was later used for pasture was included under crop land harvested rather than under pasture land.)

5. **Woodland pasture**, comprises woodland used for pasture in 1934. Woodland is land occupied by trees, or young growth which will have a value as wood or timber, and includes all farm wood lots or timber tracts, natural or planted, and cut-over land with young growth, but excludes chaparral and woody shrubs.

6. **Other pasture**, comprises all land used only for pasture in 1934, which was not included in plowable pasture or woodland pasture.

7. **Woodland not used for pasture**, comprises the woodland, included in acreage in 1935, which was not used for pasture in 1934.

8. **All other land in farms**, comprises rough, swampy, or waste land not in woodland, pasture, or crops; also land occupied by buildings, barnyards, feed lots, roads, fences, ditches, etc.

The use made of farm land in many States in 1934 was affected by the severe drought of that year, the agricultural adjustment programs, and other factors. Insufficient moisture even in 1933, in some areas, had an effect on the use of the land in 1934; e. g., if land were prepared in the fall of 1933 for planting winter wheat (for harvest in 1934) but the wheat was not planted because of insufficient soil moisture, the land, if not planted to another crop, would have been classed as "Idle or fallow land"; whereas, if the wheat had been planted and subsequent growing conditions were so unfavorable that the wheat failed to make a crop, the land would have been classed as "Crop failure", provided no other crop was planted and harvested on this same land in 1934.

**"Land available for crops"**, consisting of crop land harvested, crop failure, crop land lying idle or in fallow, and plowable pasture, totaled 513,913,969 acres in 1934, a slight decline, largely on account of decreases in the drought areas, as compared with 1929. That some land classified by farm operators as available for crops in 1929 was not so classified in 1934 is indicated by the figures for several of the States in the drought areas.

**"Land used for crops"**, consisting of crop land harvested and crop failure, amounted to 359,305,953 acres in 1934 and 371,948,674 acres in 1929. In the States where the drought was most severe, increases of land left idle or fallow, because of the drought, together with voluntary reductions in the planted acreage, were of such extent as to result in a decrease of 3.4 percent in the land used for crops for the country as a whole. In general, during the period from 1929 to 1934 there was a net gain east of the Mississippi and in the Pacific Coast States of land used for crops. In these areas, reductions on individual farms in the acreages of major cash crops were more than offset by increases on other farms, by shifts to crops for use on the farm, and by increases in the number of farms and in farm acreage. The harvested crop land for the United States amounted to only 295,624,176 acres in 1934 as compared with 359,242,091 acres in 1929. Crops were harvested in 1934 on 93.5 percent of all farms in the country.

Largely on account of the drought, all crops failed on 63,681,777 acres in 1934, or on 17.7 percent of the land used for crops. In 1929, all crops failed on only 12,706,583 acres. Crop failure was reported on 18.3 percent of the farms for 1934 as compared with 8.8 percent of the farms for 1929, and was most severe in the western Corn Belt, the Great Plains, and the Mountain States. In South Dakota crop failure was reported on 83 percent of the farms, with all crops a complete failure on approximately 2 acres out of each 3 intended for crops, and on at least 24 percent of the farms no crops were harvested on account of failure.

The most significant change in the use of farm and ranch lands in the United States between 1929 and

1934 was the large increase in the acreage used for pasture or grazing. In 1934, land in farms and ranches used for pasture or grazing, other than that from which crops were harvested, amounted to 517,900,401 acres. This was an increase of 53,745,877 acres, or 11.6 percent, over the 464,154,524 acres reported as pastured or grazed in 1929. This increase was rather general throughout the country with the largest gains in the Southeastern and Gulf Coast areas, in the Great Plains region and in the Mountain States. The largest percentage increase was in the South Atlantic States where the pasture acreage increased from 21,794,426 acres to 25,541,975, or a gain of 17.2 percent. For the most part, the increased acreage in pasture or grazing land represented farm land not suitable for crops and, to a less extent, a shift from land formerly used for crops.

**Value of farms.**—The farm operator was asked to report the total value of his farm (land and buildings), including all the land which he operated, both owned and rented, whether operated for himself or managed for others. He was asked to give the current market value—that is, the amount for which the farm would sell. The tabulated results of this inquiry are shown as the value of farms (land and buildings) and represent the total value of farm real estate.

The value of farm real estate on January 1, 1935, was \$32,858,844,012 which represented a decline of 31.4 percent from the \$47,879,838,358 recorded as of April 1, 1930. The largest declines were in the North Central States and the smallest in the New England and the Middle Atlantic States. In these latter areas a higher proportion of the farms have site, or residential, values quite distinct from purely agricultural values. Texas farms were valued at \$2,573,704,972 in 1935 and ranked first in that year, followed closely by Iowa, California, and Illinois. In 1930, Iowa was in first place but during the intervening 5-year period suffered a decline of 41.7 percent, the largest recorded for any State with the exception of South Dakota, where a drop of 46.2 percent occurred.

The average value of farms for the country, as a whole, was \$4,823 in 1935 as compared with \$7,614 in 1930. On a per farm basis this decline amounted to 36.7 percent. Among the States, the highest average value per farm in 1935 was \$15,466 for California. Next in order were \$11,696 for Nebraska, \$11,518 for Nevada, and \$11,092 for Iowa.

The average value of farm land and buildings per acre for the United States in 1935 was \$31.16 and in 1930 was \$48.52. This decline of about 36 percent was somewhat greater than the percentage decline recorded for farm real estate as a whole. The per acre value in every State was lower in 1935 than in 1930. The averages presented for the value per acre from 1850 to 1935, may not constitute a true index of the changing values of farm land because of differences in the quality of the land added to or lost from the farm area.