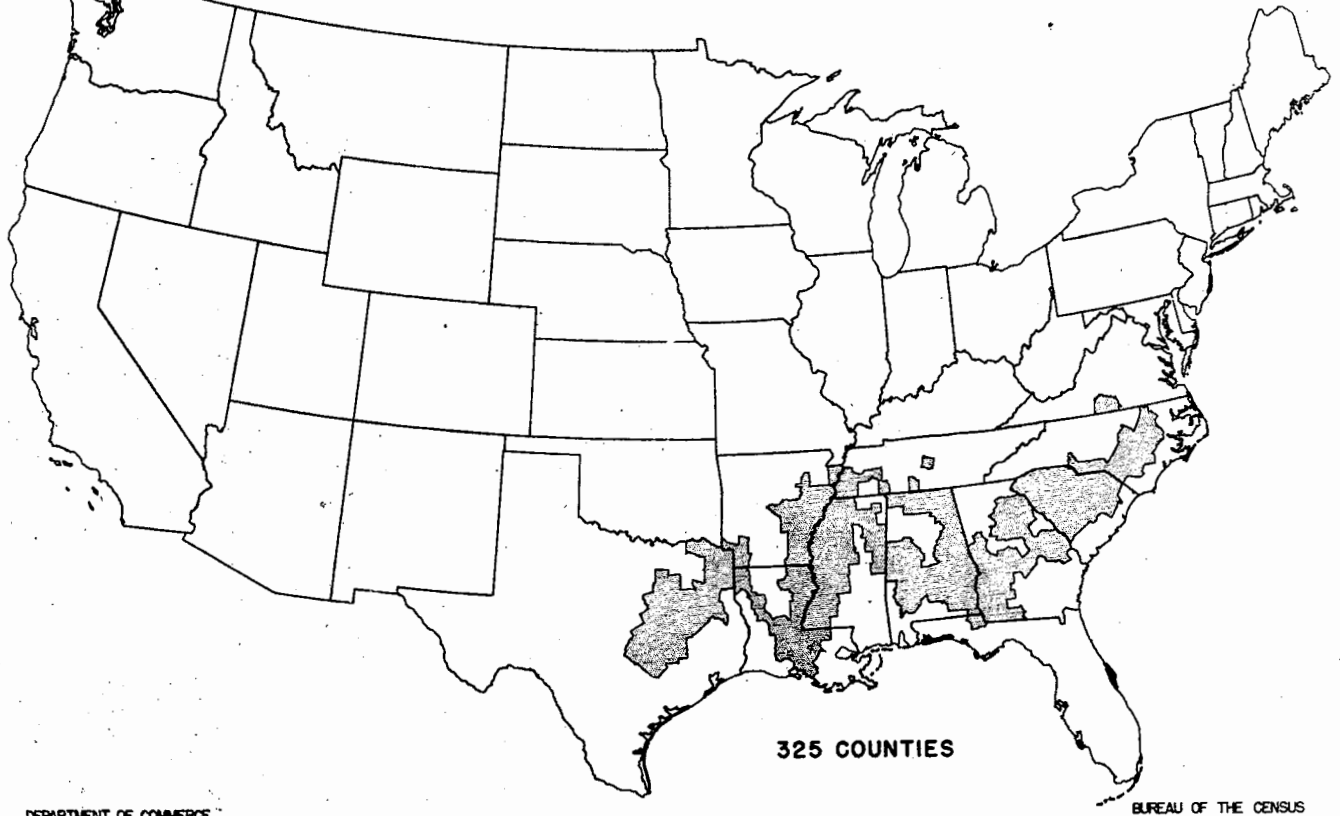


SELECTED PLANTATION AREA. CENSUS OF 1910



DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

BUREAU OF THE CENSUS

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 of 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: