

# 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