

## CENSUS OF AGRICULTURE: 1940

also calculated by counties, but using average unit prices established for crop reporting districts (groups of contiguous counties). Values reported in 1935 were calculated by States only, using State average unit prices. In 1930 and 1940, the values shown were calculated by counties using, for most items, county average unit prices. These unit values were based, for the most part, upon average prices obtained and calculated cooperatively by the Division of Agricultural Statistics, Agricultural Marketing Service, Department of Agriculture, and the Bureau of the Census, Department of Commerce. The values of horticultural specialties sold were secured by the enumerators

for each census year that these questions were listed on the schedule.

**Comparability of previous statistics.**—The comparability of the statistics for 1939 with those of previous censuses is affected by the wording of the specific inquiries, the inclusion or exclusion on the schedule of related items, the number of questions included, their relative position, the units of production used, and many other factors. Reference notes on the tables or comments in the text under the individual crops call attention to the more important differences resulting from changes in the schedule.

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	xxxxxxxx	
	1934	295,624,176	-63,617,915	-17.7	xxxxxxxxxxxx	xxxxxxxx	
	1929	359,242,081	14,692,824	4.3	xxxxxxxxxxxx	xxxxxxxx	
	1924	544,549,267	-----	-----	xxxxxxxxxxxx	xxxxxxxx	
All crops <sup>1</sup> -----	1939	324,238,361	25,596,013	8.6	5,705,464,370	27.4	17.60
	1934	298,642,548	-63,302,209	-17.5	4,479,015,137	-45.5	15.00
	1929	<sup>2</sup> 361,944,557	-----	-----	8,223,514,886	10.0	22.72
	1924	(s)	(s)	(s)	7,472,534,858	-49.0	(s)
	1919	346,603,729	37,310,347	12.0	14,646,177,769	177.0	42.01
	1909	311,293,382	28,075,102	9.9	5,287,773,834	83.1	16.99
	1899	283,218,280	63,512,716	28.9	2,888,049,680	-----	10.20
	1889	219,705,564	53,518,980	32.2	(s)	(s)	(s)
	1879	166,186,584	-----	-----	(s)	(s)	(s)
	Field crops and vegetables-----	1939	318,713,646	26,518,973	9.1	5,174,572,362	26.6
1934		<sup>5</sup> 292,194,673	-63,277,044	-17.8	4,086,754,249	-44.9	13.99
1929		355,471,717	7,172,252	2.1	7,422,105,931	-46.2	20.88
1919		348,299,465	37,377,409	12.0	13,807,034,128	175.7	39.64
1909		310,922,056	28,082,345	9.9	5,008,415,454	83.8	16.11
1899		282,839,711	-----	-----	2,725,292,203	-----	9.64
Fruits and nuts and horticultural specialties-----	1939	5,524,715	-922,960	-14.3	530,892,008	35.3	96.09
	1934	<sup>6</sup> 6,447,675	-25,165	-0.4	392,260,888	-51.1	60.84
	1929	<sup>2</sup> 6,472,840	(e)	(e)	801,408,955	-4.5	123.81
	1919	7304,264	-67,062	-18.1	839,143,641	200.4	xxxxxxxx
	1909	7371,326	-7,243	-1.9	279,358,380	71.6	xxxxxxxx
	1899	7378,569	-----	-----	182,757,477	-----	xxxxxxxx

<sup>1</sup> Total acreage of crops for which figures are available.<sup>2</sup> Acreage for horticultural specialties not included.<sup>3</sup> Not available.<sup>4</sup> 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, \$206,934,650, was also excluded.<sup>5</sup> Only strawberries reported in small fruits; other small fruits included in field crops.<sup>6</sup> Data not comparable. See note 7.<sup>7</sup> Acreage in fruit orchards, vineyards, and planted nut trees not secured prior to 1930.

**Units of measure and conversion factors.**—The unit of measure for reporting production of some crops has varied from one census year to the next. The 1940 Farm and Ranch Schedule made it possible to secure the production of certain crops in varying units between the major geographic regions. In the earlier censuses, production of a crop was quite generally, though not universally, asked for in a standard unit for all areas. This was confusing because the quantity harvested was frequently asked for in terms of containers or units of measure not widely used, or not used at all in some areas.

Types of containers and their cubic content have varied over the years with changes in production and marketing practices. In the State bulletins and in volume I, which carry data by counties, the current production of each crop is shown in the unit called for on the schedule for the particular region in which the State is located. In the tables in this volume, the 1939 production figures are carried in a common unit of measure for all States. For example, the 1940 schedule asked for the production of peaches in bushels in all States except Arizona and California, where tons or fractions thereof were used. In the State bulletins for Arizona and California, peach production was carried in tons, while in table 16 of this volume, the production for Arizona and California has been converted from tons to bushels on the basis of 48 pounds per bushel.

The production of noncitrus fruits, grapes, and nuts (except avocados, loquats, mangoes, pineapples, sapodillas, and

sugar apples) is shown in the same unit for all years. The production figures for each crop listed in the parentheses as exceptions, and for all citrus fruits, are carried for each year in the units of production reported in those years. Cherry production which, previous to 1939 was carried in bushels, was converted to pounds for all years using the weight of 56 pounds per bushel. For 1929 and earlier, the production of Japanese persimmons was carried in bushels and has been converted to pounds using 48 pounds per bushel. Fig production for 1939 has been carried in the summary tables in fresh weight. The schedule called for fresh weight of this fruit in all States, except in Arizona and California where the production was asked for in dry weight. For the tables in this volume dry weight was converted to fresh weight by multiplying by 4 for Arizona and by 3 for California.

The production of small fruits was carried on the 1940 schedule in quarts except for Region 8 (Idaho, Nevada, Oregon, Utah, and Washington), where the unit of measure was pounds. The production for these States was converted from pounds to quarts on the basis of a quart weighing 1½ pounds. In earlier censuses, small fruit production has been shown in quarts.

Nuts were carried on the schedule in pounds for all States except Arizona and California where the ton unit (2,000 pounds) was used in reporting English, or Persian, walnuts and almonds. The production for all States is shown in pounds in the summary tables.