

It is to be remembered that the total acres of "crops harvested" frequently exceeds the "Land from which crops were harvested," due to two or more crops being harvested from the same land in the same calendar year. Thus, a 10-acre field of alfalfa might be harvested one or more times for hay and once for seed in the same calendar year, and would contribute 20 acres to the total acres of "crops harvested" but only 10 acres to the "Land from which crops were harvested."

Some of the crop inquiries have differed in the various census years. For example, in the census of 1940, sorghums for silage were reported separately from those which were cut for hay or fodder. In the censuses of 1935 and 1930 the

silage, hay, and fodder were listed as a combined figure. In 1940, vetches, velvetbeans, mung and horse beans were secured under one question and dry field and seed peas under a separate question; while in 1935 velvetbeans, vetches, Canada and other ripe field peas were combined under one question. In 1930, a question was carried relating to velvetbeans and one covering Canada, marrowfat, Scotch, and other ripe field peas. The 1940 and 1930 schedules separated other tame and wild hay while these crops were listed under "All other tame and wild grasses cut for hay" in 1935. Sweetclover and lespedeza cut for hay were shown separately for the first time in 1940. These crops were reported as a combined figure in 1935.

TABLE 1.—ALL CROPS—ACREAGE AND VALUE, FOR THE UNITED STATES: 1879 TO 1939

(The first Agricultural Census was in 1840. Total acreage of crops not secured prior to 1879 and total value of crops not secured prior to 1899)

ITEM AND YEAR	ACREAGE			VALUE (DOLLARS)		
	Total	Increase or decrease (-)		Total	Percent increase or decrease (-)	Average per acre
		Acres	Percent			
Cropland harvested	1939	321,242,430	25,618,254	8.7	XXXXXXXXXXXX	XXXXXXXXXXXX
	1934	295,624,176	-63,617,915	-17.7	XXXXXXXXXXXX	XXXXXXXXXXXX
	1929	359,242,091	14,692,824	4.3	XXXXXXXXXXXX	XXXXXXXXXXXX
	1924	344,549,267			XXXXXXXXXXXX	XXXXXXXXXXXX
All crops ¹	1939	324,238,361	25,596,013	8.6	5,705,464,370	27.4
	1934	298,642,348	-63,302,209	-17.5	4,479,015,137	-45.5
	1929	² 361,944,557			8,223,514,886	10.0
	1924	(3)	(3)	(3)	7,472,534,858	-49.0
	1919	⁴ 348,603,729	37,310,347	12.0	14,646,177,769	177.0
	1909	311,293,382	28,075,102	9.9	5,287,773,834	85.1
	1899	283,218,280	63,512,716	28.9	2,888,049,680	
	1889	219,705,564	53,518,980	32.2	(3)	(3)
	1879	166,186,584			(3)	(3)
	Field crops and vegetables	1939	318,713,646	26,518,973	9.1	5,174,572,362
1934		⁵ 292,194,673	-63,277,044	-17.8	4,086,754,249	-44.9
1929		355,471,717	7,172,252	2.1	7,422,105,931	-46.2
1919		348,299,465	37,377,409	12.0	13,807,034,128	175.7
1909		310,922,056	28,082,345	9.9	5,008,415,454	83.8
1899		282,839,711			2,725,292,203	
1879						
Fruits and nuts and horticultural specialties	1939	5,524,715	-922,960	-14.3	530,892,008	35.3
	1934	⁵ 6,447,675	-25,165	-0.4	392,260,888	-51.1
	1929	² 6,472,840	(6)	(6)	801,408,955	-4.5
	1919	7,304,264	-67,062	-18.1	839,145,641	200.4
	1909	7,371,326	-7,243	-1.9	279,358,380	71.6
	1899	7,378,569			162,757,477	

¹ Total acreage of crops for which figures are available. ² Acreage for horticultural specialties not included. ³ Not available. ⁴ 14,502,932 acres of corn cut for fodder were excluded as most of this acreage was probably duplicated in the acreage of corn harvested for grain. The value of this fodder, \$206,954,650, was also excluded. ⁵ Only strawberries reported in small fruits; other small fruits included in field crops. ⁶ Data not comparable. See note 7. ⁷ Acreage in fruit orchards, vineyards, and planted nut trees not secured prior to 1930.

Changes in acreage of crops.—The total acreage of all crops harvested in 1939 was 324,238,361 which is an increase of 8.6 percent over the 298,642,348 acres recorded for 1934. Due to the severe and widespread drought of that year, the 1934 acreage of crops harvested was the lowest recorded since 1899. Examination of the 1939 data by geographic divisions and States shows that the States in the West North Central, West South Central, and Mountain Divisions had not returned to the high acreage of crops recorded in those divisions in 1929. In fact, nearly all the difference between the 361,944,557 acres harvested in 1929 and the area harvested in 1939 is accounted for in these 3 western divisions where crop acreages witnessed such remarkable expansion in the two decades prior to 1930 and were so severely injured by the drought of 1934. That much of this formerly planted and harvested acreage is still considered by farmers as being potential cropland is indicated by the 1939 acreage of "idle or fallow cropland" enumerated in these western divisions, as compared with similarly classed land in 1929.

Not only has the total acres of crops been curtailed compared with the 1929 peak but some very decided shifts have taken place in types of crops raised. Particular attention is directed to the lower acreage of cotton, corn, and wheat; and the higher acreage of grain sorghums and annual legumes as compared with 1929.

Changes in value of crops.—Values in succeeding censuses involve the variables of change in acreage, change in yield per acre, and change in unit price. Values are not particularly satisfactory in comparing changes between census years unless changes in price levels are taken into account. Value is the common unit that successfully measures the

importance of an individual crop compared with another crop or with all crops in an individual year. The low value of all crops recorded in 1934 was not only the result of low yields and reduced harvested acreage caused by drought but also by low unit values. The higher value recorded for the 1939 production reflects larger acreages, higher yields, and improvement in unit prices. The very high value of all crops recorded in 1919 is a reflection of the inflation in farm prices that took place during World War I. The reader is cautioned against any assumption that these values of crops are representative of either gross or net farm income from that source. They are only a valuation placed on such crops assuming all of the harvested production to have been sold for cash on the basis of an average price per unit. A high percentage of some of the crops evaluated actually reach market channels as livestock or livestock products. Much is consumed on the farm where produced.

Individual crops.—Totals for individual field and vegetable crops harvested in 1939 are presented for the United States in tables 2 to 6, and by divisions and States in tables 7 to 12. The amount of comparative data from former censuses presented in State tables has been limited somewhat by space.

In presenting the statistics, certain derived figures are shown to facilitate analysis of the data. Percentages and averages reduce the figures to a common basis and for many purposes are much more convenient to use than the basic data. For 1939, 1934, 1929, and 1924 the relative importance of the various major crops is shown by percent of cropland harvested represented by each crop. The figures for cropland harvested were first secured for 1924. The percentages prior to that year were based on the total acreage of crops harvested for which figures were available.