

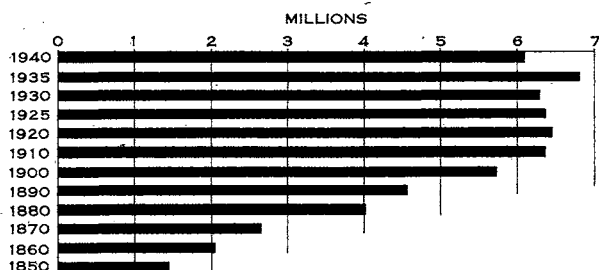
uots does not apply. Such tracts, however, must have had some agricultural operations performed in 1939, or contemplated in 1940. A schedule must be prepared for each farm, ranch, or other establishment which meets the requirements set up in the definition. A schedule must be filled out for all tracts of land on which some agricultural operations were performed in 1939, or are contemplated in 1940, which might possibly meet the minimum requirements of a 'farm.' When in doubt, always make out a schedule.

Farming, or agricultural operations, consists of the production of crops or plants, vines, and trees (excluding forestry operations) or of the keeping, grazing, or feeding of livestock for animal products (including serums), animal increase, or value enhancement. Livestock, as here used, includes poultry of all kinds, rabbits, bees, and fur-bearing animals in captivity, in addition to mules, asses, burros, horses, cattle, sheep, goats, and hogs. Frequently, certain operations are not generally recognized as farming. This is especially true where no crops are grown or where the establishments are not commonly considered as farms.

A partial list of types of specialized agriculture and of operations not generally recognized as farming but for which Farm and Ranch Schedules were required was provided. This list included such operations as apiaries (bee farms), feed lots, greenhouses, hatcheries, mushroom cellars, etc.

Farms idle in 1940 but operated in 1939 were included in the enumeration. Also included were farms which had not been operated in 1939 but which were being, or were to be, operated in 1940. No count was made of the number of farms included which were not actually "going" farms on the census date but obviously the number of such farms was not significant.

NUMBER OF FARMS IN THE UNITED STATES: 1850 - 1940



The definition used in the 1940 census was essentially the same as that used in the 1935, 1930, and 1925 censuses. Those used for the 1920 and 1910 censuses were similarly worded but were somewhat more inclusive. In those years farms of less than 3 acres and with less than \$250 of products were to be included provided they required the continuous services of at least one person.

In the census of 1850 there was no acreage qualification given in the definition but there was a lower limit of \$100 for value of produce. For 1860 no definition was given enumerators. For 1870, 1880, and 1890 no farm of less than 3 acres was to be reported unless \$500 worth of produce was actually sold from it during the year. In the definition for 1900 there was no acreage limit, a return, essentially, to the definition used in 1850. Market, truck, and fruit gardens, orchards, nurseries, cranberry marshes, greenhouses, and city dairies were to be included in 1900 provided the entire time of at least one individual was devoted to their care.

Although the establishments included in each census enumeration were determined largely by the definition of a farm used for the various censuses, they were also influenced by the individual enumerators. Local concepts have perhaps affected the number of farms enumerated. Obtaining complete coverage of establishments not generally considered as farms is particularly difficult. This difficulty led to changing the title of the schedule from "General Farm Schedule" of 1930 to "Farm and Ranch Schedule" in 1935 in an effort to obtain more complete coverage of ranches, and to adding a subtitle "Including Special Agricultural Operations" in 1940, in order to emphasize other operations not generally recognized as farming.

Whenever there was doubt on the part of an enumerator as to whether a particular establishment required a Farm and Ranch Schedule he was instructed to make out a schedule. All doubtful schedules were reviewed in Washington by a specially trained section to determine whether they were acceptable under the census definition of a farm. In the 1940 Census, out of a total of 44,704 rejects in the Washington Office less than 22,000 schedules were rejected because they failed to meet the minimum requirements of a farm.

As would be expected the work of the enumerator often affects the comparability of data from one census to another. The effect on the comparability of State data is probably negligible.

Any differences resulting from changes in the definition of a farm, or in the enumeration, would be expected to be confined largely to small farms, particularly those under 3 acres and those from 3 to 9 acres. In general the demarcation between farms and nonfarms is apt to be less definite where the acreage is small than where it is large. The acreage and value limitations included in the definition for most censuses refer specifically to farms under 3 acres. Farms under 3 acres have never been very numerous, amounting to 0.6 percent of all farms in 1940. In 1930, in which year more farms were in this size group than at any other census, they represented only 0.7 percent. Farms from 3 to 9 acres represented 7.7 percent of all farms in 1940. This proportion is higher than for any other census, except 1935 when the percent of farms in this group was 7.9. For further discussion of farms by size see chapter II of this volume.

Comparability in the number of farms from one census to another may also be affected by the date of enumeration. The enumerations for 1940 and 1930 were as of April 1, those for 1935, 1925, and 1920 were as of January 1, that for 1910 April 15, and those for all earlier census years, June 1. In the winter-vegetable areas, where many operators do not reside on the land, a census taken shortly after January 1 of any year would be expected to be more complete than one taken after April 1. In most other areas farm activity is apt to be somewhat more noticeable after April 1 and a more complete enumeration of farms with nonresident operators would be easier than for enumeration after January 1. On the other hand by April 1 many farm operators will have just moved onto their farms and will know little of the past year's operations.

Comparability in the count of farms in some counties from one census to another may be affected by changes in the management of some of the larger holdings or in their enumeration. Year to year changes in the management of plantations may affect the number of farms from one census to another, for in one year the plantation may be operated as a unit with the help of hired laborers while in another year a part or the whole of this plantation may be operated by tenants or croppers and the land operated by each reported as a separate farm. Differences in management of unit developments, or differences in their enumeration due to the difficulty of determining whether one or several schedules should be prepared, also affect the count of farms in a few counties from one census to another, particularly in citrus growing areas and in a few other fruit and nut growing areas.

Farms reporting.—The items included in this chapter were not all reported by every farm. For example, less than one-half of all farms have woodland and less than 10 percent had land from which all crops failed in 1939. The number of farms for which specified items were reported are given in the tables under the term "Farms reporting." The number of all farms is used as the farms reporting "Land in farms," also for farms reporting "Value of land and buildings." However, there were 489 farms in 1940 with no acreage. Practically all these represented livestock grazing on open range.

Land in farms.—The acreage designated as "Land in farms" includes considerable areas of land not actually under cultivation and some land not even used for pasture or grazing, but all such land must have been under the control of the operator and considered a part of his farm. However, large areas of timberland or other nonagricultural land held by an operator of a farm as a separate business, and not used for pasture or