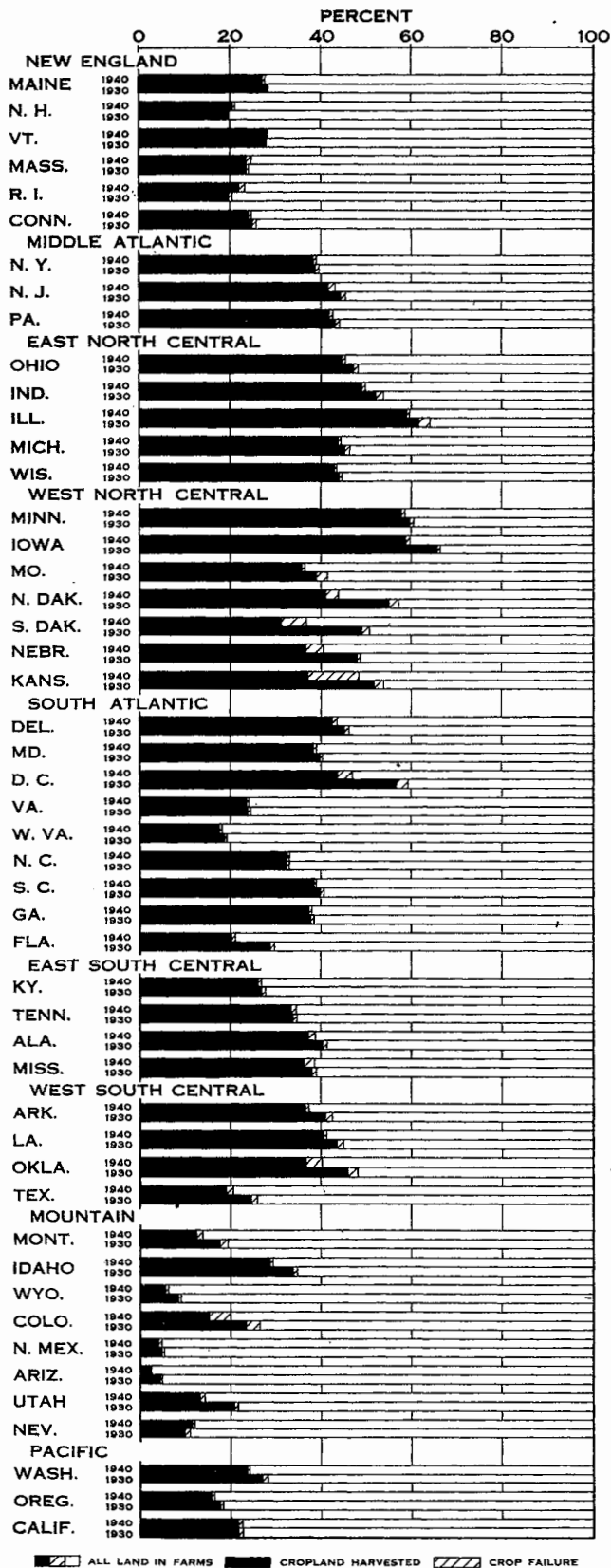


PERCENT OF ALL LAND IN FARMS REPRESENTED BY CROPLAND HARVESTED AND CROP FAILURE, BY STATES: 1940 AND 1930



The 1940 figures for "plowable pasture" were also apparently affected to some extent because of the absence of any other specific questions relating to pasture. Woodland pasture was to have been entered under "woodland," and nonplowable pasture under "all other land." The question for "woodland" did not specifically mention woodland pasture and that for "all other land" mentioned only "rough pasture land." Frequently it was apparent that large acreages of nonplowable pasture had been reported under "plowable pasture." In other instances such as in the semiarid regions, where the classification of much of the pasture lands is largely a matter of personal opinion, it was suspected that some of the pasture had been erroneously classified but unless the evidence was rather conclusive the reports were allowed to stand.

Some difficulty in the classification of land according to use resulted because of new operators who did not know the use made of the land the preceding year. The difficulty was most pronounced as regards cropland, particularly cropland harvested. Such farms, being relatively few in number, had no appreciable effect on State totals but in a few instances county figures may have been affected.

**Changes in number of farms and farm acreage.**— Changes in the number of farms, land in farms, and of cropland harvested for all census years for which these data are available are shown graphically for the United States in the accompanying charts. Figures on the number of farms and land in farms since 1850 are given in table 3 for the United States and in table 18 by divisions and States. Division and State figures for 1940, 1935, and 1930 with percent distributions by States are also given for these items in table 9. Data for the various classes of land are shown historically for the United States in table 4 and these data with averages and percentages are shown for 1940, 1935, and 1930 by divisions and States in tables 10 to 15, inclusive.

In 1940, there were 6,096,799 farms recorded in the United States, or a decrease of 191,849 from the number reported 10 years earlier. Although there was a decrease for the entire decade there were rather general increases during the depression years in all areas, except in the Great Plains which were being ravaged by drought, and in scattered counties of the Cotton Belt. The largest increases were near urban centers, in mining and industrial areas, and in a considerable portion of the areas designated as "Subsistence farming." This "back-to-the-farm" movement resulted in the highest number of farms on record, 6,812,350 in 1935. Before the end of the decade, however, improved industrial conditions had again drawn persons from the farm until the number of farms in most of the areas showing increases in 1935 were near, and in some instances below, the levels recorded at the beginning of the decade. Thus, the number of farms in the United States again showed a reversal of the upward trend which had continued unbroken up to 1920.

Despite the large increases in the number of farms between 1930 and 1935, decreases occurred in scattered counties throughout the Cotton Belt, particularly in some of the plantation areas, and in some sections of the Great Plains. Further and more pronounced decreases in these two general areas were recorded in the 1940 Census. The decreases in the South were accompanied by decreases in the number of cropper operators and apparently represented, for the most part, consolidations into larger operating units. The decreases in the number of farms recorded for the Great Plains were accompanied by increases in land in farms indicating a tendency toward larger farms.

The area of land in farms increased during the decade, a trend that has continued unbroken, except for the Census of 1925, since the first figures were obtained for this item in 1850. However, considerable gains in farm acreage, particularly in the South, accompanied the migration back to the farms during the depression years; and, except in New England, the Middle Atlantic States, and southward to and including Virginia, most of these gains were retained. The largest increases between 1935 and 1940 were in the Mountain States, particularly