
CHAPTER II
SIZE OF FARMS

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CHAPTER II.—SIZE OF FARM

Introduction.—In this chapter the number of farms, the total farm acreage, and specified uses of farm land have been grouped or classified according to the total acreage in the individual farms. For convenience, this classification has been designated "Size of farm." The tabulations for 1935, by size of farm, were confined to these items. No subclassifications of the size groups have been made by tenure of operator. The 1935 data, with all available comparative figures by size from earlier censuses, are presented herein for the United States as a whole. The 1935 information, with comparable data for 1930, is also given for each of the nine geographic divisions into which the United States has been divided for statistical purposes, and for each of the 48 States and the District of Columbia. Historical data, by divisions and States, are given only for the number of farms and for the average size of all farms.

A count of the number of farms, according to the total acreage in each, has been made in every census year beginning with 1880, and a tabulation of the farm acreage has been so made beginning with 1900. In the censuses of 1860 and 1870, a size classification was made based upon the area of improved land rather than upon the total farm acreage, but on account of the dissimilarity of the two size classifications the data for these 2 earlier years are not included in this report. The average size of farms, as presented in this report, is a simple arithmetic average secured by dividing the total farm acreage in any area by the number of farms recorded in that area. Such averages are carried for each census year beginning with 1850, the earliest census in which these basic data were secured.

For the last three censuses, 1925, 1930, and 1935, one or more of the uses of land for the farms in each size group have been included in the size classification. Thus, in addition to the number of farms and the total farm acreage, the size classification for 1925 included "crop land harvested" and that for 1930 included "crop land harvested", "plowable pasture", and "other pasture." Since the land use relates to the calendar year preceding the census year, and the data obtained by the 1935 Census represented the use made of farm land in the severe drought year of 1934, the 1935 classification of the use of land, by size of farm, was extended beyond that used for 1930 so as to include "crop failure" and "crop land lying idle or fallow." Data for these two subclasses of the land available for crops, together with those for the number of farms, the total land in farms, and plowable pasture, comprised the maximum information which could be secured from one run of the cards through the tabulating machines, hence, the size classification of "other pasture" used for 1930 was not included for 1935. The 1935 data thus afford a total for "land used for crops" in 1934 which includes the two subclasses, "crop land harvested" and "crop fail-

ure." This combined total is, perhaps, a more comparable figure, in many States, than the "crop land harvested" figure for 1934 for making a comparison with the "crop land harvested" figures for 1929 and 1924. Also, a combination of several of the 1934 uses of land, viz, "crop land harvested", "crop failure", "crop land lying idle or fallow", and "plowable pasture" makes it possible to secure a total of "land available for crops" which can then be used for comparisons between size groups.

Additional size groups.—The number of size groups used in the different census years varied from 7 in 1890 and 8 in 1880 to 19 in 1935. Increases in the number of groups have always been made by subdividing one or more of the groups previously used. It is possible, therefore, to present some of the statistics, in exact comparisons, throughout the census years for which size information is available. The new grouping for 1935, to which seven new subgroups were added, was made primarily for study purposes as some criticism had been directed against the old grouping that it allowed several distinct concentrations of farms in some of the individual size groups and that these concentrations, or modes, would not coincide with the midpoints of the respective size groups.

In *survey* territory, the boundaries of many farms correspond more or less closely to the Government surveys of lands. Since such lands were divided into sections, or multiples or fractions thereof, for settlement, and since subsequent transfers have been made to a large extent on the same basis, many farms contain 20, 40, 80, 120, 160, or some other multiple of 40 acres. For this reason the old grouping of "100 to 174 acres", with a midpoint of 137.5 acres, would have two distinct modes in *survey* States—one at 120 acres and the other at 160 acres. To avoid that weakness, this group has been subdivided into "100 to 139 acres", where the midpoint is 120 acres, and into "140 to 174 acres." Provision has been made whereby farms ranging from "175 to 179 acres" could be added to this latter group so that its limits would be "140 to 179 acres" and the midpoint would be 160 acres.

An inspection of the data strengthens the belief that there is a tendency for farm land to be reported in multiples of 5 and 10 acres for small farms, in multiples of 25 acres for medium-size farms, and in multiples of 50 and 100 acres for farms of larger size. If a rough generalization can be made, based on the small amount of information contained in the accompanying tabulation (table 1) where data for one county each in Alabama, Iowa, and Ohio are presented to represent *survey* States and one county each in Georgia and North Carolina are presented to represent *nonsurvey* States, this tendency is probably stronger in the *nonsurvey* States. The word *nonsurvey* is here used only, perhaps

improperly, for brevity to designate those areas where farm lands do not follow a rectangular system of survey. The reports ending in "5" or "0" may, however, represent proper or natural divisions of farm land rather than *biased* reports or a tendency to round the acreages when reporting to the enumerators. There may even be a decided difference in the points of concentration, or modes, when considering reports of farm acreage from different States in *survey* territory. In some of these States, where roads or highways are often built on section lines, the farms would be more apt to follow a rectangular pattern than they would in other States where the roads or highways are built along contour lines. In a *survey* State, such as Alabama, the concentration in certain reported sizes may be due, in part, to the plantation system of farming, where, for example, a tract of 200 acres might be broken down in fifteens, twenties, twenty-fives, or thirties for allotment to croppers or other classes of tenants.

Only a limited amount of other research has been conducted to ascertain the merits or weaknesses of the new grouping. A comparison of the average size of farms in each size group for 1935, both for the old grouping and for the new, is presented in table 2 for Alabama, Iowa, and Wyoming in *survey* territory, and for Georgia, North Carolina, and Pennsylvania in *nonsurvey* territory. The averages for the United States, as a whole, are also presented with those for these six States. It appears that the new grouping adds stability to the averages, i. e., the averages for the new grouping vary less than those for the old as between *survey* and *nonsurvey* territory. As an example, farms in the new grouping of "50 to 69 acres" averaged 58.6 acres in Iowa and 56.5 acres in Georgia, and those of "70 to 99 acres" averaged 81.7 acres in Iowa and 81.1 acres in Georgia, whereas, in the old grouping of "50 to 99 acres", farms averaged 77.6 acres in Iowa and 67.3 acres in Georgia. In one of these two new subgroups Iowa farms were 2.1 acres larger than Georgia farms, and in the other they were 0.6 acre larger, whereas, for the combined, or old, group of "50 to 99 acres", Iowa farms averaged 10.3 acres larger. Of the combined group, "50 to 99 acres", less than 18 percent of those in Iowa were in the subgroup "50 to 69 acres", while 56 percent of those in Georgia and 47 percent of those in Alabama were in this subgroup.

The averages presented in table 2, in nearly all cases, fall below the midpoint of the size groups, indicating a skewed distribution. This skewness may be aggravated as a result of having the lower limits of a size group begin with figures divisible by 10. Some groups, such as the one of "100 to 139 acres", may be skewed from having three modal groups, one at "100 acres", another at "120 acres", and a third at "125 acres", each of a different concentration.

Number and acreage of farms by size.—Of the 6,812,350 farms in the United States on January 1,

1935, nearly 1 out of every 5 (18.4 percent) was "under 20 acres" in size. This approximate proportion prevailed for each of the 3 major-size groups of "20 to 49 acres" (21.1 percent), "50 to 99 acres" (21.2 percent), and "100 to 174 acres" (20.6 percent). Thus, approximately 4 out of every 5 (81.3 percent) farms contained less than 175 acres, leaving about one-fifth (18.7 percent) of the farms with 175 acres or more. An entirely

TABLE 1.—NUMBER OF FARMS, BY UNIT ACRES, IN SELECTED COUNTIES: CENSUS OF 1935

SIZE OF FARM	SURVEY COUNTIES			NONSURVEY COUNTIES ¹	
	Pike County, Ala.	Kossuth County, Iowa	Putnam County, Ohio	Fulton County, Ga.	Beaufort County, N. C.
Total farms in county....	3,699	3,153	3,135	3,605	3,553
Farms of 1 acre.....		8	21	96	1
2 acres.....		4	5	34	11
3 acres.....	5	15	32	60	66
4 acres.....	11	13	43	83	70
5 acres.....	12	26	69	72	95
6 acres.....	3	16	26	45	69
7 acres.....	7	6	23	40	55
8 acres.....	4	12	27	47	88
9 acres.....	5	2	10	19	52
10 acres.....	27	12	45	97	114
11 acres.....	4	1	13	36	44
12 acres.....	12	1	16	50	77
13 acres.....	5	5	12	19	69
14 acres.....	6	4	15	27	48
15 acres.....	32	4	17	50	97
16 acres.....	11	3	4	63	43
17 acres.....	5	1	11	24	38
18 acres.....	11	4	9	37	53
19 acres.....	5	1	5	22	30
20 acres.....	71	8	26	131	90
21 acres.....	18	2	5	29	27
22 acres.....	12	1	11	31	52
23 acres.....	6	1	6	33	36
24 acres.....	17	2	4	25	27
25 acres.....	119	2	14	82	76
26 acres.....	20		4	33	34
27 acres.....	10	1	6	17	29
28 acres.....	32		7	29	33
29 acres.....	10		2	10	12
30 acres.....	484	7	12	134	89
35 acres.....	194		8	52	47
40 acres.....	290	18	131	220	86
45 acres.....	46	2	8	47	38
50 acres.....	87	3	41	194	92
55 acres.....	26	3	17	36	27
60 acres.....	200	6	75	124	54
65 acres.....	47	2	19	26	24
70 acres.....	60	2	42	40	40
75 acres.....	47	5	18	43	38
80 acres.....	201	178	426	90	38
85 acres.....	15	2	21	8	22
90 acres.....	52	5	42	20	31
95 acres.....	11	3	15	12	9
100 acres.....	87	15	123	121	62
105 acres.....	22	3	18	6	10
110 acres.....	18	5	28	10	9
115 acres.....	10	6	7	6	9
120 acres.....	112	177	159	22	20
125 acres.....	10	1	8	20	18
130 acres.....	20	2	16	12	9
135 acres.....	4	4	7	5	9
140 acres.....	30	13	40	13	11
145 acres.....	8	6	10	1	9
150 acres.....	27	10	17	18	20
155 acres.....	2	13	8	4	5
160 acres.....	81	805	83	8	4
165 acres.....		3	8	4	4
170 acres.....	13	4	16	4	3
175 acres.....	6	4	6	7	7
180 acres.....	24	18	14	5	5
185 acres.....	2	4	4	2	4
190 acres.....	7	7	9	1	1
195 acres.....	1	4	5	1	1
200 acres.....	48	141	30	14	18

¹ For an explanation of *nonsurvey* see text discussion.

TABLE 2.—A COMPARISON BETWEEN THE NEW AND THE OLD GROUPING BY SIZE OF THE 1935 AVERAGE ACREAGE PER FARM IN SELECTED AREAS

SELECTED SIZE GROUPS		GROUP INTERVAL (ACRES)		MIDPOINT OF GROUP (ACRES)		AVERAGE ACREAGE PER FARM, JAN. 1, 1935													
New classification	Old classification	New	Old	New	Old	United States		Survey States						Nonsurvey States ¹					
								Alabama		Iowa		Wyoming		Georgia		North Carolina		Pennsylvania	
						New	Old	New	Old	New	Old	New	Old	New	Old	New	Old	New	Old
	10 to 19 acres		10		15		13.7		14.1		12.9		12.5		14.1		14.2		13.8
	20 to 49 acres		30		35		32.4		31.8		33.8		35.6		32.4		32.2		33.3
10 to 29 acres		20		20		17.9		18.9		16.7		16.5		20.1		18.7		18.1	
30 to 49 acres		20		40		38.2		37.7		39.0		39.8		36.6		38.1		38.8	
	50 to 99 acres		50		75		72.0		69.9		77.6		77.0		67.3		68.7		71.7
50 to 69 acres		20		60		57.6		57.4		58.6		58.4		56.5		57.4		58.0	
70 to 99 acres		30		85		81.7		81.0		81.7		80.8		81.1		82.0		83.1	
	100 to 174 acres		75		137.5		134.5		128.4		141.7		147.1		123.8		125.4		126.1
100 to 139 acres		40		120		115.2		114.3		117.9		117.7		111.2		113.8		114.6	
140 to 179 acres		40		160		157.8		156.5		158.5		159.1		156.0		156.0		155.7	
	175 to 259 acres		85		217.5		211.8		208.6		215.1		218.3		209.2		207.5		205.9
180 to 219 acres		40		200		197.2		196.7		197.7		198.6		198.0		197.1		196.7	
220 to 259 acres		40		240		237.6		236.7		237.7		238.1		239.0		238.1		236.8	
	260 to 499 acres		240		380		347.1		340.2		329.1		361.6		346.9		335.8		327.2
260 to 379 acres		120		320		311.1		307.1		307.5		317.4		309.1		307.0		303.4	
380 to 499 acres		120		440		437.7		427.7		425.3		443.7		429.5		427.5		421.7	
	500 to 999 acres		500		750		682.2		660.8		620.6		701.3		655.8		647.7		621.7
500 to 699 acres		200		600		596.7		577.8		574.0		621.9		568.2		570.9		562.4	
700 to 999 acres		300		850		831.3		812.9		797.4		846.8		815.0		810.4		804.5	

¹ For an explanation of nonsurvey see text discussion.

different distribution is shown for the acreage in these farms. Farms of "175 acres or more" contained two-thirds (66.6 percent) of the farm area, those of "less than 20 acres" had but 1.2 percent, those of "20 to 49 acres" had 4.4 percent, those of "50 to 99 acres" had 9.9 percent, and those of "100 to 174 acres" had 17.9 percent of the total farm area.

During the approximate 5-year interval from 1930 to 1935, the combined total of farms in all size groups increased 523,702, or 8.3 percent, in number. Two-thirds of the increase took place in those of very modest size ranging from "3 to 19 acres" and the remainder of the increase was scattered generally throughout the other size groups, with the exception of the extremely small farms of "under 3 acres" and those of "20 to 49 acres." Farms of "3 to 9 acres" gained 69.7 percent in number, and those of "10 to 19 acres" gained 22.1 percent. More than the average gain was also recorded in the number of farms of "1,000 acres or more" in extent, though only 13 farms out of every thousand were of this size. Tracts of land of "less than 3 acres" in extent, upon which there was an agricultural production valued at \$250 or more in the year prior to the census, dropped 17.3 percent in this period. This group is also relatively small in number as only about five out of every thousand farms were of this size in 1935. Only a nominal decline was recorded in the number of farms varying from "20 to 49 acres." Gains, somewhat less than average, were recorded in each of the remaining 5 major size groupings where the combined range extended from 50 acres to 999 acres.

Gains, in the 5-year period, were reported in the number of farms varying from "3 to 9 acres" for all States and amounted to about 10,000 or more in each of the following States—Ohio, Virginia, North Caro-

lina, Kentucky, Tennessee, and Texas. Additions of 5,000 or more in farms in this group were noted in 14 other States. For the number of farms ranging from "10 to 19 acres" in area, only South Carolina and Georgia, among the States, showed declines, while Mississippi reported a gain of 10,484 farms. Six other States, five of which are in the South, reported gains above 5,000 in this size group. Farms of "less than 3 acres" showed the greatest numerical loss in California and the greatest numerical gain in Arkansas.

Farms varying in total area from "20 to 49 acres" showed losses in number in Mississippi, Georgia, Texas, Arkansas, South Carolina, Alabama, Louisiana, North Carolina, and Tennessee. Each of the first 5 of these States reported declines of more than 10,000, varying from 10,052 in South Carolina to 22,797 in Mississippi.

The size group, "50 to 99 acres", showed a loss in number of farms in Texas and Nevada, while gains of 2,000 or more were made in each of 16 States, the greatest gains being reported in Michigan, Missouri, and Ohio. Farms of "100 to 174 acres" declined in 5 States and showed gains of 2,000 or more in each of 11 States, the greatest gains being reported in Georgia and South Carolina. Farms of "175 to 259 acres" declined in 13 States and showed gains of 2,000 or more in Georgia and Texas. Farms of "260 to 499 acres" declined in 9 States, while gains of 2,000 or more were reported in Texas and Georgia. Farms ranging from "500 to 999 acres" recorded losses in 8 States, the greatest gains reported being 2,982 in Texas and 1,686 in New Mexico. In the group of "1,000 acres and over" declines were reported in 5 States while the largest gains were 2,460 in Texas and 470 in Wyoming.

Farms under 3 acres in size.—Throughout the various census years the total number of farms recorded

TABLE 3.—NUMBER OF FARMS AND FARM ACREAGE, 1935, 1930, AND 1925, AND SPECIFIED CLASSES OF LAND ACCORDING TO USE IN 1934, 1929, AND 1924, IN THE UNITED STATES, BY SIZE OF FARM

[Figures for divisions and States are shown in table 6]

SIZE GROUP	NUMBER OF FARMS						ALL LAND IN FARMS (ACRES)						Average acreage per farm		
	1935	1930	1925	Increase or decrease (-) 1930-35			1935	1930	1925	Increase or decrease (-) 1930-35			1935	1930	1925
				Amount	Percent					Amount	Percent				
Total	6,812,350	6,288,648	6,371,640	523,702	-8.3		1,054,515,111	986,771,016	924,319,352	67,744,095	-6.9		154.8	156.9	145.1
Under 3 acres	35,573	43,007	15,151	-7,434	-17.3		51,269	61,338	22,976	-10,069	-16.4		1.4	1.4	1.5
3 to 9 acres	585,258	315,497	363,384	219,761	69.7		3,005,897	1,847,032	2,073,634	1,158,866	62.7		5.6	5.9	5.7
10 to 19 acres	685,452	559,617	588,049	123,835	22.1		9,369,179	7,789,332	8,059,701	1,579,847	20.3		13.7	13.9	13.7
20 to 49 acres	1,440,143	1,440,388	1,450,643	-245	(¹)		46,593,555	46,251,643	46,404,857	341,912	0.7		32.4	32.1	32.0
50 to 99 acres	557,979	882,164	1,421,078	69,042	5.0		12,903,050	33,690,505	101,906,246	5,331,320	5.4		71.8	71.7	
100 to 174 acres	1,444,007	1,374,965	1,383,777	61,370	4.6		104,016,070	180,213,727	185,707,783	8,644,958	4.8		134.5	134.2	134.2
175 to 259 acres	581,352	540,267	503,417	19,674	3.8		70,511,278	110,264,530	106,472,766	4,142,984	3.8		211.8	211.8	211.5
260 to 499 acres	1,404,297	1,342,927	1,383,777	61,370	4.6		188,858,685	180,213,727	185,707,783	8,644,958	4.8		134.5	134.2	134.2
500 to 999 acres	1,404,297	1,342,927	1,383,777	61,370	4.6		86,883,935	101,974,750	97,467,774	5,319,559	4.9		682.2	682.1	677.6
1,000 acres and over	540,267	520,593	503,417	19,674	3.8		114,407,514	110,264,530	106,472,766	4,142,984	3.8		211.8	211.8	211.5
1,000 to 4,999 acres	294,309	294,309	294,309	0	0		5,945,893	5,945,893	5,945,893	0	0		176.3	176.3	176.3
5,000 to 9,999 acres	212,238	212,238	212,238	0	0		58,037,216	58,037,216	58,037,216	0	0		197.2	197.2	197.2
10,000 acres and over	473,239	473,239	473,239	0	0		50,424,405	50,424,405	50,424,405	0	0		347.1	346.8	345.7

SIZE GROUP	CROP LAND HARVESTED (ACRES)						Crop failure, 1934 (acres)	Crop land, idle or fallow, 1934 (acres)	PLOWABLE PASTURE (ACRES)		Land available for crops, 1934 (acres) ²	Land used for crops, 1934 (acres) ³
	1934	1929	1924	Increase or decrease (-) 1929-34		1934			1929			
				Amount	Percent							
Total	295,624,176	359,242,091	344,549,267	-63,617,915	-17.7	63,681,777	56,028,978	98,579,938	109,169,914	513,913,969	359,305,953	
Under 3 acres	26,246	26,187	13,185	59	0.2	234	506	1,587	3,506	28,573	26,480	
3 to 9 acres	1,716,662	1,093,181	1,345,158	623,481	57.0	70,341	151,602	293,943	194,302	2,231,648	1,787,003	
10 to 19 acres	6,231,214	5,370,849	5,983,553	800,365	18.0	181,800	442,974	689,264	560,356	7,545,252	6,413,014	
20 to 49 acres	25,261,244	28,201,685	29,383,615	-2,940,441	-10.4	822,673	2,580,952	4,158,611	3,768,297	32,983,480	26,243,917	
50 to 99 acres	44,678,147	47,225,222	50,199,176	-2,547,075	-5.4	248,414	658,835	983,283	1,034,607	10,034,607	8,392,489	
100 to 174 acres	76,243,120	85,154,265	88,501,989	-8,911,145	-10.5	734,259	1,922,117	3,175,328	22,948,873	17,851,428	15,624,822	
175 to 259 acres	29,722,075	28,201,685	29,383,615	-8,911,145	-10.5	2,584,074	5,837,018	11,663,744	11,133,024	64,762,983	47,262,221	
260 to 499 acres	14,956,072	14,956,072	14,956,072	0	0	668,790	2,008,026	3,648,194	21,281,082	21,281,082	15,624,822	
500 to 999 acres	29,722,075	28,201,685	29,383,615	-8,911,145	-10.5	1,915,284	3,828,992	8,015,650	21,296,285	43,481,901	31,637,359	
1,000 acres and over	41,075,003	41,075,003	41,075,003	0	0	9,402,253	9,958,407	21,309,951	116,913,731	116,913,731	85,645,373	

SIZE GROUP	PERCENT DISTRIBUTION BY SIZE GROUPS											PERCENT OF ALL LAND IN FARMS IN EACH SIZE GROUP REPRESENTED BY—													
	Number of farms			All land in farms			Crop land harvested			Crop failure, 1934	Crop land, idle or fallow, 1934	Plowable pasture		Land available for crops, 1934 ²	Land used for crops, 1934 ³	Crop land harvested			Crop failure, 1934	Crop land, idle or fallow, 1934	Plowable pasture		Land available for crops, 1934 ²	Land used for crops, 1934 ³	
	1935	1930	1925	1935	1930	1925	1934	1929	1924			1934	1929			1934	1929	1934			1929	1924			1934
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	28.0	36.4	37.3	6.0	5.3	9.3	11.1	48.7	34.1
Under 3 acres	0.5	0.7	0.2	(¹)	(¹)	(¹)	(¹)	(¹)	(¹)	0.1	0.3	0.3	0.2	0.4	0.5	0.5	51.2	42.7	57.4	0.5	1.0	3.1	5.7	55.7	51.6
3 to 9 acres	7.9	5.0	5.7	0.3	0.2	0.2	0.6	0.3	0.4	0.1	0.8	0.7	0.5	1.5	1.8	1.5	57.1	59.2	64.9	2.3	5.0	9.7	10.5	74.2	59.4

¹ Less than 1/10 of 1 percent.
² Crop land harvested, crop failure, idle or fallow crop land, and plowable pasture.
³ Crop land harvested and crop failure.

should have been little affected by the instructions of what constituted a farm as the differences in the definitions would nearly always have affected the number of farms of "less than 3 acres", which has never exceeded 0.7 percent of the total number of farms in any one census year. In the 1935 Census of Agriculture, 35,573 farms of this size were recorded under the following guide of what constitutes a 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 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.

Supplemental instructions to the enumerators emphasized that ranches, nurseries, greenhouses, hatcheries, feed lots, and apiaries were to be considered farms, but establishments keeping fur-bearing animals or game, fish hatcheries, stockyards, parks, etc., were not to be considered farms.

The 1935 number of farms of "under 3 acres" was somewhat smaller than the all-time high of 43,007 enumerated in 1930. In 1880 only 4,352 farms of "under 3 acres" were reported. Part of the variations in the number of farms of this size was no doubt due to the changes made, from census to census, in the definition of a farm, and a part was probably due to the changes in the unit prices for agricultural products for 1 year as compared with another, since a given tract of land with a fixed quantity of products in 1 year might have been classified as a farm which would not have been so classified in another year when prices of products were lower.

In 1880 the number of farms "under 3 acres" must have been influenced adversely, as farms of this size were limited by definition to those from which at least \$500 worth of produce had been sold during the year. This size group was not shown in 1890 but in 1900 the requirement with regard to the value of produce of tracts of "less than 3 acres" had been removed and all such tracts were reported as farms provided the operation or management required the constant services of at least one person. In 1900 the number of such farms "under 3 acres" was 41,385, of which only 7,853 reported products (not fed to livestock) valued at \$500 or more.

In 1910 the number of farms of "less than 3 acres" was 18,033. The instructions in 1910 specified that a farm schedule should be prepared for "any tract containing less than 3 acres which either produced at least \$250 worth of farm products in the year 1909 or required for its agricultural operations the continuous

services of at least one person." This definition was similar to that used in 1900 with the alternative that the value of farm products amount to at least \$250. The number of farms of "less than 3 acres" in 1900, tabulated as having products (not fed to livestock) valued at \$250 or over, was 12,328. This number may be considered fairly comparable with the number shown for 1910.

The instructions used in 1920 were practically identical with those used in 1910. At the prices prevailing for farm products in 1919, however, the actual quantities required to make up the value of \$250 would be decidedly less than in 1909, and this change in the value of farm products per unit may be chiefly responsible for the larger number of farms in the group "under 3 acres" in 1920.

The instructions to enumerators covering the definition of a farm in 1925 and in 1930 were practically identical with those for 1935 in which no reference was made to the constant services of one person. Therefore, tracts of land of "less than 3 acres" were considered farms provided the value of products in 1924, 1929, or 1934, respectively, amounted to \$250 or more.

In States where free public range is available, some ranchers do not own or lease any land. For office convenience, the farms of such operators in 1935, 1930, and in 1925 were given a nominal acreage of "one", and also, in 1935 and 1930 were given a nominal value of "\$5." Therefore, in interpreting the figures for farms of this size in such areas, this limitation should be borne in mind. It should also be pointed out that in 1935 and in 1930 a different method was used in enumerating the farming operations on Indian reservations than was used in 1925 or in 1920. In 1935 a special effort was made to obtain a farm schedule for each Indian who had allotted land or who, having no allotted land, was grazing livestock on unallotted reservations, national forests, or public domain, if his livestock products in 1934 were valued at \$250 or more. In 1930 a somewhat similar method was used while in 1925 and in 1920 many reservation groups were enumerated as single farms. This would partly explain the increases in the size group "under 3 acres" for Arizona, New Mexico, and a few other States between several of the years mentioned.

Uses of land, by size of farm.—As explained heretofore, the size grouping was made according to the total acreage in each individual farm and then, while the farms were held in such group, a summation was made for several of the uses of land in the calendar year prior to the census. Thus, the United States figures for "crop land harvested" in the size group "50 to 99 acres" are not presented to represent farms which had 50 to 99 acres of land from which crops were harvested, but rather to represent those which had a total area of "50 to 99 acres" regardless of whether any crops were harvested. Obviously, the maximum acreage of land

from which crops were harvested, for an individual farm in this size group, could not exceed 99 acres.

For the United States as a whole, crops were harvested in 1934 from 28 percent of the 1935 farm area, whereas the percentage in 1929 of the 1930 area was 36.4. Including the total crop failure acreage in 1934 of 63,681,777 acres and in 1929 of 12,706,583 acres, the proportion of the farm area used for crops, i. e., crop land harvested plus crop failure, was 34.1 percent in 1934 and 37.7 percent in 1929. This latter comparison cannot be made for any of the size groups as a distribution of "crop failure" by size was not made for 1929. If a comparison of the 1934 figures for "land used for crops" is made with the slightly smaller class of "crop land harvested" for 1929 it may be noted that, with the exception of the farms of "under 10 acres", the percentage for 1934 was smaller in each size group than that for "crop land harvested" for 1929.

Among the size groups, the highest proportion of the farm area used for crops in 1934 was 68.4 percent for farms of "10 to 19 acres" and the lowest was 1.5 percent for farms of "10,000 acres and over." In general, as the area of the individual farms increased, a smaller proportion of the area was used for crops. The exceptions to this statement, when considering the United States totals, may be due to a more heterogeneous

type of land than is found in individual States. The United States figures, of course, represent land use varying from the most extensive type of agriculture to that of the most intensive type of agriculture. The percentage distribution for the different uses of land for such a large territory is affected by the frequency with which these varying types have been reported among the various size groups in the different States and such percentages are apt to be less stable than those of most States.

Average size of farms.—For the United States as a whole, the average size of farms was 154.8 acres in 1935 and 156.9 acres in 1930, the decline during the 5-year period followed the 8.3 percent increase in the number of farms accompanied by the increase of only 6.9 percent in the total farm acreage. In this 5-year period farms decreased in average size in 36 States and increased in 12. The average size of farms in each size group is being presented, for both 1935 and 1930, to illustrate what the distribution might be in each individual size group. For example, in 1935 farms in Iowa ranging from "140 to 179 acres" numbered 51,998 and their average size was 158.5 acres. This average is slightly smaller than 160 acres, the midpoint of the group, indicating that a higher proportion of the farms in this group were under 160 acres than over.

TABLE 4.—NUMBER OF FARMS, 1880 to 1935, AND FARM ACREAGE, 1900 to 1935, WITH PERCENT DISTRIBUTION, IN THE UNITED STATES, BY SIZE OF FARM

[Statistics for 1935, 1925, and 1920 relate to Jan. 1; for 1930 to Apr. 1; for 1910 to Apr. 15; and for earlier years to June 1. Figures for divisions and States are shown in table 7]

SIZE GROUP	NUMBER OF FARMS								Percent distribution							
	1935	1930	1925	1920	1910	1900	1890	1880	1935	1930	1925	1920	1910	1900	1890	1880
	Total	6,812,350	6,288,648	6,371,640	6,448,343	6,361,502	5,737,372	4,564,641	4,008,907	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Under 10 acres.....	570,831	358,504	378,535	288,772	335,043	287,229	150,194	139,241	8.4	5.7	5.9	4.5	5.3	4.7	3.3	3.5
Under 3 acres.....	35,573	43,007	15,151	20,350	18,093	41,385	-----	4,352	0.5	0.7	0.2	0.3	0.3	0.7	-----	0.1
3 to 9 acres.....	535,258	315,497	363,384	268,422	317,010	225,844	-----	134,889	7.9	5.0	5.7	4.2	5.0	3.9	-----	3.4
10 to 19 acres.....	983,452	559,617	588,049	507,763	504,123	406,641	265,550	254,749	10.0	8.9	9.2	7.9	7.9	7.1	5.8	6.4
20 to 49 acres.....	1,440,143	1,440,388	1,450,643	1,503,732	1,414,376	1,257,496	902,777	781,574	21.1	22.9	22.8	23.3	22.2	21.9	19.8	19.5
50 to 99 acres.....	1,444,007	1,374,965	1,421,078	1,474,745	1,438,069	1,366,038	1,121,485	1,032,810	21.2	21.9	22.3	22.9	22.6	23.8	24.6	25.8
100 to 499 acres.....	2,417,803	2,314,858	2,328,155	2,456,107	2,494,461	2,290,282	2,008,694	1,695,983	35.5	36.8	36.5	38.1	39.2	39.9	44.0	42.3
100 to 174 acres.....	1,404,297	1,342,927	1,383,777	1,449,630	1,516,286	1,422,262	-----	-----	20.6	21.4	21.7	22.5	23.8	24.8	-----	-----
175 to 259 acres.....	540,267	520,593	503,417	530,800	534,191	490,069	-----	-----	7.9	8.3	7.9	8.2	8.4	8.5	-----	-----
260 to 499 acres.....	473,239	451,338	438,961	476,677	443,984	377,951	-----	-----	6.9	7.2	6.9	7.4	7.0	6.6	-----	-----
500 to 999 acres.....	167,452	159,696	143,852	149,819	125,295	102,526	84,395	75,972	2.5	2.5	2.3	2.3	2.0	1.8	1.8	1.9
1,000 acres and over.....	88,662	80,620	63,328	67,405	50,135	47,160	31,546	28,578	1.3	1.3	1.0	1.0	0.8	0.8	0.7	0.7

SIZE GROUP	ALL LAND IN FARMS (ACRES)						Percent distribution					
	1935	1930	1925	1920	1910	1900	1935	1930	1925	1920	1910	1900
	Total	1,054,515,111	986,771,016	924,319,352	955,883,715	878,798,325	838,591,774	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Under 10 acres.....	3,057,166	1,908,370	2,096,610	1,600,287	1,477,379	1,477,379	0.3	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2
Under 3 acres.....	51,269	61,338	22,976	33,613	-----	-----	(1)	(1)	(1)	(1)	-----	(1)
3 to 9 acres.....	3,005,897	1,847,032	2,073,634	1,566,674	8,793,820	1,398,664	0.3	0.2	0.2	0.2	1.0	0.2
10 to 19 acres.....	9,369,179	7,789,332	8,059,701	7,086,941	45,378,449	5,703,460	0.9	0.8	0.9	0.7	-----	0.7
20 to 49 acres.....	46,593,555	46,251,643	46,404,857	48,466,001	45,378,449	41,536,128	4.4	4.7	5.0	5.1	5.2	5.0
50 to 99 acres.....	104,016,070	98,684,750	101,906,246	105,630,796	103,120,868	98,591,699	9.9	10.0	11.0	11.1	11.7	11.8
100 to 499 acres.....	467,534,634	447,000,067	443,911,771	471,488,255	470,769,654	425,634,836	44.3	45.3	48.0	49.3	53.6	50.8
100 to 174 acres.....	188,858,685	180,213,727	185,707,783	194,681,260	205,480,585	192,680,321	17.9	18.3	20.1	20.4	23.4	23.0
175 to 259 acres.....	114,407,514	110,264,530	106,472,766	112,562,596	265,289,069	103,282,053	10.8	11.2	11.5	11.8	30.2	12.3
260 to 499 acres.....	164,268,435	156,521,810	151,731,222	164,244,399	83,653,487	129,672,462	15.6	15.9	16.4	17.2	-----	15.5
500 to 999 acres.....	114,243,581	108,924,022	97,467,774	100,975,916	167,082,047	67,864,116	10.8	11.0	10.5	10.6	9.5	8.1
1,000 acres and over.....	309,700,926	276,212,832	224,472,393	220,635,519	197,784,156	197,784,156	29.4	28.0	24.3	23.1	19.0	23.6
Average acreage per farm ²	154.8	156.9	145.1	148.2	138.1	146.2	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----

¹ Less than 1/10 of 1 percent.

² Averages for 1850-90 are shown in table 5.