

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
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SPECIAL STUDY

PLANTATIONS

**Based upon tabulations from the
Sixteenth Census of the United States
1940**

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SPECIAL STUDY—PLANTATIONS

INTRODUCTION

This special study presents, for plantations, statistics which were collected along with those for farms in the 1940 Census of Agriculture. Thus, by inference, there is a difference between a plantation and a farm. A distinction is often made locally on the basis of size of holding and type of organization of the agricultural enterprise. The term "plantation" usually connotes a large agricultural holding producing staple crops in the production of which many families are engaged. The use of the term plantation, however, is by no means fixed nor is the term uniformly used throughout the country. Before statistics could be gathered for plantations, or even for farms, very concise definitions and instructions had to be given to those who gathered the data.

Since a plantation often includes several farms in the sense that these terms are used hereafter in this presentation, the definition of a farm is given first and is followed by the definition of a plantation as established for enumeration purposes for the 1940 Census. The definition of a farm has been practically uniform from census to census, whereas no definitive usage of the term plantation has been made by the Census.

A farm, for Census purposes, is all the land on which some agricultural operations are performed by one person, either by his own labor alone or with the assistance of members of his household, or hired employees. The land operated by a partnership is likewise considered a farm. A "farm" may consist of a single tract of land, or a number of separate tracts, and the several tracts may be held under different tenures, as when one tract is owned by the farmer and another tract is rented by him. When a landowner has one or more tenants, renters, croppers, or managers, the land operated by each is considered a farm.

Thus, each cropper or tenant operation is considered a separate farm even though it is a part of a larger holding which locally is thought of as an operating unit. In the South, many such cropper or tenant operations are integral parts of tracts which are regarded as plantations.

A plantation ... comprises a continuous tract or closely adjacent tracts of land on which five or more farm families (including at least one cropper or tenant family) are regularly employed, and which tracts are operated as a single working unit in respect to a central farm headquarters and to the control of labor, cropping systems, and farming operations. Thus, a plantation should include all the land worked from a central farm headquarters with croppers, wage labor, or the operator's family labor, plus any additional land, worked by share or other tenants, that may be part of the operation of the unit or plantation as a whole.

The operations of share tenants, standing-rent tenants, and cash tenants should be classed as part of a plantation when such operations are part of a working unit in respect to cropping systems and, in some cases, supervision and the interchange of labor and equipment.

In applying these definitions, a large land holding on which many families were employed, none of which were cropper or tenant families, was classified as a farm and not as a plantation even though it was locally thought of as a plantation. In order to make clear that a plantation would encompass two or more farms, as defined by the Census, the Plantation Schedule used in 1940 carried a subtitle, "Multiple-Farm Unit."

The above definition of a plantation was prepared cooperatively with several members of the Bureau of Agricultural Economics of the United States Department of Agriculture. In its formulation, much consideration was given to the administrative problems relating to field enumeration as well as to

assembling and analyzing the data. It was fully recognized at the time that neither the term itself nor its application could be fully acceptable to those users of data who wish to portray the whole organizational set-up of Southern agriculture when based on such factors as managerial or supervisory activities and contributions of capital and labor.

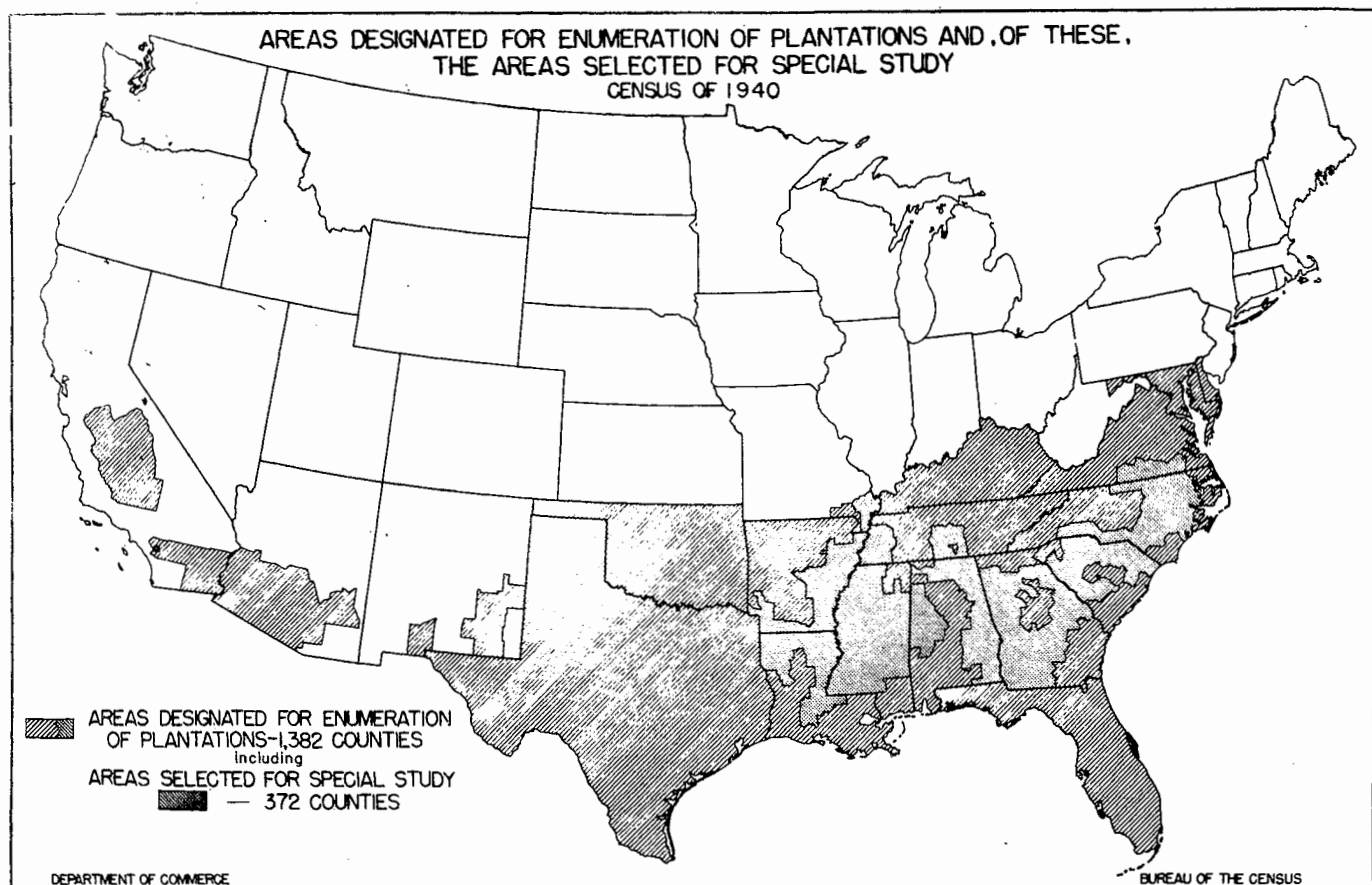
Enumerators in the following designated areas were required to fill out a Plantation (Multiple-Farm Unit) Schedule in accordance with the definition outlined above (see accompanying maps):

Alabama	Maryland
Arizona (5 counties only):	Mississippi
Graham	Missouri (8 counties only):
Maricopa	Butler
Pima	Dunklin
Pinal	Mississippi
Yuma	New Madrid
Arkansas	Pemiscot
California (8 counties only):	Ripley
Fresno	Scott
Imperial	Stoddard
Kern	New Mexico (4 counties only):
Kings	Chaves
Madera	Dona Ana
Merced	Eddy
Riverside	Roosevelt
Tulare	North Carolina
Delaware	Oklahoma
Florida	South Carolina
Georgia	Tennessee
Kentucky	Texas
Louisiana	Virginia

The Plantation Schedule was supplementary to the Farm and Ranch Schedule and did not replace it. Since basic information on such items as land assigned to each cropper or tenant, the principal crops harvested, and the numbers of horses, mules, and cattle was to be secured from the plantation operator, the Plantation Schedule which was used to record these items served as a work sheet to determine the number of farm schedules required as well as to prevent duplication and omission of data. It made possible a statistical treatment of these same items for the entire operation as a unit. It called for some information for the number of families regularly employed on the plantation and the amount of advances made to such families in cash or in the form of credit for groceries and other supplies and fertilizer. This type of information was not obtained on the Farm and Ranch Schedule. A tie-in of the two schedules also made possible the tabulation of other items of information, at the plantation level, which were listed on the Farm and Ranch Schedule but not on the supplementary Plantation Schedule.

Facsimiles of the 1940 Plantation Schedule, the 1940 Farm and Ranch Schedule, and those parts of the instructions to enumerators which pertain to plantations are included in the Appendix.

PLANTATIONS



In the 1940 Census, as in previous censuses of agriculture, each enumerator made a personal canvass of the farms in his district. The enumerator who prepared the Plantation Schedule was usually required to prepare the Farm and Ranch Schedules. When the returns were received in Washington, the two types of schedules were checked, one with the other, as a part of the editing process. Information common to the two schedules was compared. Corrections for duplications and omissions were made on both sets of schedules. Since the Plantation Schedule was to be prepared in consultation with the plantation owner or operator and the Farm and Ranch Schedule was to be prepared from information furnished by the farm operator, slight discrepancies were expected. The editing was limited to such changes as were necessary to bring the corresponding schedules within reasonable agreement. In this checking, it was found that, in many instances, a Plantation Schedule had not been prepared when it was apparent that one was required. Additional Plantation Schedules were prepared in the office when a given landlord had five or more farms, at least one of which was operated by a cropper. One of the five or more farms was often the "home farm" which was operated by the landlord or was operated for him by a hired manager. Since the Plantation Schedule called for information which was not included on the Farm and Ranch Schedule, the office-constructed schedules for plantations necessarily lack some of the data which would have been secured if the schedule had been prepared in an interview with the plantation operator.

Part of this procedure was delayed until more pressing activities relating to publication of 1940 data for farms was completed. Work on this special report was further delayed during the war because of the shortage of manpower and the necessity of preparing for and taking the 1945 Census of Agriculture. However, the data are now being made available because of the general interest in plantations and plantation organization and because of possible usefulness of the data as a basis for planning for the 1950 Census of Agriculture.

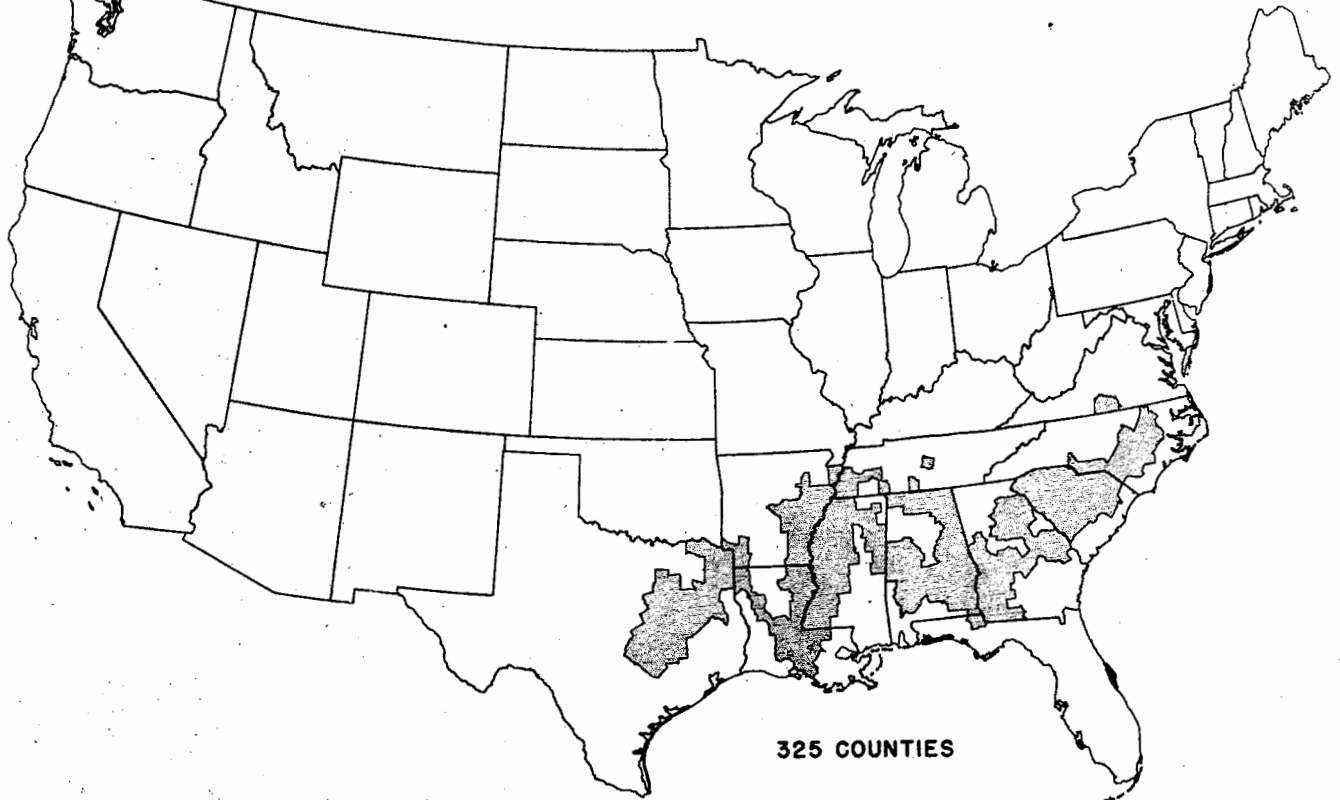
COMPARATIVE STATISTICS

Following the Civil War, the figures from census to census for the number of farms in the South reflected the breakdown of large plantation holdings. During this period, prior to 1920, the number of farms showed very substantial increases in each ten-year period. The average size of farm decreased from 335.4 acres in 1860 to 103.5 acres in 1925. In 1880, the first census year for which tenure figures are available, 36.2 percent of the farms in the South were operated by tenants. By 1925, over one-half of the farms were operated by tenants with nearly two-fifths of these being croppers. In 1930, the proportion of tenancy in the South reached a high of 55.5 percent with more than three-sevenths of all tenants represented by croppers. (See data given in table 1.)

No figures for plantations as operating units are available prior to 1910. In that year, tabulations of the information secured on the Plantation Schedule were made for 325 selected counties. The statistics were limited to "tenant plantations"; plantations operated by wage hands were treated as any other large farms. A tenant plantation was defined as "a continuous tract of land of considerable area under the general supervision or control of a single individual or firm, all or a part of such tract being divided into at least five smaller tracts which are leased to tenants."

To provide figures for 1940 reasonably comparable with those for 1910, State totals are shown in table 2 representing only the counties included in the 1910 report. In comparing the 1940 figures with those for 1910, it should be kept in mind that the 1940 definition was more inclusive than that used in 1910. In 1940, it was necessary that there be on the plantation only one cropper or tenant provided there were at least five total families regularly employed. The landlord's family could be included as one of the five. In that census, it was not required that there be a home farm; neither was it necessary that the tracts comprising a plantation be contiguous.

SELECTED PLANTATION AREA. CENSUS OF 1910



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The plantations for which data are shown for 1910 all had home farms. Despite the fact that the 1940 schedule was more inclusive, there were only one-half as many plantations in 1940 as there were in 1910.

In 1930, as a part of the monograph on "Types of Farming in the United States," the tenant schedules for a few specified counties of the Mississippi Delta in Mississippi and Arkansas were listed according to landlords. Three or more tenants renting from the same landlord were presumed to represent a plantation or proprietorship unit. The landlord schedule, if any, was included. Specified data for these plantations with corresponding information for 1940, as shown in table 3, provide some measure of the changes which occurred in plantations in the decade 1930 to 1940. For 1940, the definition of a plantation was based on number of families employed. For 1930, the plantation unit was determined on the basis of the number of tenants, no account being taken of wage-hand or landlord families. Consequently, the 1930 figures include some units with only three or four tenants which would have been excluded in 1940 unless there were also wage-hand or landlord families employed. On the other hand, the 1940 figures include some plantations with only one or two tenants. Thus, the figures for the two years are comparable only for those plantations with five or more tenants. The total number of plantations with five or more tenants for each of these specified counties for each of the two years is included in table 4. In each of these 10 specified counties, there were substantial decreases in the number of plantations and in the number of tenants on these plantations. However, without exception, there were increases in the average size of plantation and in the average acreage of cropland harvested.

PRESENTATION OF THE DATA FOR 1940

The tables presenting the additional numerical data for 1940 are grouped into several series, as follows:

- Totals for plantations and farms....tables 5 to 7
- Plantations as operating units.....tables 8 to 24
- Farms represented in plantations....tables 25 to 30
- Plantations considered as farms.....table 31

In many of the counties designated for the enumeration of plantations, the enumerators returned no Plantation Schedules and, in the limited matching process, none were found to have been required. In a number of other counties the number of plantations was small. Consequently, it was decided to limit the detailed tabular material for plantations to those counties where the plantation system was common.

The accompanying tables show the importance of plantations in relation to the total agriculture in the United States and in each of the 10 States from which counties were selected for the special plantation tabulations. The figures for plantations are restricted to those for the counties selected for special study as the cotton figures for plantations were tabulated only for these counties. The figures for all farms, however, are for all counties in these States. Thus, the comparisons represent an understatement of the importance of plantations in their relation to the total agriculture in a given area.

The number, acreage, and value of plantations and farms represented, with comparable data for all farms, are shown in tables 5 and 6 for all areas designated for enumeration. Similar figures for plantations in the areas selected for special study are presented in tables 6 and 7. In table 6, the names and the numerical data are underscored for those counties which were selected for showing additional information in this special study.

This series of tables (tables 5, 6, and 7) also shows separately the data for all plantations, those enumerated, and those determined in the Washington office. Thus, it is possible to compare characteristics of the office-determined plantations with those of enumerated plantations. It is also possible to compare the relative importance of the enumerated plantations and the office-determined plantations in the various areas. By presenting data at these different levels along with totals for all farms, these tables provide a tie-in of the statistics shown in the various tables in this report, also a tie-in of the data with the total agriculture.

The discussion relating to tables 8 through 31 is presented later under the subject headings shown previously in this report.

The criteria used in determining counties to be included in this special study were:

PLANTATIONS

FARMS IN PLANTATIONS, WITH ACREAGE AND VALUE, FOR GROUP A PLANTATIONS IN AREAS SELECTED FOR SPECIAL STUDY, WITH COMPARABLE DATA FOR ALL FARMS; BY STATES: CENSUS OF 1940

State	All farms				Plantations in areas selected for special study							
	Farms (number)	All land in farms (acres)	Cropland harvested (acres)	Value of land and buildings (dollars)	Farms represented		All land in plantations		Cropland harvested		Value of land and buildings	
					Number	Percent of total	Acres	Percent of total	Acres	Percent of total	Amount (dollars)	Percent of total
United States.....	6,096,799	1,060,852,374	321,242,430	33,641,738,726	242,178	4.0	15,695,872	1.5	7,483,238	2.3	559,333,143	1.7
10 States.....	2,199,968	189,785,168	66,374,808	5,696,789,674	242,178	11.0	15,695,872	8.3	7,483,238	11.3	559,333,143	9.8
Alabama.....	231,746	19,143,891	7,111,717	408,762,488	15,125	6.5	1,381,893	7.1	532,447	7.5	26,713,614	6.5
Arkansas.....	216,674	18,044,542	6,609,833	456,848,156	37,328	17.5	2,045,074	11.3	1,238,568	16.7	94,196,082	20.6
Georgia.....	216,033	23,683,631	8,802,593	480,344,531	19,012	8.8	2,244,111	9.5	985,361	11.2	44,269,082	9.2
Louisiana.....	150,007	9,996,108	4,051,670	353,873,506	28,372	19.0	1,746,104	17.5	784,325	19.4	67,683,647	19.1
Mississippi.....	291,092	19,156,053	6,952,331	474,986,062	98,791	33.9	5,115,709	26.7	2,507,994	36.1	196,829,322	41.4
Missouri.....	256,100	34,739,598	12,399,860	1,107,302,598	3,256	1.3	292,374	0.8	200,726	1.6	16,610,298	1.5
North Carolina.....	278,276	18,845,338	6,125,386	736,708,125	18,026	6.5	1,178,573	6.3	515,476	6.4	54,937,463	7.5
South Carolina.....	137,558	11,238,697	4,321,962	338,494,517	12,463	9.1	1,041,716	9.3	463,001	10.7	34,913,266	10.3
Tennessee.....	247,617	18,492,898	6,158,662	664,474,267	7,112	2.9	495,787	2.7	209,622	3.4	18,174,101	2.7
Virginia.....	174,885	16,444,907	3,840,189	674,975,424	1,893	1.1	185,131	1.1	45,518	1.2	5,001,268	0.7

COTTON ON PLANTATIONS—ACRES HARVESTED AND BALES PRODUCED FOR AREAS SELECTED FOR SPECIAL STUDY; WITH COMPARABLE DATA FOR ALL FARMS; BY STATES: CENSUS OF 1940

State	Cotton harvested on all farms				Cotton harvested on plantations in areas selected for special study					
	Acres	Bales (square) ¹			Acres		Bales (square) ¹			
		Number	Average per acre		Number	Percent of total	Number	Percent of total	Average per acre	
United States.....	22,811,004	11,481,300	0.5		2,706,823	11.9	2,061,140	18.1		0.8
10 States.....	12,365,600	7,470,128	0.6		2,706,823	21.9	2,061,140	27.9		0.8
Alabama.....	1,930,560	772,711	0.4		168,876	8.7	66,211	8.6		0.4
Arkansas.....	2,056,775	1,351,209	0.7		551,440	26.8	455,948	33.7		0.8
Georgia.....	1,856,185	905,088	0.5		223,742	12.1	114,249	12.6		0.5
Louisiana.....	1,088,685	717,713	0.7		297,120	27.3	238,171	33.2		0.8
Mississippi.....	2,449,285	1,538,092	0.6		1,075,224	43.9	887,903	57.9		0.8
Missouri.....	390,047	433,196	1.1		78,596	20.2	92,635	21.4		1.2
North Carolina.....	710,228	458,146	0.6		94,847	13.4	53,795	12.8		0.6
South Carolina.....	1,176,990	843,982	0.7		144,533	12.3	117,244	13.8		0.8
Tennessee.....	676,818	436,126	0.6		70,262	10.4	48,945	11.2		0.7
Virginia.....	30,027	12,665	0.4		2,186	7.3	1,039	8.1		0.5

¹ Running square bales, counting round as half bales.

- (1) The proportion of all tenants represented by croppers,
- (2) The proportion of all croppers who were on plantations, and
- (3) The number of plantations.

In delineating the area for study, some counties for which the data met the above criteria were not included as they were not contiguous to counties where the plantation system was of importance. The counties included in the special study are shown on the map on page XIII, which also outlines the entire area where the Plantation Schedule was to be prepared.

The data tabulated for plantations included information from the Plantation Schedules and information from the Farm and Ranch Schedules for the individual farms comprising the plantations. Some of the information was common to both the Plantation and the Farm and Ranch Schedule. In such cases, the information was tabulated from the Plantation Schedule after the data for the two schedules were checked and brought into reasonable agreement.

The items included, their source (Farm and Ranch or Plantation Schedule), pages on which items are presented, and the group of plantations or farms to which they refer are shown in the accompanying tabular index.

Statistics are presented on both a State and county level with an over-all summary for the entire area covered by the particular State or county table. In general, classifications of plantations and of farms comprising plantations, such as size, value of products, etc., are on a State level only. The county tables are, for the most part, limited to totals. For convenience, the States and counties in each table are arranged in alphabetical order. In the county tables, totals for all States precede those for the individual States and counties, thus providing ready comparison among States.

For convenience, the enumerated plantations plus the office-determined plantations are referred to in the tables as Group A plantations; those enumerated, as Group B plantations;

and those determined in the Washington office, as Group C plantations.

In presenting statistics to show the characteristics and organization of the plantation as a whole, consideration is also given to the number of farms represented and to the portion of the plantation operated by croppers and other tenants and the portion not assigned croppers and other tenants; that is, the home farm. In presenting statistics showing the characteristics of farms represented in the plantations, the home farm is considered separately, and, in some of the tables, a separation is also made of the cropper and other tenant farms.

DEFINITIONS AND EXPLANATIONS

The definitions of a farm and of a plantation have already been given. Other definitions, with explanations, essential to an understanding of the terms used in this report follow.

A farm operator is a person who operates a farm either performing the labor himself or directly supervising it. The number of farm operators is considered to be identical with the number of farms.

Farms reporting a particular item refers to the number of farms for which the specified item was reported. In general, the farms reporting an item represent the number of farms having that item. Because enumerators sometimes failed to enter information for all items called for on the schedule, the farms reporting represent a minimum statement of the farms having the item.

Group A plantations represent enumerated plantations plus office-determined plantations and most nearly represent the total plantations as defined for the 1940 Census.

Group B plantations represent plantations for which Plantation Schedules were prepared by Census enumerators.

Group C plantations represent plantations which were determined in the Washington office. These plantations were determined and the Plantation Schedules were prepared on the basis of information carried on the Farm and Ranch Schedules.

PLANTATIONS

IX

INDEX OF ITEMS SHOWN IN THE TABLES

[The numbers show the page on which the data are shown; the underscored numbers indicate that the figures are shown for both States and counties; otherwise, the figures are shown for States only. See text for description of areas A, B, and C]

Item	Statistics for plantations as a whole						Statistics for farms in plantations						Statistics for all farms			Source**	
	Area designated for enumeration					Other spec- ified areas	Area designated for enumeration					Other spec- ified areas	Area design- ated for enumeration		Other spec- ified areas		
	Total	Selected for special study					Total	Selected for special study					Total	Selected for special study			
Group of plantations for which information is shown*.....	A (B+C)	B	C	A (B+C)	B	C		A (B+C)	B	C	A (B+C)	B	C				
All farms, number.....														3,5	5,22	11	F
Specified tenures.....														3,5	5,22	11	F
By size.....														238	238	11	F
By value of products.....																	F
Plantations, number.....	3,4	3	3	4,22,23,113	22,62	22	21,2										P
Plantations considered as farms.....														238			P
Plantations:							2										
By number of tenants per plantation.....				43													P
Reporting tobacco or rice.....				49													P
Furnishing tractor power.....				50	100												P
By size of plantation.....				56													P
By value of products.....					80												P
By color and tenure of operator.....					88												P
By number of families employed.....					94												P
By class of families employed.....					100												P
Reporting tractors.....																	P
Farms in plantations.....								3,4	3	3	4,22,23,113	22,62	22	21			P
Home farms and cropper and other tenant farms.....								3,5	5	3	5,22,23,113	22,62	22	21,2			P
Reporting tobacco or rice.....											43						P
Furnished tractor power.....											49						P
By size of plantation.....											50						P
By value of products on plantation.....											56						F
By major source of income.....											114,159						F
By color and tenure of plantation operator..											115,114						F
By size of farm.....											115,158						P
By value of products per farm.....											115,158						F
All land in plantations or farms.....	3,4	3	3	4,22,23	22,62	22	21,2				23,113			3,5	5,22		F,F
Value of land and buildings.....	3,4	3	3	4,22,23	22,62	22	21,2				23,113			3,5	5,22		P,F
Cropland harvested.....	3,4	3	3	4,22,23	22,62	22	2				23,113			3,5	5,22		P,F
Cotton harvested.....				23	62						23,113						P
Corn harvested.....				23	62						23,113						P
Tobacco harvested.....				43							43,113						P
Rice harvested.....				43							43,113						P
Horses and/or mules.....			51		62						115						P
By ownership status.....					498												P
On plantations reporting tractors.....					100												P
Cattle.....			51		62						115						P
By ownership status.....					498												P
Value of farm products sold, traded, or used..			57								115,114,158						F
Value of crops and forest products sold.....			57								114,159						F
Value of livestock and livestock products sold			57								114,159						F
Value of products used by farm households.....			57								114,159						F
Tractors.....					62,88,100												P
Tractor power furnished.....			49		100						49						P
Age of operator.....					81												P
Occupation of operator.....					81												P
Residence of operator.....					81												P
Families employed on plantations.....					88,88,94,97												P
Dwellings on plantations.....					87												P
Credit and supplies furnished.....					97												P
Mortgaged plantations.....					102,106												P
Taxes on plantations.....					110												P
Work off farm.....											115						F
Automobiles.....											115						F
Electricity in farm dwelling.....											115						F
Telephone.....											115						F
Year of occupancy.....											115						F
Rental agreements.....														180,190			P

* Group B represents enumerated plantations and Group C represents office-determined plantations.

** F—Plantation (Multiple-Farm Unit) Schedule; P—Farm and Ranch Schedule.

1 For the United States and the South, 1850 to 1940.

2 Totals for specified States, 1940 and 1910. Data limited to State totals for counties included in 1910 plantation report.

3 For specified counties in Arkansas and Mississippi, 1940 and 1950.

4 For specified plantations.

A plantation operator is the landlord, manager, or other person in charge of the working unit requiring a plantation schedule. Usually the operator of the home farm is the plantation operator. This was always assumed in the case of office-determined plantations if there was a home farm. The number of plantation operators is identical with the number of plantations.

Plantations reporting a particular item refers to the number of plantations for which the specified item was reported. For items such as age of operator, the difference between the number of all operators and those reporting age is a measure of the extent to which this item was underreported. For items not necessarily requiring an answer for every plantation, the difference between the total number of plantations and those reporting the item includes those for which no information concerning the item was obtained as well as those not having the particular item.

Color of operator.—Farm operators are classified as "white" and "nonwhite." White includes Mexicans and nonwhite includes Negroes, Indians, Chinese, Japanese, and all other nonwhite races.

Tenure of operator.—Plantation and farm operators are classified according to the tenure under which they operate their plantations or farms.

Full owners own all the land they operate.

Part owners own a part and rent from others the rest of the land they operate.

Managers operate farms for others and receive wages or salaries for their services. Persons acting merely as caretakers or hired as laborers are not classified as managers.

Tenants operate hired or rented land only.

Cash tenants pay a cash rental, such as \$4.50 per acre for the cropland or \$500 for the use of the whole farm.

Share-cash tenants pay a part of their rental in cash and a part as a share of crops or livestock production.

Share tenants pay a share only of either the crops or livestock production or both.

Croppers have been defined as share tenants to whom their landlords furnish all of the work animals or tractor power in lieu of work animals. Tenants whose work power was furnished and who paid a part of their rental in cash and a part as a share of the cash crop were included with croppers. For the plantation as a whole and for the home farm, croppers are not shown separately but are included with share tenants.

Other tenants include those whose rental agreement was unspecified and those who did not fall definitely into one of the other subclasses.

Tenants owning and operating additional land.—A few of the tenants on plantations also owned land which they operated in conjunction with that rented from the plantation owner or operator. All of the land, including both the owned and rented portions, was reported on the Farm and Ranch Schedules. Only the rented portion, or that representing a part of the plantation, was included in the plantation report.

Land in plantations includes all land owned or rented by the plantation operator (or by his employer if he is a hired manager) which he handles as one operating unit. It may include considerable areas of land not actually under cultivation and some land not even used for pasture or grazing but such land must have been under the control of the plantation operator and considered a part of his plantation. It includes land assigned to croppers or other tenants if their operations are a part of the operating unit but excludes land rented to others and operated independently.

Land in farms includes all the land owned or rented by the farm operator, excluding any rented to or assigned to others. The home farm in the plantation consists of all the land not allotted to croppers or other tenants. It includes all land operated by wage hands, all wasteland, woodland, and any other land not assigned to croppers or other tenants. Each cropper or other tenant farm consists of the land assigned him. It may consist only of cropland or it may also include pasture land, woodland, or wasteland assigned or allocated to him.

Cropland harvested is the land from which cultivated crops were harvested, land from which hay was cut, and land in orchards in 1939. It does not include land on which all crops were a complete failure, land used only for soil-improvement crops, or cropland used only for pasture.

Value of land and buildings.—The market value of the real estate represented. The enumerator was asked to obtain from the operator his estimate of the current market value of the farm he was operating. Thus, for owner-operated land the value represents the owner's appraisal and, for tenant-operated land, the tenant's appraisal.

Specified crops.—In the plantation study, data for specific crops were limited to the acres and bales of cotton and to the acres of corn, tobacco, and rice harvested in 1939. The difference between the sum of the acres of these specified crops and the total acres of cropland harvested represents the approximate acreage in other crops.

Specified livestock.—Only the numbers of mules, horses, and cattle were tabulated for plantations. The mules, horses, and cattle were to be fully accounted for whether owned by the plantation operator or not and whether kept on the home farm, on cropper or other tenant farms, on open range, or in town barn lots. Of the totals reported the operator was asked to give the numbers owned by him. This inquiry on ownership of the livestock appeared at the bottom of the schedule and was overlooked by many of the enumerators. Consequently, the figures shown on ownership of livestock are restricted to those plantations for which this inquiry was answered.

Tractors.—The Plantation Schedule asked for the number of tractors on the plantation which were owned by the plantation operator and the number owned by tenants. In addition, the plantation operator was asked to indicate for each cropper and other tenant whether he furnished any tractor power. Some plantations furnishing tractor power reported no tractors indicating that tractors may have been hired for this purpose.

Value of products.—The Farm and Ranch Schedule included ten inquiries relating to the value of the farm products which were sold, traded, or used by the farm households. These inquiries in the order of their appearance on the schedules were as follows:

Value of all dairy products sold or traded in 1939—milk, cream, butter, cheese, etc.
Value of all livestock sold or traded in 1939, except poultry, bees, and fur animals.
Value of all poultry, eggs, baby chicks, poults, etc., sold or traded in 1939.
Value of wool, mohair, meat, hides, etc., bees, honey, wax, and fur animals and pelts sold or traded in 1939.
Value of the crops reported under questions 87-142 (including landlord's share) which were or are to be sold or traded.
Vegetables harvested in 1939 for sale (not for home use): Include vegetables sold to canneries.
Horticultural specialties: Sales in 1939.
Value of all fruits and nuts, including small fruits, produced in 1939 (1939-40 season for citrus) that were or are to be sold or traded.
Value (estimated) of products of this farm in 1939 that were used by your family and by all households on this farm (meat, milk, poultry, eggs, honey, vegetables, fruits, firewood, fuel wood, etc.).
Value of forest products sold in 1939: Include firewood, fuel wood, standing timber, sawlogs, veneer logs, pulpwood, mine props, tanbark, charcoal, fence posts, railroad ties, poles and piling, turpentine, resin, maple sirup and sugar, etc.

In this report figures are shown separately for only one of the above-mentioned value-of-product items, that is, the value of products used by the farm households. The items sold are shown as two totals: one representing crops and forest products sold and the other, livestock and livestock products sold, including poultry.

A summation of the value of products reported for each farm comprising a plantation provided value-of-product information for the plantation as a whole and permitted the classification of plantations on the basis of their total income.

Both the home farm and the cropper and other tenant farms are classified on the basis of the value of products of the land comprising the particular farms. Thus, the reports for the cropper and other tenant farms were to include the landlord's share, whereas the reports for the home farm were to exclude the sales of products of cropper or other tenant farms. They are also classified according to their major source of income. The basis of this classification was the highest of the ten value-of-product entries. Three major source groups are shown as follows: (1) Farms with major source of income from field crops, such as cotton, corn, tobacco, rice, etc.; (2) farms with major source of income represented by value of products used by farm households; and (3) farms with major source of income from any one of the following groups: dairy products, livestock, poultry, livestock products, vegetables, fruits and nuts, horticultural specialties, or forest products. This third group also includes farms having no farm products sold, traded, or used.

In using these income figures, it should be kept in mind that they represent the values reported for each farm. Therefore, they may not always be entirely in agreement with the crop and livestock information reported on the Plantation Schedule. It should also be pointed out that for tenants who owned and operated additional land the income includes products from the other land which was not a part of the plantation. The other items shown for this subtenant group, such as land, crops, and livestock, relate only to that portion of their operations which is a part of the plantation. This group represents a very minor portion of the farms in plantations. The inclusion of this income from nonplantation farm lands affects the total value of products of plantations by only a fraction of one percent.

Families employed.—The Plantation Schedule called for the number of cropper, other tenant, and wage-hand families, respectively, regularly employed in 1939. Comparison of the number of cropper and other tenant families reported as employed in 1939 with the number of croppers and other tenants listed for 1940 indicates that the term "cropper," as interpreted by plantation operators, was not in agreement with the definition of this term as used by the Census. It is recognized that there may have been a considerable change in the relative numbers of croppers and of tenants from 1939 to 1940.

Dwellings.—The number of occupied and unoccupied dwellings on plantations referred only to cropper, tenant, and wage-hand dwellings.

Credit and supplies furnished.—To provide an indication of the extent and nature of the credit and supplies advanced by the plantation operator to the families he employees, the Plantation Schedule asked for the amount of cash advances, the value of fertilizer advanced for cropper and tenant account, and the value of groceries and all other supplies advanced. The schedule also asked for the number of cropper, other tenant, and wage-hand families which were furnished credit or supplies.

Mortgage debt.—These questions were asked only of those plantation operators who owned either all or part of the land in the plantation. They related only to the land owned by the plantation operator. No mortgage information was obtained for the rented land in plantations or for managed plantations as tenants or managers could not be expected to know whether or

not the plantation was mortgaged or the amount of the debt. Mortgage data for part-owner operated plantations refer only to the owned portion. Since not all the owned land in the plantation may have been covered by mortgage, the acreage mortgaged was obtained as well as the amount of debt.

Taxes paid on the real estate and personal property of the plantation were likewise asked only of owner operators and were restricted to land and buildings and to livestock, machinery, etc., owned by the plantation operator.

Rental agreements.—Croppers and other tenants on plantations were further classified on the basis of their rental agreements. Account was taken of the specific shares which they paid for the cotton or other cash crops and for the corn, any cash payments, any fixed quantities of the crops produced, or other specified basis of payment. No account was taken of shares of other crops or of livestock or livestock products, or the varying contributions of items such as fertilizer, seeds, etc., except as the furnishing of work power was the basis of the classification of croppers. Much of the variation in the shares of crops paid can be attributed to differences in the items or shares contributed by the landlord. However, the primary purpose of this classification was to determine the different patterns of rental agreement on plantations, their geographic distribution, and their relative importance rather than a detailed description of each pattern. In a few instances the shares shown as paid by the tenant may represent the tenant's rather than the landlord's share. The schedules asked for "your proportionate share of the crop," referring to the landlord.

Age of operator.—Plantation operators are classified by age into 6 groups: under 25 years, 25 to 34 years, 35 to 44 years, 45 to 54 years, 55 to 64 years, and 65 years and over. An average age for those reporting is also shown.

Occupation of operator.—Plantation operators are classified as to their principal occupation into two major groups: (1) farmers and (2) nonfarmers. The nonfarmers were subdivided into (a) professional; (b) proprietors, managers, or officials; and (c) other nonfarmers.

Residence of operator.—Plantation operators are classified as to residence into two groups: (1) on plantation operated and (2) not on plantation operated. The question on the Plantation Schedule read: "Do you reside on a farm most of the year?" Replies of "Yes" were assumed to indicate residence on the plantation.

Work off farm.—Many plantation operators spend most of their time at nonfarm jobs and many croppers and other tenants also work for wages. The extent of such off-farm employment for the operators of home farms and of cropper and other tenant farms on plantations is shown by the number of operators reporting and the number of days spent in 1939 at work for pay or income off the farm they operated. Separate figures are shown for those operators who reported only work on other farms. Nearly all the other operators working off their farms worked only at nonfarm jobs. Only 3.0 percent of all farm operators in the South who reported work off their farms in 1939 worked at both nonfarm jobs and on other farms.

Year of occupancy.—The home farms and the cropper and other tenant farms of plantations are classified according to the year the operators first began operating their particular farms. Three groups are shown: (1) Those who reported occupancy beginning in 1940 or 1939; (2) those reporting 1938, 1937, or 1936; and (3) those reporting 1935 or earlier.

Automobiles.—Information on automobiles is restricted to the number of farms reporting with separate figures for home farms and cropper and other tenant farms.

Electricity.—The number of farms reporting electricity in the dwelling is also shown for home farms and for cropper and other tenant farms in plantations.

Telephones are likewise shown for home farms and for tenant farms.

PLANTATIONS

LIMITATIONS OF THE DATA

A few of the limitations were discussed briefly in the section headed "Definitions and Explanations."

In using the data presented in this report it should be kept in mind that the totals do not represent all plantations as defined for the 1940 Census. The office-determined plantations do not include all plantations which were not enumerated. The Farm and Ranch Schedules for farms with the same landlord were not always enumerated in consecutive order. Consequently, it was not always noted in the office processing that a Plantation Schedule was required. For a few counties, the landlords were listed and their names arranged alphabetically. From this limited check it appeared that a considerable number of

Plantation Schedules were not prepared in the office when they should have been prepared in accordance with the criteria established. This check was not sufficient to provide an estimate of the number of plantations for which schedules were not prepared.

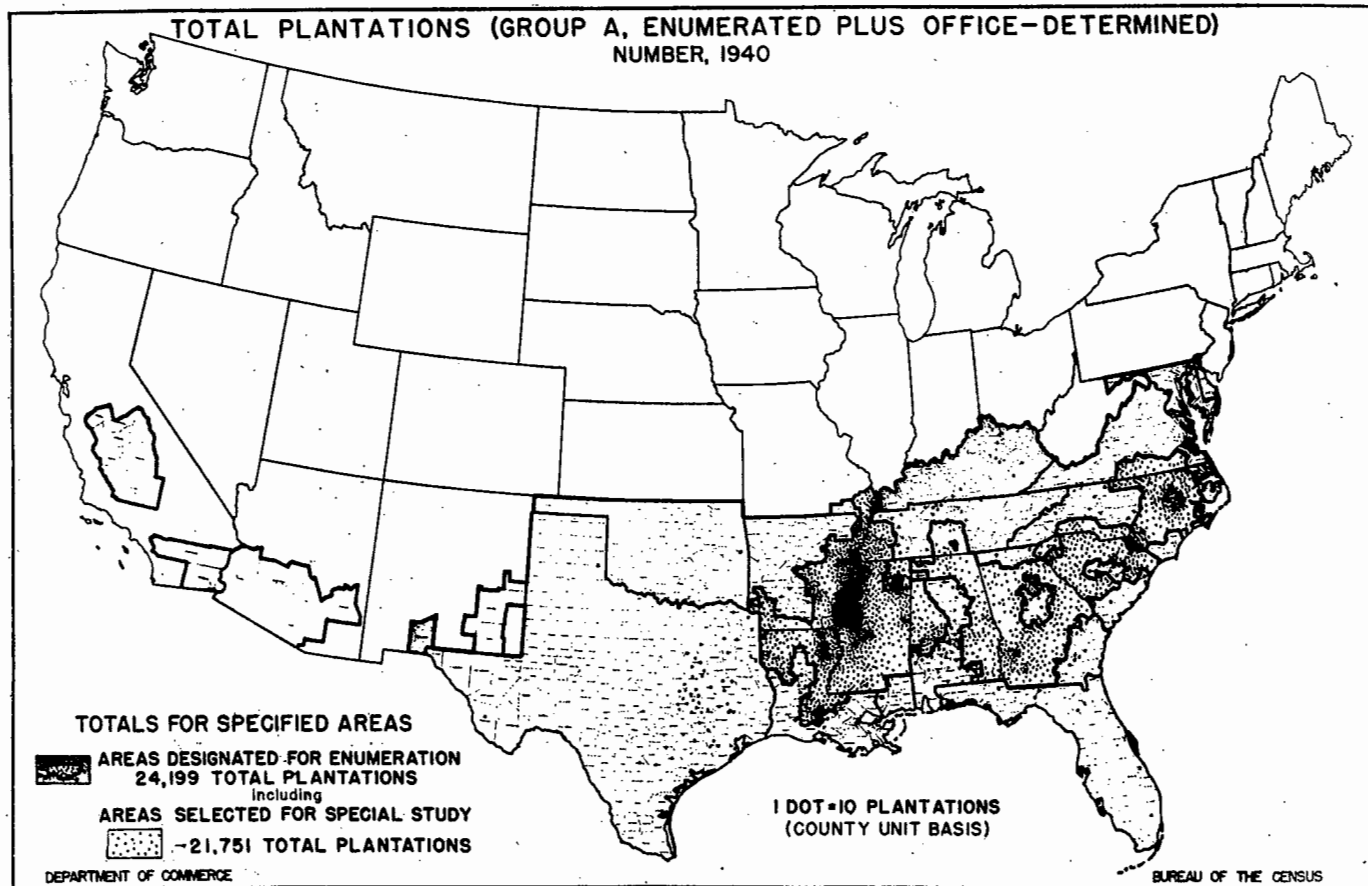
Some of the figures represent totals for all areas designated for the enumeration of plantations, while most of the data are restricted to the areas selected for special study. Because a part of the information which referred to the plantation as a whole could not be obtained from the individual Farm and Ranch Schedules, some of the statistics are limited to the plantations which were enumerated. These various groups are shown in such manner as to provide a tie-in of one table with another as indicated in the accompanying chart.

TIE-IN OF THE FIGURES PRESENTED IN VARIOUS TABLES

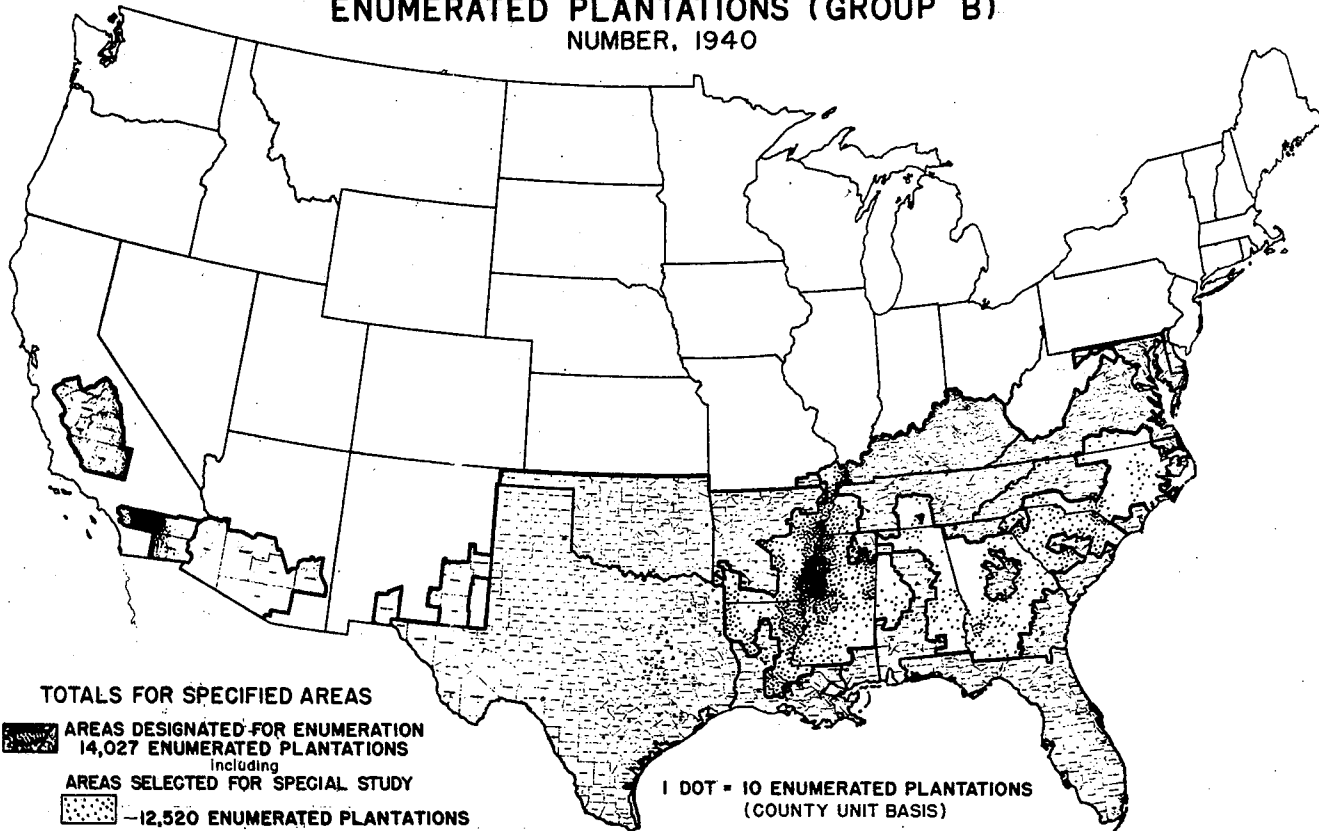
Group	Plantations (number)	Farms comprising plantations		Tables referring to each specified group of plantations
		Total (number)	Cropper and other tenant farms (number)	
Area designated for enumeration:				
Group A plantations (B + C).....	24,199	265,264	246,549	5, 6
Group B plantations.....	14,027	176,288	165,075	5
Group C plantations.....	10,172	88,996	83,276	5
Area selected for special study:				
Group A plantations (B + C).....	21,751	242,178	225,246	6-8, 10-12, 25-28
Reporting tobacco.....	5,154	24,949	22,841	9
Reporting rice.....	161	1,645	1,529	9
Group B plantations.....	12,520	161,614	149,695	7, 13-15, 17, 19, 29, 30
Reporting dwellings.....	9,424	(*)	(*)	16
Reporting families employed.....	12,160	(*)	(*)	17, 18
Reporting ownership of livestock.....	8,821	(*)	97,452	20
Reporting tractors owned by plantation operator.....	6,523	(*)	(*)	17, 21
All owner-operated plantations.....	9,268	(*)	(*)	14, 22, 24
Mortgaged plantations reporting amount of debt.....	4,852	(*)	(*)	23
Group C plantations.....	9,251	60,664	75,555	7

* Not available.

† The total number of mortgaged owner-operated plantations is shown in table 22.



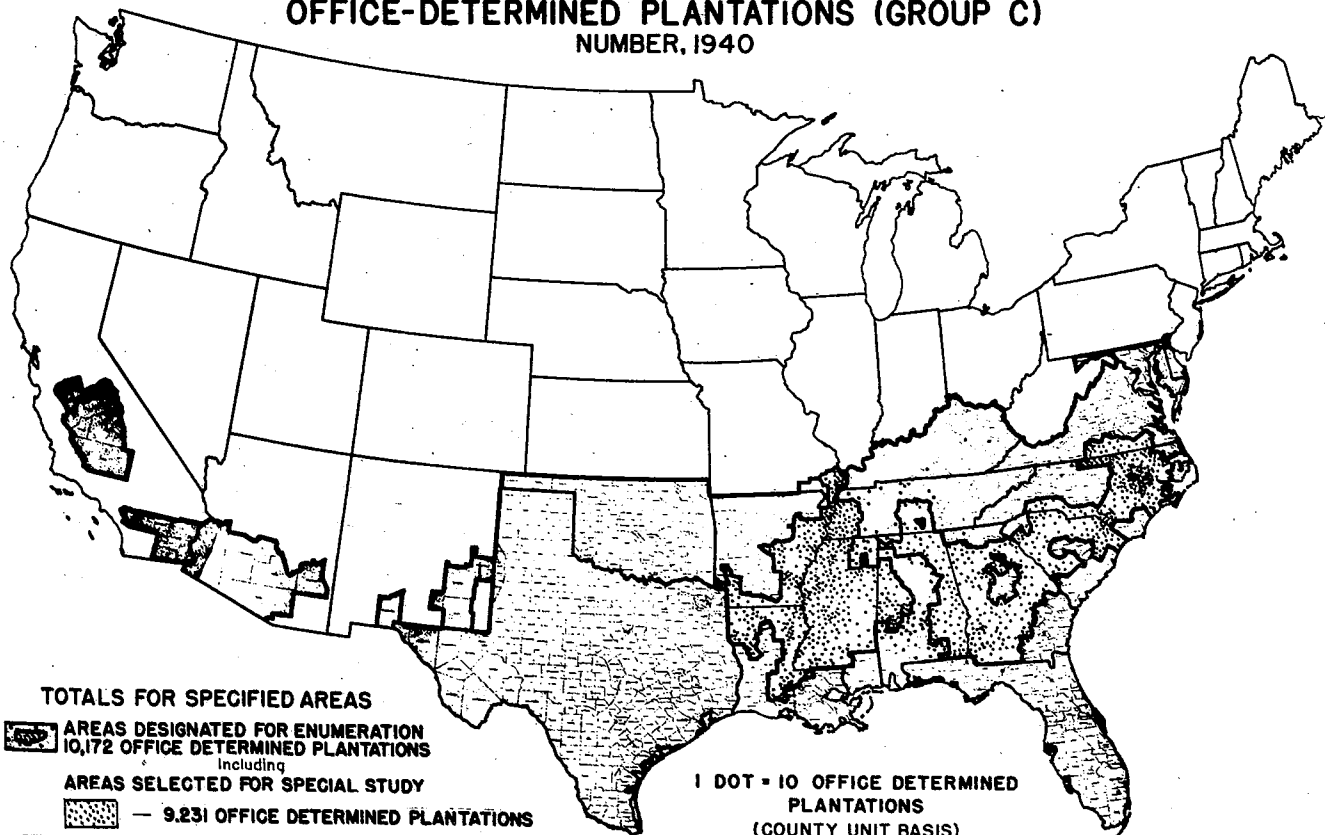
ENUMERATED PLANTATIONS (GROUP B)
NUMBER, 1940



DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

BUREAU OF THE CENSUS

OFFICE-DETERMINED PLANTATIONS (GROUP C)
NUMBER, 1940



DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

BUREAU OF THE CENSUS

Many of the figures shown for each designated group of plantations represent a minimum for those particular plantations. Some enumerators failed to report all the items which were applicable. The possible extent of such incompleteness is not known.

There are varying degrees of management exercised by landlords over their tenants in respect to cropping systems and farming operations. Thus, some Plantation Schedules, as prepared either in the enumeration or editing process, may include no dependent tenants, that is, no closely supervised croppers or other tenants; other schedules may include independent tenants along with dependent tenants. It is probable that the schedules which were constructed in the office include a higher proportion of tenants who occupy approximately as independent a position as tenant farmers in other parts of the country than the enumerated schedules. It will be noted that the proportion of tenants other than croppers is much higher for the Group C plantations than for the Group B plantations. In the more important plantation areas relatively few office-constructed schedules were required; for the less important plantation areas the office-constructed schedules far exceed those enumerated.

The information presented for the home farm and for the cropper and other tenant farms refers to the land assigned in 1940. In general, the crops harvested and the value of products on the cropper and other tenant farms represent cropper and other tenant operations and those reported on the home farm represent operations of the plantation operator performed either by his own labor or that of his family or wage hands. But, to the extent that there was a change in the land assigned in 1940 from that assigned in 1939, the figures fail to represent home farm and cropper or other tenant operations, respectively. This accounts for a high proportion of the croppers and tenants who did not report cash crops harvested or, in some instances, any crops harvested in 1939. However, some croppers and tenants did not report crops harvested because of crop failure.

The home farm and cropper and other tenant figures may also be misleading to the extent that certain items relating to cropper and other tenant operations may have been included in the home farm report. If the work animals were kept on the home farm, they would not appear for each cropper and other tenant. If the croppers and other tenants used pasture and woodland not specifically assigned them individually, such land would generally be reported on the home farm and would appear for the croppers and other tenants only if the enumerator made an arbitrary allocation of such land.

Despite these limitations it is believed that the statistics presented will be found very helpful to students and others interested in Southern agriculture. The totals shown should always be considered as minima, but the statistics relating to the characteristics of plantations and of farms comprising plantations would not be greatly affected by a more inclusive enumeration or tabulation.

PLANTATIONS AS OPERATING UNITS

The characteristics and organization of plantations as operating units are shown in tables 8 to 24, inclusive. In this series of tables it should be noted that tables 8 through 12 include both enumerated and office-determined plantations, while tables 13 through 24 include only enumerated plantations. To provide a tie-in of these two series, table 13 presents identical information for enumerated plantations (Group B) as is shown for enumerated plus office-determined plantations (Group A) in table 8.

Plantations are associated with the production of cash crops particularly those requiring large amounts of hand labor. Most of the plantations are engaged in the production of

cotton as their principal cash crop. They accounted for approximately two-fifths of the total cotton production in the United States in 1939. Tobacco is also an important crop on these operating units, but plantations accounted for less than 10 percent of the tobacco acreage. Most of the plantations growing tobacco also grow cotton. Rice, sugarcane, and peanuts are other important cash crops on plantations. To permit separate consideration of plantations differing as to the cash crop, data are shown separately for tobacco and rice plantations. No information on peanuts and sugarcane was included in the plantation tabulations; therefore, separate data could not be shown for such plantations. Sugarcane for sugar is produced almost entirely with wage labor, hence it is not of importance on plantations as defined in this study. Separate figures are not shown for cotton plantations as the total figures for all plantations include relatively few plantations not growing cotton.

A number of plantation operators are using tractors to replace or supplement their horses and mules as a source of power. Since the use of tractor power greatly influences the organization of plantations, separate figures for plantations with tractors are presented in table 21. The extent that tractor power is being furnished to croppers and other tenants is shown in table 10.

In addition to presenting information such as is presented by the Census for operating units in other parts of the country, the data include information unique, or of particular importance only, to the plantation type of organization. Thus, the data include the number and kind of tenants, and the number of plantations with home farms. The total land, the value of land and buildings, the cropland harvested, and the acreage of specified crops are classified to show separately the portions represented in the home farm and the tenant operations, respectively. Information is given concerning the advances made to croppers and other tenants and to wage-hand families, and concerning livestock owned by the croppers and tenants. The classifications of plantations include one by number of families employed and another by the class of families employed.

In considering characteristics of plantation operators, such as are presented in table 14, attention should also be given to characteristics of operators of home farms of plantations and to specified facilities which are included in table 26.

FARMS REPRESENTED IN PLANTATIONS

In presenting statistics for the farms which make up plantations, the home farms are shown separately from the tenant farms. Data for cropper farms are also shown separately from those for other tenant farms. Some may not wish to consider these other tenants as components of the operating unit. The tabulations show that the farms of these other tenants closely resemble those of croppers. However, the farms of other tenants tend to be somewhat larger and somewhat more diversified. There is very little difference in the per-farm value of products. The classifications by size of farm and by value of products indicate that both groups of tenants include a few with rather large scale operations.

It should be remembered that the value-of-farm-product figures for the other tenant farms include, for those few tenants who owned and operated additional land, the value of the farm products from this other land. In table 26 the value-of-product figures for tenants owning and operating additional land relate to all the land they operated and are not restricted to plantation lands. The value-of-product figures for this group of tenants should not be related to the crop or livestock figures shown in this same table for these tenants. The crop and livestock figures relate only to that portion of the operated land which is a part of the plantation.

PLANTATIONS CONSIDERED AS FARMS

Some critics of Census statistics point out that the treatment of each cropper or tenant operation on plantations as a separate farm does not provide data comparable with those shown for other parts of the country. They contend that each plantation should be considered a farm. In table 31 is shown, by size of operation and by value of products, the effect on the number of farms if plantations had been considered as farms. In deriving these figures the totals for farms represented in plantations (see tables 27 and 28) were subtracted from totals for all farms in each classification for a given area and to this difference was added the figures for plantations similarly classified (see tables 11 and 12).

By similar computations it is possible to make further analyses of this nature from the figures presented in this report and the data for farms presented in previously published reports of the 1940 Census. Thus, for each item for which statistics are shown for all farms, for plantations as a whole, and for farms represented in plantations it is possible to show figures on the operating unit level. Data for some of these items could be shown by counties; data for others could be shown only on a State level.

Subtracting the figures for farms represented in plantations from the corresponding figures for all farms gives statistics for single-unit farms. It is possible to compare the characteristics of single-unit farms with those of plantations as operating units and with those of farms comprising plantations.