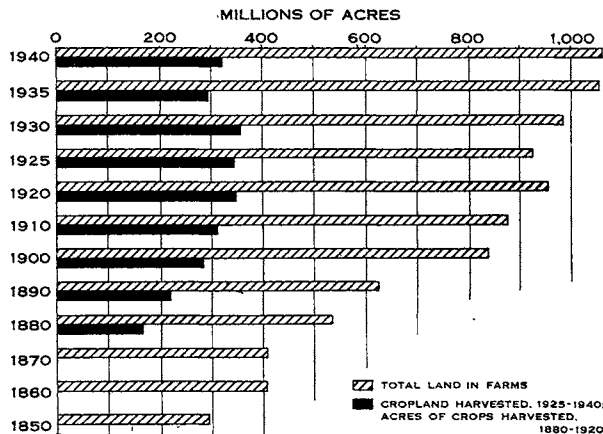


grazing, or for any other farm purpose were to be excluded. Land neither owned nor leased but from which crops, including wild hay, were harvested was to be reported as part of the farm.

On the other hand "Land in farms" does not include all land used for agricultural purposes. When cattle, sheep, or other livestock were grazed or pastured on land neither owned nor leased by the operator, such land was not to be included as a part of the farm. Thus vast acreages of range lands such as National Forests, Taylor Grazing Lands, State lands, or other public lands, and some railroad and other privately owned lands, although they may have been used primarily for grazing purposes, were not included as land in farms.

ALL LAND IN FARMS AND CROPLAND HARVESTED FOR THE UNITED STATES: 1850 - 1940



The distinction between lands to be included and those to be excluded was based entirely on whether the operator had control of the land used. Thus lands used under a lease were to be included and those used under a permit were to be excluded. As it was not always possible to determine from the schedules whether the land was leased or used under permit, some range lands not leased may have been included. The large increases in land in farms in the Great Plains and in the Mountain and Pacific States shown by the 1940 Census do not necessarily mean that more lands in these areas are being used for agricultural purposes. It is more likely that most of the increases represent grazing lands which formerly were open range, or grazed under permit, and are now being operated on a lease basis. For example, Taylor Grazing Lands leased under section XV of the Act would be by definition, and probably was for the most part, included in the acreage in farms. Many individual reports in some of the Mountain and Pacific States also showed large acreages of State lands leased. Land reported in farms in 1940 may also have included considerable acreages grazed under permit where a definite area was assigned the operator, as was the general policy followed in regard to Taylor Grazing Lands.

Land in farms may also be affected by the date of enumeration. See the discussion above on the effect of date of enumeration on the number of farms. The total acreage, however, is less affected, probably, than its classification as to use. The classification of land according to use, particularly cropland harvested, is much more difficult on an April 1 date than on a January 1 date because of the greater number of new operators on farms.

Land in farms was enumerated according to the location of the farmstead. Hence some of the acreage reported for the individual States may actually have been located in other States. Although such so-called "cross-line" acreages do not greatly affect State figures they sometimes have a very appreciable effect on county data. Changes in the management of cross-line holdings or in their enumeration frequently affect the comparability of the data of particular counties from one census to another.

Uses of land.—In the 1940 Census the schedule called for a breakdown of "Land in farms" into 6 classes according to use made of the land in 1939. These classes, although worded somewhat differently on the schedule, may be described as follows:

1. **Cropland harvested.**—The 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 1939 from the same acreage, such acreage was included only once in the acreage for cropland harvested. However, the acreage and the quantity of each individual crop were reported separately as crops harvested. Thus, in some counties the total of the acreage of crops may greatly exceed the acreage designated as cropland harvested.

2. **Crop failure.**—The land from which no crop was harvested in 1939 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. 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 for cropland harvested, not 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 1939.

3. **Cropland lying idle or in summer fallow.**—Cropland 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 1939.

4. **Plowable pasture.**—Land used only for pasture or grazing in 1939 which could have been used for crops without additional clearing, draining, or irrigating. (Land from which a crop was harvested in 1939 but which was later used for pasture was included under cropland harvested rather than under pasture land.)

5. **Woodland.**—All farm wood lots or timber tracts, natural or planted, and cut-over land with young growth, which has or will have value as wood or timber. Chaparral and woody shrubs were to be omitted.

6. **All other land in farms.**—This classification includes pasture land other than plowable and woodland pasture, all wasteland, house yards, barnyards, feed lots, lanes, roads, etc.

In the last three preceding censuses, information for eight classes of land according to use had been secured. The data obtained in 1940 for "woodland," as noted, were obtained as one total, whereas in the three previous census years these had been divided into "woodland pasture" and "woodland not used for pasture." Also, for the same years separate figures had been secured for pasture other than plowable and woodland pasture with a "catch-all" question for rough, swampy, or wasteland not in woodland, pasture, or crops, and land occupied by buildings, barnyards, feed lots, roads, fences, ditches, etc. In the 1940 census due to schedule limitations a combined figure was secured for these two classes as described under "6" above.

Prior to 1925 farm land was classified as "Improved land" and "Unimproved land." For 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 4 to afford some guidance in making comparisons. The figures shown as "cropland harvested" for census years prior to 1925 represent totals of the acreages of individual crops harvested which, because of two or more crops grown on the same land, would make the totals slightly higher and affect comparison with those for 1925 to 1940, inclusive.

It should be noted, from the descriptions of the various classes of land as already given that it is not always possible to define each class concisely. This is particularly true in regard to "plowable pasture," "woodland," and "all other land." A considerable part of the variations in the acreages of these 3 classes of land may be attributed to differences in interpretation by enumerators. Also weather conditions prevailing for a few years prior to each enumeration will affect land classification, particularly plowable pasture. These differences have a much more pronounced effect on county than on State data.