
CHAPTER VI.— FARM FACILITIES, ROADS, AND FARM MACHINERY

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CHAPTER VI—FARM FACILITIES, ROADS, AND FARM MACHINERY

Introduction.— Statistics, collected in the 1945 Census of Agriculture, which are presented in this chapter relate to specified facilities in the farm home; availability of electricity; the distance of the farm from an all-weather road; automobiles, motortrucks, and tractors on farms; and the value of farm implements and machinery. The figures shown represent United States, regional, division, and State totals. County figures for these items are shown in volume I. Figures for minor civil divisions (townships, precincts, etc.) are included in minor civil division table 2 which is available by counties at the cost of making copies of the table. All of the above items are also included in a separate report which presents, for a sample of the farms enumerated in the 1945 Census, data for farms in each of several classifications, such as color and tenure of the farm operator, amount of gross farm income, and size of farm. This special report also presents the data for automobiles, trucks, and tractors by year of model.

The data represent tabulations of information secured by Census enumerators for each farm.

A farm is defined briefly as all 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. Tracts of less than 3 acres are considered to be farms only if their agricultural products for the calendar year preceding the census date were valued at \$250 or more.

The Census definition of a farm is generally more inclusive than the usual concept. Thus, for Census purposes, farms include such specialized operations as greenhouses, nurseries, and apiaries, and such places as village lots on which gardening, poultry keeping, or other activities produce enough to meet the minimum requirements to be classified as farms. (See Chapter I and facsimile of schedule and instructions in the Appendix.)

Farms reporting, as used in the tables, denotes the number of farms for which the specified items shown in the particular table were reported.

Thus, of the 5,859,169 farms in the United States, 3,465,489 reported an electric distribution line within 1/4 mile, and 2,787,624 reported electricity in the farm dwelling. In general, the farms reporting a particular item represent the number of farms having that item or characteristic. However, enumerators occasionally failed to obtain information for every inquiry. Therefore, the number of farms reporting represents a minimum number having a particular item or characteristic.

Presentation of the statistics.— The statistics are presented in such manner as to provide an over-all picture for the United States, for the major geographic areas of the country, and for the several States. The data have been arranged to facilitate comparison of one region, or one State, with another. Averages, percentages, and other derived data are provided as aids in using and analyzing the statistics. As a further aid in analyzing the statistics, particularly those on facilities, tables 4 and 18 provide data on the total number of farms, farms with dwellings, and farms with resident operators, also the number of rural farm dwellings enumerated in the 1940 Census of Housing. Tables 4 and 19, showing numbers of horses and mules and acres of cropland harvested, supplement the presentation of data for farm tractors.

Comparative data are also given to provide a measure of the changes that have occurred from census to census. In presenting statistics for earlier census years, headnotes, footnotes, or the wording of the stub or column headings indicates any significant lack of comparability which may have resulted from changes in the wording of the inquiries, in the instructions or definitions, or in the procedures followed in collecting and compiling the data. The text discussions for the various items give further information in regard to the comparability of the data. The tabular presentation is supplemented by a visual, or graphic, presentation through the use of maps and charts.

The tabular presentation consists of a series of summary tables giving figures for the United States as a whole, followed by tables showing data by regions, divisions, and States. In

the tables presenting State figures, the States are arranged in geographic order to facilitate comparisons among States in the same general area. An outline map showing the States and the geographic divisions and regions appears in the Introduction to this volume.

The items included in each table were selected with the view of facilitating comparisons of as large a number of related items as possible. For example, some of the tables provide for comparison of the 1945 Census data for selected items while others bring together figures for several censuses. Thus the same data may be found in several tables, depending upon the objective of the particular table. In general, the United States, or summary, tables permitted the bringing together of more related data and the showing of more historical and derived data than was practicable in the division and State tables.

A series of accompanying dot maps show the geographic distribution of farms having the specified facilities, machinery, etc. These maps were prepared on a county-unit basis. Thus, for the map showing farm tractors for which 1 dot equals 500 tractors, any county having as many as 250 tractors, but less than 750 tractors, has 1 dot. Counties having less than 250 tractors do not have any dots. Thus Georgia, with 24,648 tractors, has only 27 dots, not 49. A number of bar charts give a graphic picture of the relative numbers of farms having the various facilities, the historical changes in the number of farms having various facilities and machinery, and the relative numbers of farms grouped according to the value of farm implements and machinery.

Farm facilities.— The number of farms having various facilities was obtained by the inquiries "Does farm dwelling have— Running water? Electricity? Radio? Telephone?" Provision was made for replies of "Yes" or "No" for each item. Farms were classified on the basis of the replies into three groups: (1) those with the facility in the farm dwelling, (2) those without the facility, and (3) those not reporting in respect to the facility. The second group, farms without the facility, include all the 137,266 farms without a dwelling plus those with a dwelling for which the reply in respect to that facility was "No." Table 5 gives a count by States of the farms without a dwelling, as well as a count of all farms without each facility, thus making it possible to obtain, by subtraction, a count of farms with dwellings for which a "No" reply was recorded. The third group, farms not reporting in respect to each facility, is restricted to a count of farms with dwellings for which replies of either "Yes" or "No" were omitted. As previously stated all farms without dwellings were included in the second group.

The schedule provided for replies for only one dwelling for each farm. For farms having two or more dwellings the instructions did not specify which dwelling was to be considered. The enumerator may have entered replies in terms of the operator's dwelling only, in terms of a dwelling other than that of the operator, or perhaps all dwellings may have been considered.

In addition to the inquiry on electricity in the farm dwelling, a second inquiry determined the availability of electricity for a farm by asking whether there was an "Electric distribution line within 1/4 mile of the farm dwelling?" Instructions were given that, if there was no dwelling, the inquiry should refer to the farm buildings and, if no buildings, to the main farm entrance. The main farm entrance was defined as the point where the operator usually turned off the public road (or off the private road) giving access to the farm. Therefore, the classification of farms in respect to electric distribution line within 1/4 mile is not affected by whether or not there is a dwelling on the farm.

Supplemental tabulations provided for a count of resident-operator farms having each of the various facilities; also for counts of farms having several combinations of facilities. Thus the number of farms not using electricity, when available from an electric distribution line, was determined by a count of farms within 1/4 mile of an electric distribution line that did not report electricity in the farm dwelling. This count was restricted to farms with dwellings.

CENSUS OF AGRICULTURE: 1945

Table 1.—SPECIFIED FARM FACILITIES FOR THE UNITED STATES: 1920 TO 1945

[Figures for divisions and States in tables 5 to 10]

ELECTRIC DISTRIBUTION LINE WITHIN $\frac{1}{2}$ MILE			RADIOS		
ITEM AND YEAR	Number of farms	Percent of all farms	ITEM AND YEAR	Number of farms	Percent of all farms
Farms classified as to electric distribution line within $\frac{1}{2}$ mile:			Farms classified as to radio:		
Within $\frac{1}{2}$ mile.....1945..	3,485,486	59.5	With radio.....1945..	4,264,007	72.8
1940..	2,780,207	45.6	1925..	284,006	4.5
Not within $\frac{1}{2}$ mile.....1945..	2,233,000	38.1	Without radio ³1945..	1,529,069	26.1
1940..	3,095,901	50.8	Not reporting.....1945..	66,093	1.1
Not reporting.....1945..	140,680	2.4	Resident-operator farms with radio.....1945..	4,140,671	70.7
1940..	220,691	3.6			
Within $\frac{1}{2}$ mile of an electric distribution line, but without electricity in dwelling ¹1945..	806,305	13.8			
1940..	926,958	15.2			
ELECTRICITY			TELEPHONES		
ITEM AND YEAR	Number of farms	Percent of all farms	ITEM AND YEAR	Number of occupied dwelling units	Percent of all occupied dwelling units
Farms classified as to electricity in farm dwelling:			Occupied dwelling units classified as to radio:		
With electricity—			With radio.....1940..	4,159,368	58.5
In farm dwelling.....1945..	2,787,624	47.6	Without radio.....1940..	2,751,669	38.7
1940..	2,032,316	35.3	Not reporting.....1940..	195,522	2.8
Resident-operator farms.....1945..	2,684,022	45.8			
In farmer's dwelling ²1930..	841,310	13.4			
In operator's dwelling ²1920..	452,620	7.0			
Without electricity ³1945..	3,006,366	51.3			
Not reporting.....1945..	65,179	1.1			
With electricity that also have running water in dwelling.....1945..	1,500,686	25.6			
ITEM AND YEAR	Number of dwelling units	Percent of all dwelling units	<td></td> <td></td>		
Rural-farm-dwelling units classified as to electricity:					
With electricity.....1940..	2,351,045	30.8			
With lighting equipment other than electricity.....1940..	5,161,751	67.5			
Not reporting.....1940..	129,485	1.7			
RUNNING WATER					
ITEM AND YEAR	Number of farms	Percent of all farms			
Farms classified as to running water in dwelling:					
With running water—					
In farm dwelling.....1945..	1,679,023	28.7			
Resident-operator farms.....1945..	1,613,247	27.5			
In farmer's dwelling.....1930..	994,202	15.8			
In operator's dwelling.....1920..	643,899	10.0			
Without running water in farm dwelling ³1945..	4,110,084	70.1			
Not reporting.....1945..	70,062	1.2			
ITEM AND YEAR	Number of dwelling units	Percent of all dwelling units			
Rural-farm dwelling units classified as to running water:					
With running water.....1940..	1,340,025	17.5			
With water supply other than running water.....1940..	6,207,296	81.2			
Not reporting as to water supply.....1940..	94,960	1.2			

¹Includes farms not reporting in respect to electricity in dwelling; 1945 figures exclude farms without dwellings.⁴

²Schedule inquiry in 1930 specified farmer's dwelling house; in 1920, operator's house.

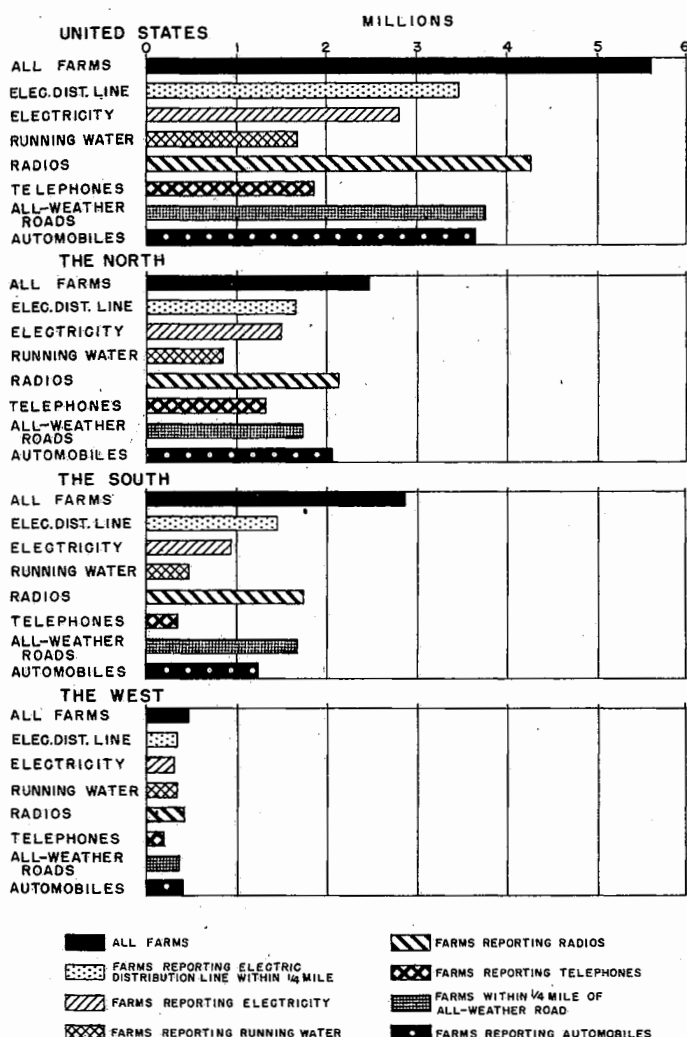
³Includes 137,266 farms without dwellings reported.

⁴Schedule inquiry in 1945 specified in farm dwelling; in 1925, on farm.

⁵Schedule inquiry in 1945 specified in farm dwelling; prior censuses merely specified on farm.

1940 includes 39,069 farms with dwellings lighted by electricity from home plants

ALL FARMS; AND FARMS REPORTING ELECTRIC DISTRIBUTION LINE WITHIN 1/4 MILE, FARM DWELLINGS LIGHTED BY ELECTRICITY, RUNNING WATER IN FARM DWELLING, RADIOS IN FARM DWELLINGS, TELEPHONES IN FARM DWELLINGS, ALL-WEATHER ROAD, AND AUTOMOBILES, FOR THE U. S., BY REGIONS: 1945



This count also makes possible a rough calculation of the number of farms with electricity that are dependent upon home lighting plants. Farms within 1/4 mile of an electric distribution line that had electricity from a home lighting plant would be excluded in such a calculation. In 1940, out of a total of 179,067 farms reporting electricity from a home lighting plant, 39,069, or 21.8 percent, were within 1/4 mile of an electric distribution line. Such a calculation would also be subject to considerable error, because the result would include that portion of the 137,266 farms without dwellings reported which were within 1/4 mile of an electric distribution line. Additional error might be caused by farms which obtained electricity from a power line and reported electricity in the farm dwelling but failed to report an electric distribution line within 1/4 mile. There were 140,680 farms for which no reports were obtained as to whether or not an electric distribution line was within 1/4 mile of the farm. Undoubtedly some of these farms had electricity from a power line. For these reasons no calculation of the number of farms with home lighting plants is included in the tables. However, for those wishing to make the calculation knowing that it would be subject to considerable error the method is as follows:

1. From the number of farms reported as being within 1/4 mile of an electric distribution line, subtract that portion that did not have (or did not report) electricity in the farm dwelling. For the United States, this would be 3,485,489 - 806,305 = 2,679,184.
2. Subtract this remainder from the total number of farms reporting electricity in the farm dwelling. For the United States, this would be 2,787,624 - 2,679,184 = 108,440, a rough estimate of the number of farms with home lighting plants.

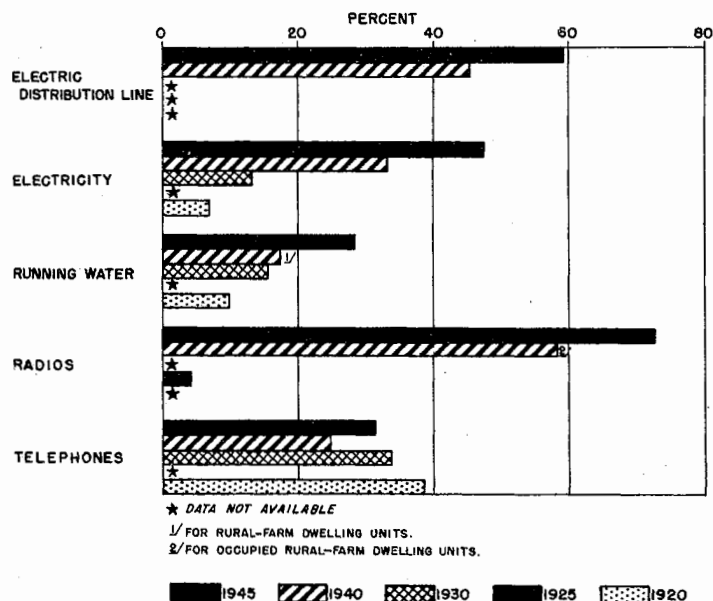
Information on facilities was first secured at the 1920 Census of Agriculture. Information was obtained in 1920 for running water, electricity, and telephones; in 1925 for radios; in 1930 for running water, electricity, and telephones; and in 1940 for electricity, electric distribution line, and telephones. Information on facilities was also obtained at the 1940 Census of Housing and included water supply, lighting equipment, and radios. Although comparative figures from the Census of Housing are included in the tables, allowance must be made for certain differences when making comparisons.

The Census of Agriculture figures refer to the number of farms classified as to whether equipped with the various facilities, while the figures for the 1940 Census of Housing refer to the number of rural-farm dwellings classified in respect to these facilities. Therefore, allowance must be made for farms having two or more dwellings and for farms without dwellings. In most States, the number of rural-farm dwellings is a little larger than the number of farms, therefore, the number of rural-farm dwellings equipped with facilities would be expected to be somewhat larger than the number of farms equipped with facilities. The extra dwellings not equipped with facilities which were recorded by the Census of Housing will be partially offset by farms without dwellings which were included in the Census of Agriculture as being without facilities. Allowance must also be made for some difference in the concept of "a farm" as used in the Census of Housing and in the Census of Agriculture and for the fact that the Census of Agriculture includes figures for urban as well as for rural farms. In a farm census, information is obtained for places enumerated as farms and is limited to such places. In the 1940 Census of Housing, it is probable that farm residence of households was, in general, given a broader interpretation, despite a tendency to omit population on places which qualify as farms under the Census definition, but which are not locally thought of as farms. Dwellings rented to other than farm operators, although not considered farm dwellings in the 1945 Census of Agriculture, were not specifically excluded in the 1940 Census of Housing. Thus, many dwellings were included which were occupied by families having no connection with the operation of farms.

Information for electricity was obtained in 1940 in the Census of Housing and also in the Census of Agriculture. As this item, therefore, provides an indication of the differences resulting from the two approaches, both sets of figures for 1940 are included in the tables.

Figures for the several facilities as obtained at the various censuses of agriculture may not be fully comparable because of differences in the wording of the inquiries. For example,

PERCENT OF FARMS REPORTING ELECTRIC DISTRIBUTION LINE WITHIN ONE-FOURTH MILE, FARM DWELLINGS LIGHTED BY ELECTRICITY, RUNNING WATER IN FARM DWELLINGS, RADIOS, AND TELEPHONES, FOR THE UNITED STATES: 1920 TO 1945



and including 0.2 miles were tabulated as a group. In some of the tables, farms reported as "0" miles, 0.1 mile, and 0.2 mile are referred to as "farms within 1/4 mile of an all-weather road" on the assumption that reports of 0.2 represented up to 0.25 of a mile, while those of 0.3 or more miles represented distances in excess of 0.25 miles.

As there were 292,804 farms for which reports were not secured, the 5,566,365 farms in the United States which were reported as within 1/4 mile of an all-weather road represents a minimum. A relatively high proportion of the nonreports may represent farms on all-weather roads. For other inquiries, if the reply represented a "0" quantity the inquiry was generally left blank. Consequently, there was some tendency to omit "0" distances.

Information on roads in relation to the farms were obtained in the 1940, 1930, and 1925 Censuses but the inquiry referred to the kind of road surface for the road adjoining the farm. The classification on the basis of the kind of road surface varied somewhat for the three censuses, but each provided a measure of highway improvement and the extent to which farms were served by roads which, from the road surface, might be considered as all-weather. At these censuses it was assumed that roads better than "improved dirt" generally represented "all-weather" roads.

Because of the difference in wording of the inquiry on roads, a comparison of the figures for 1945 with those for earlier years does not provide a satisfactory measure of improvement. Apparently "all-weather" roads as defined in 1945 included, in all areas, many roads which would have been classed as no better than "improved dirt" in 1940. In some areas, particularly in the South, all-weather roads may have included some roads which would have been classed as "unimproved" in 1940. For example, in Georgia there were 153,969 farms within 1/4 mile of an "all-weather" road in 1945, while in 1940 only 116,933 farms were on "improved dirt" roads or better. It is probable that some of the farms reported in 1945 as 0.1 or 0.2 mile from an all-weather road did not adjoin a road of this type, thus affecting comparability with 1940.

In 1945, approximately two-thirds of the farms in the United States were on all-weather roads. The highest proportions were in the Northeastern and the Pacific Coast States. In these areas more than 4 out of 5 of the farms were on all-weather roads.

The Great Plains and Mountain States, in general, had the smallest proportions of farms on all-weather roads with many States in these areas having less than 2 out of 5 of their farms reported as on an all-weather road, North Dakota and Oklahoma reporting the smallest proportions with 31.6 and 33.1 percent, respectively. These areas also report many farms at a considerable distance from an all-weather road. In Montana, Wyoming, and New Mexico approximately one-fourth or more of the farms were reported as 5 or more miles from an all-weather road. In the South approximately 3 out of 5 farms were reported as on all-weather roads.

Motortrucks, tractors, and automobiles.—Enumerators were instructed, when recording the number of motortrucks and tractors on farms, to include only those used in the operation

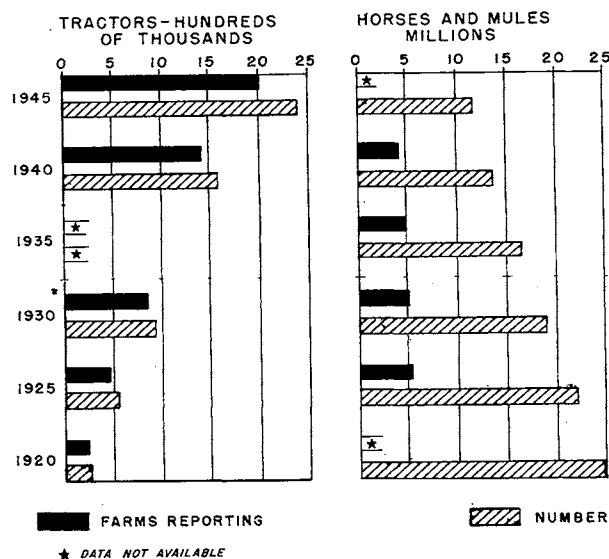
of the farm. If used or owned jointly, they were to be reported only on the farm where usually kept. Truck-trailer combinations (road tractor with trailer) were to be reported under motortrucks, counting only number of power units. Trailers of any kind were not to be included. In addition to the numbers of, and counts of the farms reporting, motortrucks and farm tractors, respectively, the tables also include classifications of farms on the basis of the numbers reported. Farms reporting motortrucks were grouped into those reporting 1 and those reporting 2 or more, while farms reporting tractors were grouped into those reporting 1, 2, and 3 or more.

In the inventory for automobiles, all automobiles on the farm were to be recorded, including any owned by hired help living on the farm.

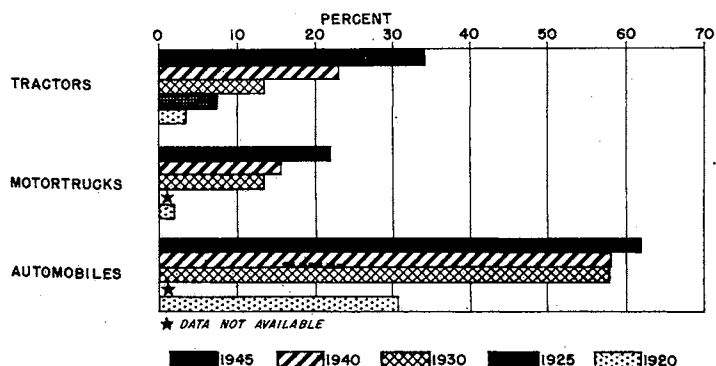
The increased use of mechanized equipment on farms is reflected in the increases in the numbers of farm tractors and motortrucks between 1940 and 1945. The number of farm tractors increased by 54.5 percent with many States having more than twice as many tractors in 1945 than in 1940. Of the 2,002,662 farms in 1945 that reported tractors, 324,293 had 2 or more tractors. Some of the tractors reported were small garden tractors, and a number were "home-made." Many were old tractors in use only because replacements were not available. The separate report presenting data for a sample of the farms enumerated in the 1945 Census will include figures for tractors classified as to garden, crawler, etc., and as to year of model.

Comparisons of the increases in number of tractors and decreases in numbers of horses and mules indicate that the amount of available power on farms had increased. Although the numbers of horses and mules continued to decline, the gain in tractors more than made up for this loss.

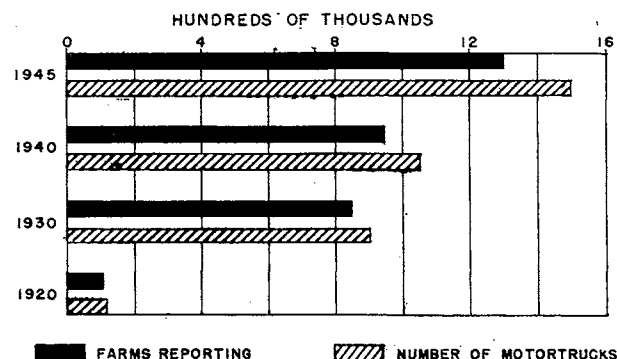
FARMS REPORTING AND NUMBER OF TRACTORS AND NUMBER OF WORK STOCK ON FARMS, FOR THE UNITED STATES: 1920 TO 1945



PERCENT OF FARMS REPORTING TRACTORS, MOTORTRUCKS, AND AUTOMOBILES, FOR THE UNITED STATES: 1920 TO 1945



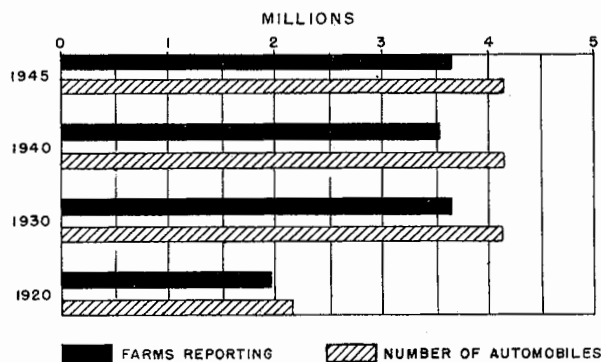
FARMS REPORTING AND NUMBER OF MOTORTRUCKS ON FARMS, FOR THE UNITED STATES: 1920 TO 1945



The number of motortrucks also increased, with a 42.3 percent greater number on farms in 1945 than in 1940. It is likely that some of this increase is represented by replacement or conversion of automobiles to provide greater utility. The farm motortruck can serve both as a passenger vehicle and for hauling. Of the 1,299,350 farms with motortrucks in 1945, 3 out of 10 had no automobiles. It should be pointed out that the 1,490,300 motortrucks on farms do not represent all the motortrucks used for farm hauling. Much farm hauling is done on a piecework or a contract basis with motortrucks that are not owned by farmers.

The number of automobiles on farms increased very little with only 2.5 percent more farms reporting automobiles in 1945 than in 1940. The proportion of farms having this type of transportation increased from 58.1 percent in 1940 to 62.0 percent in 1945. However, this probably does not represent the entire increase in farms with available automotive transportation. As previously mentioned, it is very likely that some farmers had converted or replaced their automobiles with motortrucks.

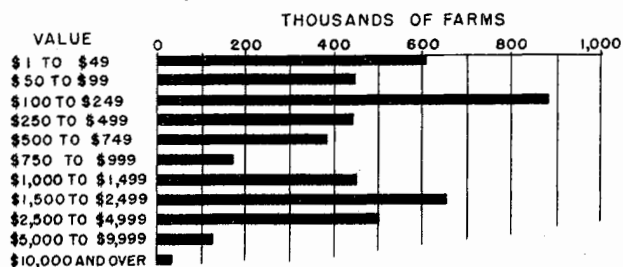
FARMS REPORTING AND NUMBER OF AUTOMOBILES
FOR THE UNITED STATES: 1920 TO 1945



Farm implements and machinery.— Farm operators in 1945 were asked to place an over-all value on the farm implements and machinery used in operating the farm. This was to represent the market value of all farm implements and farm machinery (except automobiles), such as tractors, trucks, tools, wagons, harnesses, dairy equipment, threshing machines, combines, etc. Machinery and equipment used primarily for nonfarm purposes were to be excluded. Permanently installed irrigation and drainage equipment was to be enumerated under the value of land and buildings. The value of implements and machinery used jointly by two or more farmers was to be enumerated for the farm where the machinery was located.

A group inquiry of this type probably does not obtain as high a total as would have been secured if a listing had first been made of the component items and a value had been placed on each item. The reported values represent largely the individual opinions of farm operators, although quite frequently the value was obviously influenced by the enumerator. Consequently, the totals include some rather erratic reports. Therefore, they need to be used with caution for small areas, such as counties, for which the totals may have been affected to an appreciable extent by a few individual reports or by the work of a particular enumerator. However, in general, the totals represent a composite of many opinions and therefore are reasonably dependable.

NUMBER OF FARMS, BY VALUE OF IMPLEMENTS AND MACHINERY, FOR THE UNITED STATES: 1945



PERCENT DISTRIBUTION OF NUMBER OF FARMS BY VALUE OF IMPLEMENTS AND MACHINERY, BY STATES: 1945

