

FARM FACILITIES, ROADS, AND FARM MACHINERY

Table 3.—VALUE OF FARM IMPLEMENTS AND MACHINERY, 1850 TO 1945; AND MOTORTRUCKS, TRACTORS, AND AUTOMOBILES ON FARMS, 1920 TO 1945; FOR THE UNITED STATES

[Figures for divisions and States in tables 13 to 17]

ITEM AND YEAR	FARMS REPORTING		NUMBER OR AMOUNT		
	Number	Per cent of all farms	Total	Increase or decrease (-) from preceding census	
				Number	Per cent
			(dollars)	(dollars)	
Value of farm implements and machinery ¹	1945.. 4,704,549	80.3	5,146,851,100	2,086,663,711	68.2
1940..	5,015,252	82.3	3,060,187,389	-241,467,092	-7.3
1930..	5,523,424	87.9	3,301,654,481	609,950,852	22.7
1925..	(*)	(*)	2,691,703,629	-903,069,299	-25.1
1920..	(*)	(*)	3,594,772,928	2,329,623,145	184.1
1910..	(*)	(*)	1,255,149,793	515,373,813	68.7
1900..	(*)	(*)	749,775,970	255,528,503	51.7
1890..	(*)	(*)	494,247,467	87,727,412	21.6
1880..	(*)	(*)	406,520,055	135,606,377	50.1
1870..	(*)	(*)	270,913,678	24,795,537	10.1
1860..	(*)	(*)	246,118,141	34,530,503	62.4
1850..	(*)	(*)	151,587,638		
Farms reporting value of implements and machinery by amount reported (excluding automobiles), 1945:					
\$1 to \$99.....	1,053,685	18.0	(*)	(*)	(*)
\$1 to \$49.....	604,024	10.3	(*)	(*)	(*)
\$50 to \$99.....	449,661	7.7	(*)	(*)	(*)
\$100 to \$249.....	897,868	15.2	(*)	(*)	(*)
\$250 to \$499.....	441,614	7.5	(*)	(*)	(*)
\$500 to \$749.....	383,204	6.5	(*)	(*)	(*)
\$750 to \$999.....	170,384	2.9	(*)	(*)	(*)
\$1,000 to \$2,499.....	1,107,580	18.9	(*)	(*)	(*)
\$1,000 to \$1,499.....	453,562	7.7	(*)	(*)	(*)
\$2,500 to \$2,499.....	654,018	11.2	(*)	(*)	(*)
\$2,500 and over.....	669,214	11.3	(*)	(*)	(*)
\$2,500 to \$4,999.....	500,091	8.5	(*)	(*)	(*)
\$5,000 to \$9,999.....	129,044	2.2	(*)	(*)	(*)
\$10,000 and over.....	31,079	0.5	(*)	(*)	(*)
Motortrucks on farms.....	1945.. 1,299,350	22.2	1,490,300	446,216	42.3
1940..	944,184	15.5	1,047,084	146,899	16.3
1930..	845,335	13.4	900,885	761,216	547.0
1920..	151,551	2.0	139,169		
1 motortruck.....	1945.. 1,105,976	19.9	1,165,976		
2 or more motor-trucks.....	1945.. 133,374	2.3	324,324		
Motortrucks with no automobiles.....	1945.. 399,927	6.8	(*)	(*)	(*)
Tractors on farms.....	1945.. 2,002,682	34.2	2,421,747	954,317	54.5
1940..	1,401,597	23.1	1,567,430	647,409	70.4
1930..	851,457	13.5	920,021	414,088	81.9
1925..	473,848	7.4	505,933	259,950	105.6
1920..	229,332	3.6	246,089		
1 tractor.....	1945.. 1,378,369	28.6	1,678,369		
2 tractors.....	1945.. 287,195	4.8	534,590		
3 or more tractors.....	1945.. 37,068	1.0	208,988		
Automobiles on farms.....	1945.. 3,630,433	62.0	4,148,275	4,139	0.1
1940..	3,542,036	58.1	4,144,136	9,461	0.2
1930..	3,650,003	58.0	4,134,875	1,988,313	92.6
1920..	1,979,564	30.7	2,146,362		

*Not available.

¹ Figures for 1945 exclude automobiles; those for 1940 and earlier years include automobiles.

² Value in gold—approximately one-fifth less than reported currency values published in the 1970 report which shows \$336,878,429 for value of implements and machinery.

A value of implements and machinery was reported for 4,704,549 or 80.3 percent of all farms. With 1,154,620 farms not reporting, it appears that the value of implements and machinery has also been incompletely enumerated through failure to obtain reports for this item. It is true that many farms may have had no implements and machinery or they may have had only a few hand tools of insignificant value. In some instances, the machinery and equipment used by tenants and croppers are furnished by the landlord and are kept on land operated by him. In plantation areas, the returns for multiple units quite frequently show all of the implements and machinery on the "home farm." In highly developed fruit areas, particularly in the citrus areas of Florida, Texas, and California, the various farm operations may be performed for many owners by one manager or by one or more contract operators. In such cases, many of the groves would not show reports of implements and machinery, since the machinery was to be reported for the farm where it was kept.

The value of implements and machinery has been obtained at each census beginning with 1850, with the exception of 1935. The value figures shown for each census presumably represent the market value on the census date, although specific mention of evaluating the property at what it would sell first appeared in the instructions for the 1900 Census. Prior to that time,

the inquiries asked for "cash value" or merely "value" without further qualification.

The kinds of property represented in the value of implements and machinery were essentially the same for each census, with the exception of the exclusion of automobiles in 1945. In the Censuses of 1920 to 1940, the schedule inquiry relating to the value of implements and machinery used in operating the farm specifically mentioned automobiles as one of the items to be included. Since many automobiles on farms were used primarily for nonfarm purposes and are often owned by persons other than the farm operator, it was not possible to determine to what extent the value of automobiles was included. Therefore, the inquiry for 1945 for value of implements and machinery specifically excluded the value of automobiles.

Because of a change in price level, a comparison of the value of farm implements and machinery, as reported in 1945, with those for earlier censuses does not provide a satisfactory measure of change in the quantities of implements and machinery on farms. Between 1940 and 1945, the value of implements and machinery increased by 68.2 percent. During this same period, the value of farm land and buildings increased by 37.9 percent with a part of this increase due to an increase in land in farms. However, the prices received by farmers for farm products doubled. Although a part of the increase in value of implements and machinery was due to more equipment, as indicated by the increases in numbers of tractors and motortrucks, much of the equipment was old and in need of replacement. It is likely that most of the increase in value was due merely to higher prices. That the value of implements and machinery increased to a much greater extent than the value of land and buildings was probably due to the strong demand for machinery to supplant lost manpower and to replace the worn out machinery.

The amounts of implements and machinery on farms vary greatly from one area to another. In the North Central States where farming is highly mechanized, approximately one-half of the farms had at least \$1,000 worth of implements and machinery with approximately 1 in 5 having \$2,500 or more, the proportions being somewhat higher in the West North Central than in the East North Central States. In the South, where greater dependence is placed on hand labor, more than one-half of the farms which reported a value of implements and machinery had less than \$500 worth with a large proportion reporting less than \$100 value.

Table 4.—NUMBER OF FARMS, CROPLAND HARVESTED, AND HORSES AND MULES ON FARMS, 1920 TO 1945; FARMS CLASSIFIED AS TO DWELLINGS, 1945, AND AS TO RESIDENT OPERATORS, 1945 AND 1940; AND RURAL FARM DWELLINGS, 1940; FOR THE UNITED STATES

[Figures for divisions and States in tables 18 and 19]

ITEM AND YEAR	Number
Farms, total.....	1945.. 5,859,169
1940..	6,096,799
1935..	6,812,350
1930..	6,288,648
1925..	6,371,640
1920..	6,448,343
Cropland harvested (acres).....	1944.. 352,865,765
1939..	321,242,430
1934..	295,624,176
1929..	359,242,091
1924..	344,549,267
1919..	348,603,729
Farms classified as to dwellings, 1945:	
Dwellings reported.....	5,721,903
Dwellings not reported.....	137,266
Farms classified as to resident operators:	
With resident operators.....	1945.. 5,459,841
1940..	5,506,322
Without resident operator.....	1945.. 356,893
1940..	515,598
With resident operator not reported.....	1945.. 62,435
1940..	276,879
Rural-farm-dwelling units, ² total.....	1940.. 7,642,281
Occupied.....	1940.. 7,106,559
Horses and mules on farms.....	1945.. 11,628,794
1940..	13,931,531
1935..	16,676,010
1930..	18,737,524
1925..	22,081,520
1920..	25,199,552

¹ The total acreage of crops for which figures are available (excluding 14,502,932 acres of corn for forage, as most of this was probably duplicated in the acreage of corn harvested for grain).

² As shown in the 1940 Census of Housing reports.