

TABLE 2.—NUMBER OF FARMS UNDER 3 ACRES IN SIZE, PERCENT OF ALL FARMS, MINIMUM VALUE OF PRODUCTS, AND INDEX NUMBERS OF PRICES RECEIVED BY FARMERS, FOR THE UNITED STATES: 1880 TO 1940

YEAR	FARMS UNDER 3 ACRES IN SIZE		Minimum value of products (dollars)	Index numbers of prices received by farmers ¹ (August 1909—July 1914 = 100)
	Number	Percent of all farms		
1940	35,977	0.6	250	93
1935	35,573	0.5	250	90
1930	43,007	0.7	250	146
1925	15,151	0.2	250	143
1920	20,350	0.3	250	213
1910	18,033	0.3	250	102
1900	41,385	0.7	(*)	(*)
1890	(*)	(*)	4 500	(*)
1880	4,352	0.1	4 500	(*)

¹ From "Agricultural Statistics, 1941," Table 688, United States Department of Agriculture. For 1910 the index number is for that calendar year. For all other years each index number is for the calendar year preceding the census date.

² "Or requiring for its agricultural operations the continuous services of at least one person." No minimum limit on value of products used in the 1900 Census.

³ Not available.

⁴ Value of products sold.

No land owned or leased.—Operations limited to livestock grazing on open range and reported as having "No land owned or leased" were given "0" acres and "0" value in the 1940 Census tabulations. For the 1935, 1930, and 1925 censuses, similar reports were credited with a nominal acreage of "1." In the 1935 and 1930 censuses such reports were also given a nominal value for land and buildings of "\$5.00." The 1940 census classification of farms by size provided, for the first time, a separate group for such farms. The numbers of such farms are presented, by States, in table 3. It will be observed that these farms occur most frequently in areas where open or public range is available. In tables 4 to 15, inclusive, these farms are included in the "Under 3 acres" size-group.

TABLE 3.—NUMBER OF FARMS WITH NO LAND OWNED OR LEASED, BY STATES, 1940

STATE	Number of farms	STATE	Number of farms
United States	489	Nevada	26
Arizona	257	New Mexico	11
Arkansas	4	North Carolina	6
California	10	North Dakota	5
Colorado	8	Oklahoma	7
Florida	10	Oregon	9
Idaho	47	South Dakota	5
Louisiana	9	Texas	18
Montana	8	Utah	16
		Washington	2
		Wyoming	31

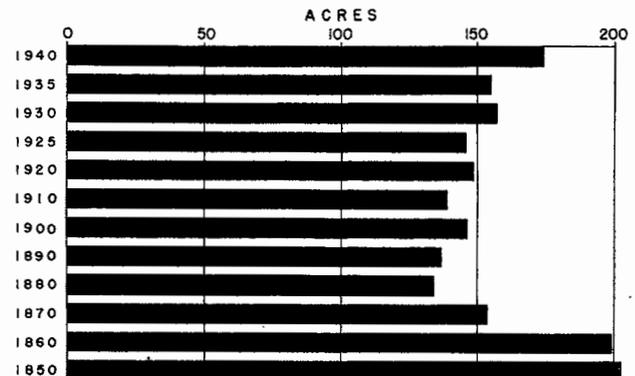
In the 1940 census a special effort was made to obtain individual farm and ranch schedules for all Indians who had agricultural operations on allotted land, or, although having no allotted land, were grazing livestock on unallotted reservations, National forests, or public domain; provided the value of the livestock products in 1939 amounted to \$250 or more. Somewhat similar procedures were followed for the enumerations of 1935 and 1930, but in 1925 and 1920 many Indian reservation groups were enumerated as single farms.

Land in farms by size of farm.—The tabulation of all land in farms by size of farm is presented, for the United States, for the census years 1900 to 1940, inclusive, in table 6; and by geographic divisions and States, for the census years 1940, 1935, and 1930, in table 14. The term "All land in farms" includes all land under control of the farm operator which is considered as part of his farm. Hence, it includes considerable areas of land not under cultivation and even some land which is not used for pasture or grazing. However, large areas of timberland or other nonagricultural land held by a farm operator as a separate business and not used for pasture, grazing, or for any other farm purpose were to be excluded. If crops, including wild hay, were harvested from land neither owned nor leased, such land was to be reported as part of the farm. On the other hand, if 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. Statistics on the number of farms with no land owned or leased

have been presented in table 3. It should be kept in mind that the figures on acreage for all land in farms are as of the census date, April 1, 1940, while the statistics on acreage of land according to use, discussion of which will follow, apply to the year 1939.

Average size of farm.—Statistics on the average size of farm for farms classified by size are presented for the United States for the census years 1900 to 1940, inclusive, in table 6, while the averages for all farms for geographic divisions and States are shown for the census years 1850 to 1940, inclusive, in table 13. These figures on average size of farm are simple arithmetic averages secured by dividing all land in farms in any area or any size group by the number of farms recorded for that area or that size group.

AVERAGE SIZE OF FARMS FOR THE UNITED STATES: 1850 - 1940



Farms reporting.—The term "Farms reporting" as used in the tables in this chapter indicates the number of farms for which the specified items shown in the particular table were reported. For example, if on April 1, 1940 there were 9,586 farms in the "140 to 174 acres" size group for a State and only 9,109 of these had cropland harvested in 1939, and the enumeration of that item was complete, the number of farms reporting cropland harvested for that size group would be 9,109.

Uses of land by size of farm.—The 1940 census secured information regarding 6 classes of land, based upon the use made of the land in 1939, viz: Cropland harvested, crop failure, cropland lying idle or in summer fallow, plowable pasture, woodland, and all other land in farms. A discussion of the definitions used for the land-use items will be found in chapter I.

For the Censuses of 1935, 1930, and 1925 information was also secured regarding the acreage of woodland pasture, acreage of pasture other than woodland pasture, and plowable pasture; and acreage of woodland not used for pasture. In the 1925 census, separate totals were secured for acreage of land in summer fallow and acreage of idle cropland. For the Censuses of 1920, 1910, and 1900 the classification of land according to use was reported upon the basis of the acreage of improved land and unimproved land. In 1920 and 1910, figures were also secured regarding the acreage of woodland.

Statistics on the acreage of land according to use, classified by size of farm, are shown for the United States in table 7 as follows: Cropland harvested, 1939, 1934, 1929, and 1924; crop failure, 1939 and 1934; cropland idle or fallow, 1939 and 1934; plowable pasture, 1939, 1934, and 1929; improved land, 1920, 1910, and 1900. Similar figures for geographic divisions and States are shown in table 14 for the following items: Cropland harvested, 1939, 1934, and 1929; crop failure and cropland idle or fallow (shown separately), 1939 and 1934; plowable pasture, 1939, 1934, and 1929; and woodland, 1939.

In using these statistics it must be kept in mind that the basis of classification is the acreage of all land in the farm and not the acreage of land used for any specified purpose. That is to say, a farm composed of 160 acres—of which 80 acres were in crops, 40 acres in pasture, 36 acres in woodland, and 4 acres occupied by buildings, yards, lanes, etc.—would be classified in the "140 to 179 acres" size group.