

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

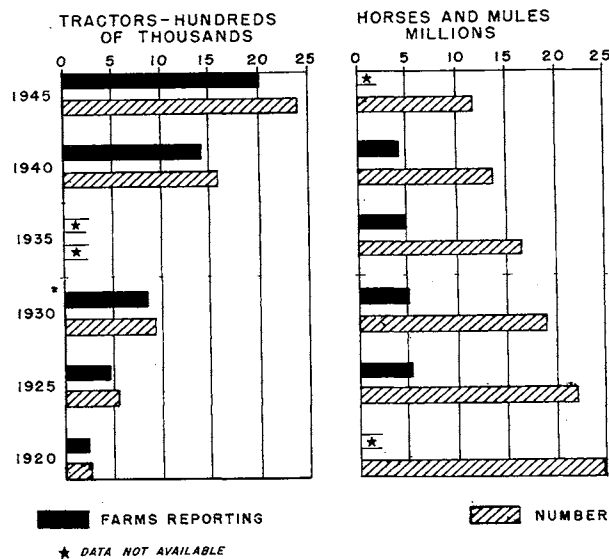
of the farm. If used or owned jointly, they were to be reported only on the farm where usually kept. Truck-trailer combinations (road tractor with trailer) were to be reported under motortrucks, counting only number of power units. Trailers of any kind were not to be included. In addition to the numbers 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.

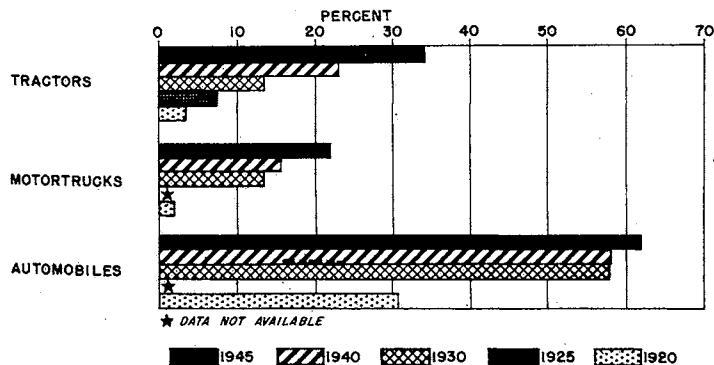
The increased use of mechanized equipment on farms is reflected in the increases in the numbers of farm tractors and motortrucks between 1940 and 1945. The number of farm tractors increased by 54.5 percent with many States having more than twice as many tractors in 1945 than in 1940. Of the 2,002,662 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

