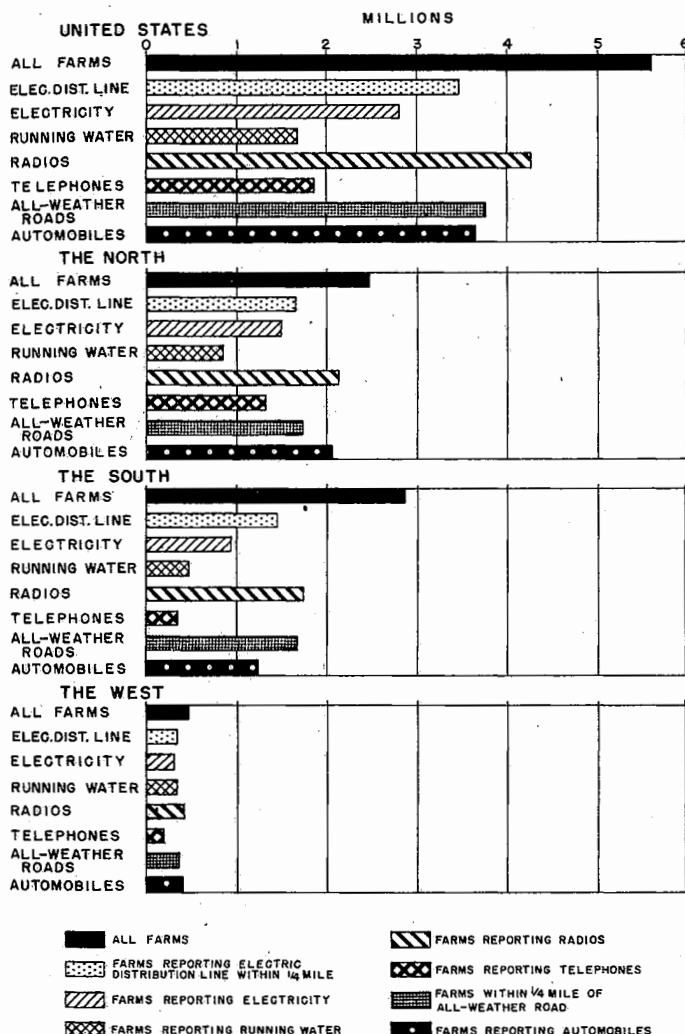


ALL FARMS; AND FARMS REPORTING ELECTRIC DISTRIBUTION LINE WITHIN 1/4 MILE, FARM DWELLINGS LIGHTED BY ELECTRICITY, RUNNING WATER IN FARM DWELLING, RADIOS IN FARM DWELLINGS, TELEPHONES IN FARM DWELLINGS, ALL-WEATHER ROAD, AND AUTOMOBILES, FOR THE U. S., BY REGIONS: 1945



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,

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.

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

