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CHAPTER I— FARMS AND FARM  
PROPERTY

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# CHAPTER I—FARMS AND FARM PROPERTY

**Introduction.**—This chapter presents statistics, collected for the 1945 Census of Agriculture, on the number of farms, land in farms classified according to use, and the value represented by farm real estate, implements and machinery, and livestock. The 1945 Census, taken during World War II, reflects the adjustments which were required to bring agricultural production to an all-time high, despite handicaps of less manpower on farms and inadequate farm machinery and equipment. The figures on number of farms, land utilization, and value of farm property not only show the results of the war effort on agriculture, but also provide basic information for making the adjustments which should follow.

The data shown herein represent simple, or over-all, State, division, region, and United States totals. County figures are shown in volume I. Figures for minor civil divisions (townships, precincts, etc.) for a large part of the data shown in this chapter are included in minor civil division table 1 which, although unpublished, is available by counties at the cost of making copies of the table. The number, acreage, and value of farms, by size of farm, are presented in chapter II and, by color and tenure of the farm operator, in chapter III. Farms classified by type of farm and by level of income are shown in chapter X. In chapter IV are presented classifications of farm operators (identical with the number of farms) based on such characteristics as age, years on farm, etc. The numbers of farms for which the various items were reported in the 1945 Census are shown in the chapters presenting statistics for those items; for example, farms reporting cattle in chapter VII, farms reporting corn in chapter VIII, etc. (For items covered in the 1945 Census of Agriculture, reference should be made to the Appendix for a facsimile of the schedule used. For availability of statistics on various subjects by geographic areas and for classifications of the data, see the Introduction to this volume.)

**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, and for the several States. The data have been arranged to facilitate comparison of one section, or one State, with another. Averages, percentages, and other derived data are provided as aids in using and analyzing the statistics. Some of these derived data do not appear in the tables that carry the base data. Comparable data from earlier censuses provide a measure of the changes that have occurred from census to census. All available comparative data are shown for the United States. Only historical data for selected census years or for selected items are shown by regions, divisions, and States. In presenting statistics for earlier census years, headnotes, footnotes, or the wording of the stub or column headings indicate 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 of the data consists of 19 tables. Tables 1 to 6 present summary data for the continental United States (comprising the 48 States and the District of Columbia) and tables 7 to 19 present data by regions, divisions, and States. In these latter tables the States are arranged in geographic order to facilitate comparisons among States in the same general area. Except for table 18, geographic division totals precede those for the States, providing for ready comparison of areas larger than individual States. In similar manner, these division totals are preceded by totals for the three major regions, viz, the North, the South, and the West. An outline map showing the States and the geographic divisions and regions for which totals are shown 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 ready 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 dot maps presented in this chapter show the geographic distribution of farms, all land in farms, specified classes of land, and the value of specified classes of farm property. These maps were prepared on a county-unit basis. Thus, for the map showing crop failure where 1 dot equals 5,000 acres, any county having as much as 2,500 acres but less than 7,500 acres of failure received 1 dot. Counties having less than 2,500 acres received no dots. Thus Ohio, with 81,736 acres of crop failure, has only 4 dots (not 16) and North Carolina, with 43,525 acres of crop failure, has no dots.

In areas where the farms and farm lands are concentrated in restricted areas within the counties because of physical features, climatic, or other factors, the dots were entered in the approximate location of the farm or, when the dots represented acreage, they were entered in the approximate location of the specified class of land. Figures by minor civil divisions supplemented by maps showing the location of irrigated lands, dry-farming lands, forested areas, range areas, various categories of land ownership, physical features, and the like, were used to determine the location of the dots within the counties.

In the tables, the entire acreage of farms or ranches extending across county or State boundaries was credited to the county in which the farm or ranch headquarters was located. On the maps, the dots representing such acreages were, in general, placed in the county to which the land was credited and not necessarily in the county where the land was physically located. Exceptions were made in the case of the returns for several Indian reservations involving thousands of cross-line acres in several counties in Arizona and New Mexico and in San Juan County, Utah. Another exception in the mapping was made for Hendry, Glades, and Palm Beach Counties, Florida, where sizable tracts of cross-line acreage were involved. In these exceptional cases, the dots were placed in the counties in which the land was actually located. Some of the patterns of dots for the several uses of land, especially woodland, merely represent differences in interpretation of definitions by the Census enumerators.

Two cross-hatch maps, also prepared on a county-unit basis, show the geographic variation in the average value of farms (land and buildings) per farm and per acre, respectively. Occasionally the averages for a county may be affected materially by a few unusual farms. Therefore, variations in averages among counties do not always reflect general differences in the value of farms in these counties.

A number of bar charts present, for the United States as a whole, a graphic picture of the historical changes in number of farms, land in farms, and value of specified classes of farm property. Several charts show the relative acreages of lands according to use and the relative numbers of farms grouped according to acres of cropland harvested and according to the value of farm implements and machinery. Variations in these items among the several States are shown by a number of bar charts presenting averages and percent distributions.

**History of Census inquiries on farms and farm property.**—Information on number of farms, farm acreage, and value of farms was first obtained in 1850, the date of the first relatively complete census of agriculture in the United States. The 1840 Census, however, provided information on certain agricultural products and numbers of various classes of farm animals. From 1850 to 1920, figures were obtained for all land in farms classified as "improved" and "unimproved" land; the unimproved land was further classified to show woodland in farms in the 1870, 1880, 1910, and 1920 Censuses. A more detailed classification of land in farms was obtained in the 1925 Census of Agriculture. This classification, with modifications, has been continued. The most significant group represented in this classification is land from which crops were harvested in the

year preceding the census date. This particular land use has been designated "cropland harvested." Figures for the years 1879 to 1919, reasonably comparable with those for cropland harvested, are obtainable by adding the acreages of the individual crops reported for the various censuses. Prior to the 1880 Census, no acreage figures were obtained for the various crops, the data being limited to production or value.

The value of farms (land and buildings), the value of farm implements and machinery, and the value of livestock, the three principal items represented in a farmer's capital assets, have been obtained for each census beginning with 1850, with the exception of 1935. In the 1935 Census of Agriculture, values were obtained for farms (land and buildings) and for livestock, but not for implements and machinery.

**Definitions and explanations.**—The descriptive terms and explanations refer principally to the 1945 Census of Agriculture; however, in general, they are also applicable to the statistics presented for earlier censuses. Therefore, mention of earlier censuses is made only to call attention to significant differences. The definition of each item is given under the discussion for that item and consists primarily of a resume of the schedule wording, occasionally supplemented by the more essential parts of the instructions given to enumerators. For the exact phrasing of the inquiries and of the instructions to enumerators, reference should be made to the facsimile of the 1945 Farm and Ranch Schedule shown in the Appendix. The discussion of the several subjects also points out significant characteristics of the data arising from the procedures used by the Census that may not be apparent from the definitions.

**A farm.**—The schedule book for 1945 is entitled "Farm and Ranch Schedule." The following definition appears in each schedule book:

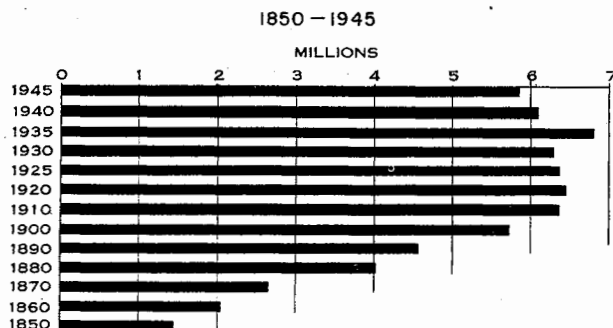
A farm, for Census purposes, is all the land on which some agricultural operations are performed by one person, either by his own labor alone or with the assistance of members of his household, or hired employees. The land operated by a partnership is likewise considered a farm. A "farm" may consist of a single tract of land, or a number of separate tracts, and the several tracts may be held under different tenures, as when one tract is owned by the farmer and another tract is rented by him. When a landowner has one or more tenants, renters, croppers, or managers, the land operated by each is considered a farm. Thus, on a plantation the land operated by each cropper, renter, or tenant should be reported as a separate farm, and the land operated by the owner or manager by means of wage hands should likewise be reported as a separate farm.

Include dry-lot or barn dairies, nurseries, greenhouses, hatcheries, fur farms, mushroom cellars, apiaries, cranberry bogs, etc.

Do not include "fish farms," "fish hatcheries," "oyster farms," and "frog farms." Do not report as a farm any tract of land of less than 3 acres, unless its agricultural products in 1944 were valued at \$250 or more.

Farming, or agricultural operations, consists of the production of crops or plants, vines, and trees (excluding forestry operations) or of the keeping, grazing, or feeding of livestock for animal products (including serums), animal increase, or value increase. Livestock, as here used, includes poultry of all kinds, rabbits, bees, and fur-bearing animals in captivity, in addition to mules, asses, burros, horses, cattle, sheep, goats, and hogs. Frequently, certain operations are not generally recognized as farming. This is especially true where no crops are grown or where the establishments are not commonly considered as farms.

#### NUMBER OF FARMS IN THE UNITED STATES:



There was provided a partial list of types of specialized agriculture and of operations not generally recognized as farming but for which a report was required. This list included such operations as apiaries (bee farms), feed lots, greenhouses, nurseries, hatcheries, mushroom cellars, etc.

Farms operated in 1944 which were not to be operated in 1945 were included. Farms not operated in 1944 which were to be operated in 1945 were also included. Neither of these groups represented a significant number of farms. Therefore, any overstatement in number of farms actually in operation which may have resulted from this procedure is negligible for the United States and the several States.

The definition of a farm was supplemented by special instructions for the enumeration of multiple units (or plantations), Indian reservations, institutions, operations combining farm and nonfarm activities, collectively developed farms, farms extending into other districts or counties, agricultural operations by other than the farm operator, and other special or unusual situations. (See facsimile of schedule and instructions in the Appendix.) Nevertheless, enumerators occasionally were confronted with situations not adequately covered in the instructions or they had difficulty in applying the instructions to specific cases. This was especially true of operations which were marginal in respect to the minimum requirements of a farm. Also, there was difficulty in determining for various kinds of joint and tie-in operations whether one or more returns were required. In such doubtful cases, the enumerator was generally instructed to prepare a return, giving the facts, leaving final decision to the Washington office. All questionable returns were reviewed in the Washington office by a specially trained group to determine whether they conformed to the Census definition of a farm. If a return represented agricultural operations of a landlord, relative, wage hand, or the like, with no indication that a definite acreage had been assigned to such person, or if the acreage assigned was less than 3 and usually if the value of products from the assigned acreage was less than \$250, the return was combined with that for the farm on which these operations were carried on. Similarly, "victory gardens," when reported separately for each participant, were combined into a single return representing the overall project. If the return was for a farm which was idle in both 1944 and 1945, if it duplicated information included in another return and did not represent a separate farm, if it represented operations not considered as agricultural, or if the operations were insufficient to meet the minimum requirements of a farm, the return was rejected. Returns of less than 3 acres were retained if the value of products sold, traded, or used by the operator's household plus the estimated value of crops fed or used for seed and the estimated value of livestock increase amounted to \$250 or more. If there were a number of schedules by one enumerator with the value of products or acreage reported at or near the \$250 or 3 acre minimum, the returns were examined carefully for possible rejection. Particular attention was paid to the values reported for the various items to determine whether they were reasonable in comparison with other returns in the area, taking into account a somewhat higher level of valuation generally found in operations of this type. Correspondence with a number of the operators verified that many of these did not meet the minimum requirements to be classified as farms. If there was any doubt, the returns were accepted. Returns of 3 acres or more with limited agricultural operations were retained if there were 3 or more acres of cropland and pasture, or if the value of products amounted to \$150 or more when there were less than 3 acres of cropland and pasture. In the 1945 Census, a total of 149,720 returns were rejected or combined, most of which failed to meet the minimum requirements of a farm. No count of the rejects was made by reason for rejection. In the 1940 Census, out of a total of 44,704 rejects and combinations, less than 22,000 were rejected because they failed to meet the minimum requirements. The remainder was mostly combined with other returns. A few represented duplications.

The definition of a farm used in the 1945 Census was essentially the same as that used in the 1940, 1935, 1930, and 1925 Censuses. That used for the 1920 and 1910 Censuses was similarly worded but was somewhat more inclusive. In those years, farms of less than 3 acres with less than \$250 worth of products were to be included, provided they required the continuous services of at least one person.

In the definition for 1900, there was no acreage limit. Market, truck, and fruit gardens, orchards, nurseries, cranberry marshes, greenhouses, and city dairies were to be included, provided the entire time of at least one individual was devoted to their care. For 1890, 1880, and 1870, no tract of

# FARMS AND FARM PROPERTY

Table 1.—NUMBER OF FARMS, ALL LAND IN FARMS, AND VALUE OF FARMS, FOR THE UNITED STATES: 1850 TO 1945

(Figures for regions, divisions, and States in tables 8 and 18)

YEAR	NUMBER OF FARMS			ALL LAND IN FARMS			VALUE OF FARMS (LAND AND BUILDINGS)			APPROXIMATE LAND AREA	
	Total	Increase or decrease (-) from preceding census		Acres	Increase or decrease (-) from preceding census		Amount (dollars)	Increase or decrease (-) from preceding census		Acres <sup>1</sup>	Percent in farms
		Number	Percent		Acres	Percent		Amount (dollars)	Percent		
1945.....	5,859,169	-237,630	-3.9	1,141,615,564	80,762,980	7.6	46,388,925,560	12,747,186,834	37.9	1,905,361,920	59.9
1940.....	6,096,799	-715,551	-10.5	1,060,652,374	6,337,263	0.6	33,641,738,726	782,894,714	2.4	1,905,361,920	55.7
1935.....	6,812,350	523,702	8.3	1,054,515,111	67,744,095	6.9	32,858,844,012	-15,020,994,346	-31.4	1,903,216,640	55.4
1930.....	6,288,648	-82,992	-1.3	986,771,016	62,451,664	6.8	47,879,838,358	-1,587,808,929	-3.2	1,903,216,640	51.8
1925.....	6,371,640	-76,705	-1.2	924,319,552	-31,564,353	-3.3	49,467,647,287	-16,848,355,315	-25.4	1,903,216,640	48.6
1920.....	6,448,343	86,841	1.4	955,883,715	77,085,390	8.8	66,316,002,602	31,514,876,905	90.6	1,903,216,640	50.2
1910.....	6,361,502	624,130	10.9	878,798,325	40,206,551	4.8	34,801,125,697	18,186,478,206	109.5	1,903,216,640	46.2
1900.....	5,737,372	1,172,731	25.7	838,591,774	215,373,155	34.6	16,614,647,491	3,335,394,842	25.1	1,903,216,640	44.1
1890.....	4,564,641	555,754	13.9	623,218,619	87,136,784	16.3	13,279,252,649	3,082,155,873	30.2	1,903,337,600	32.7
1880.....	4,008,907	1,348,922	50.7	536,081,835	128,346,794	31.5	10,197,096,776	2,753,042,314	37.0	1,903,337,600	28.2
1870.....	2,659,985	615,908	30.1	407,735,041	522,503	0.1	7,444,054,462	799,009,455	12.0	1,903,337,600	21.4
1860.....	2,044,077	595,004	41.1	407,212,538	113,651,924	38.7	6,645,045,007	3,373,469,581	103.1	1,903,337,600	21.4
1850.....	1,449,073	-----	-----	293,560,614	-----	-----	3,271,575,426	-----	-----	1,884,375,680	15.6

<sup>1</sup>The land area shown for 1945 and 1940 represents a complete remeasurement and, therefore, differs from those shown for previous censuses. See text discussion. An increase of 1,280 acres from 1920 to 1925 resulted from reclamation of Potomac River flats in the District of Columbia; a decrease of 74,240 acres from 1910 to 1920 was due to losses of 29,440 acres in Wyoming caused by the building of the Pathfinder and Shoshone Reservoirs and 44,800 acres in Montana due to the building of several reservoirs for irrigation projects; a net decrease of 172,160 acres from 1900 to 1910 resulted from a loss in California of 281,900 acres due to the encroachment of the Salton Sea, a loss in Arizona of 19,200 acres due to the building of Roosevelt and Laguna Reservoirs, and gains due to drainage of lakes and swamps of 26,240 acres in Illinois and 102,400 acres in Indiana; an increase of 124,160 acres from 1890 to 1900 resulted from 122,880 acres in California added due to Tulare Lake being dry and 1,280 acres of Potomac River flats reclaimed in the District of Columbia; and an increase of 18,961,920 acres from 1850 to 1860 resulted from the Gadsden Purchase. Changes in the approximate land area of the individual States, other than those given above, were due, for the most part, to changes in boundaries occasioned by the organization of new States.

less than 3 acres was to be reported as a farm unless \$500 worth of produce was actually sold from it during the year. For 1860, no definition was given the enumerators. In the Census of 1850, there was no acreage qualification given in the definition, but there was a lower limit of \$100 for value of produce.

Because the local concept of a "farm" is generally less inclusive than the Census definition, there has been a tendency, in the instructions for each census, to give increasing emphasis to agricultural operations not generally recognized as farming. Beginning with 1870, the instructions specifically mentioned nurseries, orchards, and market gardens. Florists' establishments, seed farms, and greenhouses were first mentioned in the instructions for 1900; the keeping of bees, city or village dairies, and poultry yards, in those for 1910; and feed lots, in those for 1925. A still more inclusive list of specialized types of agriculture for which returns should be obtained was sent enumerators in 1935, and similar lists were included in the instructions for 1940 and 1945. (See facsimile of the 1945 instructions in the Appendix.) A special schedule was used in the 1900 Census for the enumeration of range animals and livestock ranches. This was the first instance of special instructions relating to the enumeration of ranches. Because, in many of the livestock grazing areas, "farming" connotes the growing of crops as contrasted with "ranching," the title of the agricultural census schedule was changed from "General Farm Schedule," used in 1930, to "Farm and Ranch Schedule" in 1935 in an effort to obtain more complete coverage of ranches. The use of the title "Farm and Ranch Schedule" was continued in 1940 and 1945. In all Census reports, the term "farms" includes ranches.

In each census, the instructions have also tended to be somewhat more explicit in regard to the handling of special problems and unusual situations. In general, the procedures have been very much as outlined for 1945, except that the 1945 instructions were considerably more detailed and specific in regard to the enumeration of multiple units (including plantations) than in previous censuses. In the 1945 Census, a somewhat different method was outlined for the enumeration of Indian reservations from that followed heretofore. This special procedure for enumerating Indian reservations was worked out after the schedule was printed and, therefore, does not appear in the facsimile of the schedule and instructions in the Appendix of this volume.

In the enumeration of multiple units, including plantations, in 1945, that portion of the multiple unit assigned each cropper or tenant was considered a separate farm as heretofore. At the same time the over-all operation of the plantation as a single economic unit was recognized. Figures were obtained for both the over-all operations and for each of the cropper or tenant subunits with a "home farm" report for any remainder not assigned to croppers or tenants. In this approach, all the farms comprising a multiple unit that extended across county boundaries were credited to the county in which the multiple-

unit headquarters was located. In prior censuses, each farm in a multiple unit was credited to the particular county in which it lay even though the multiple unit of which it was a part might have had its headquarters elsewhere. Unit control of plantation operations has been recognized in prior censuses, but the instructions were directed primarily toward obtaining more accurate figures for each farm making up the plantation. A plantation schedule was used for only two censuses prior to 1945, viz, the Censuses of 1940 and 1910, when special schedules were used to supplement the regular farm schedule which was still required for each cropper and tenant on the plantation. Statistics for 1945 on multiple units, including plantations, appear in a separate report. In addition to the information for multiple units as a whole, the report includes statistics for single-unit operations (both the home farm and the cropper or tenant subunits).

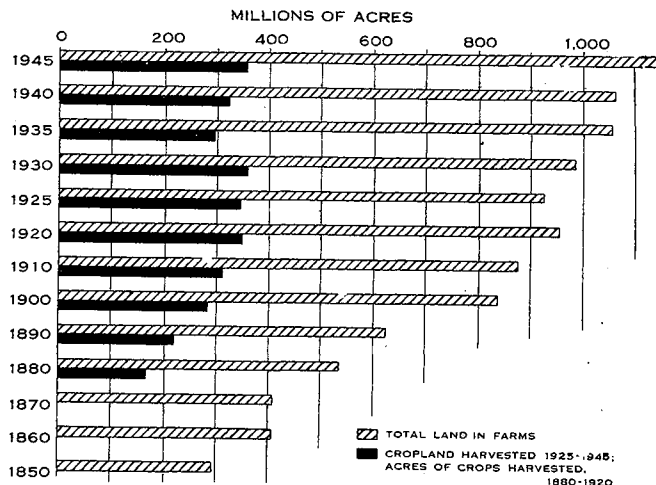
In general, in previous censuses an attempt was made to obtain returns for each Indian whose agricultural production was sufficient to meet the minimum requirements of a farm under the Census definition. A reservation return was required for acreage in the reservation used for agricultural purposes that was not allotted or assigned to Indians or not leased to others. Livestock belonging to the reservation was to be included on this return. This plan was not always realistic or practicable. The agricultural operations of Indians on some of the reservations represent an interwoven pattern of individual, family, and tribal ownership and endeavor over which are superimposed more or less governmental supervision and assistance. This situation is further complicated by the nomad existence of many of the Indians, and by the meagerness of their agricultural operations, the value of product often amounting to less than \$250 for any given year. Consequently, attempts to separate the operations of the individual Indians often resulted in a more or less arbitrary break-down for many of the items. Methods of enumeration under these instructions varied from one reservation to another and results were not always comparable from one census to another. Therefore, what is thought to be a more realistic approach for the 1945 Census was worked out in cooperation with the Office of Indian Affairs, Department of Interior.

In the 1945 enumeration, an over-all return was obtained for each cooperative group of Indians, with no attempt made to segregate the individual operations. On those reservations where the Indians carried on their agricultural activities as independent operations, not through cooperative enterprise, individual returns were obtained for each operator. Generally, this procedure resulted in fewer farms and larger acreages than were included heretofore when more emphasis was placed on individual holdings, particularly as to livestock. These changes affected materially such items as the number of nonwhite operators, average acreages per farm, percentage of tenancy, average number of animals per farm reporting, etc.

**Land in farms.**—The acreage designated as "all land in farms" includes considerable areas of land not actually under cultivation and some land not even used for pasture or grazing, but all such land must have been under the control of the operator and must have been considered a part of his farm. Land neither owned nor leased but from which crops, including wild hay, were harvested was included as part of the farm.

When cattle, sheep, or other livestock were grazed or pastured on land neither owned nor leased by the operator, such land was not to be included as a part of the farm. Operations limited to livestock grazing on open range and reported as having no land owned or leased were given "0" acres and were included with farms of under 3 acres. There were 268 such farms in 1945 and 489 in 1940. Previous to the 1940 Census, no count was made of such farms, but each was given a nominal acreage of "1" and the total was included with farms of under 3 acres. Grazing lands held or controlled by cooperative groups, such as grazing associations, were included; as were grazing lands in Indian reservations used for grazing reservation livestock, whether collectively or individually owned. Grazing lands used on a permit basis, whether in national forests or Taylor Grazing Districts, were not to be included. There is a possibility that some grazing lands used under permit were included in error, although letters were written to determine the control of the land when questionable returns involved large acreages. On the other hand, it is probable that some ranchers failed to report all of their leased grazing lands.

ALL LAND IN FARMS AND CROPLAND HARVESTED,  
FOR THE UNITED STATES: 1850-1945



Enumerators were instructed not to include in the farm any large areas of timberland or other nonagricultural land held by an operator of a farm as a separate business, and not used for pasture or grazing, or for any other farm purpose. Sometimes there were sufficient agricultural operations on such holdings to meet the requirements of a farm. The enumerator, in reporting these operations, occasionally included the entire tract rather than limiting the report to that acreage actually used for the agricultural operations. In such cases, the excess acreage, if extreme (usually 1,000 acres or more), was deleted in the editing. In deleting these large acreages of woodland and other land, the requirements of the farm for pasture and for wood and timber were considered. If the operator appeared as a landlord for other farms, as in the case of a "home farm" of a plantation or multiple unit, the requirements of the tenants and croppers were likewise considered. The land was also retained if there was an indication that it would be used in 1945, or was being cleared, drained, or otherwise prepared for agricultural use.

Farms extending across county or State boundaries or consisting of two or more nonadjacent tracts located in two or more counties were enumerated in the county in which the farmstead was located. Thus, the Census figures for all land in farms for a particular county or State may be somewhat more, or somewhat less, than the farm area actually located in the respective county or State.

In the 1945 Census, special emphasis was placed on the enumeration of large farms. Such farms, particularly in the West, often involve numerous tracts of land widely separated and frequently located in several counties, or even in different States. The operations may be directed from, and the records kept at, an office located elsewhere, often in a city. The several tracts

may each have a foreman or manager. The enumeration of such operations always has presented a problem, with considerable possibility of omissions and duplications. Also farms representing large scale operations, regardless of the acreage involved, account for a very large part of our total agriculture (see chapter II, Size of Farms, and chapter X, Type of Farm and Value of Farm Products). To insure complete enumeration of these large farms, Census supervisors were given lists of large operations reported in 1940 and were instructed to prepare, in cooperation with a Census Advisory Committee set up in each county, a current list of large farms in each enumeration district which was to be furnished the enumerator to whom that district was assigned. Lists of multiple-unit operations and large sheep operations were also furnished the Census supervisors. The returns for large operations were checked in the Washington office for possible duplications in other counties and with the 1940 lists for possible omissions.

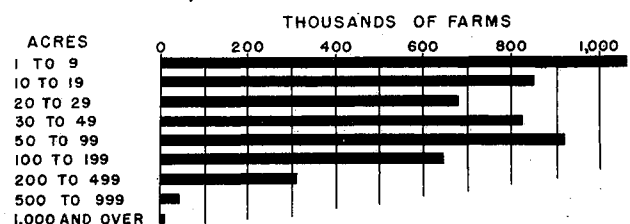
The procedures followed in 1945, as compared with those used in previous censuses, differ primarily in the enumeration of multiple-unit operations extending across county or State boundaries, in the enumeration of Indian reservations, and in the increased emphasis placed on the enumeration of large farms. The elimination of exceptionally large acreages of nonagricultural lands from the returns was probably more thorough in the 1945 Census than in previous censuses. The instructions in each census have tended to become more explicit. Even in 1850 there was emphasis to include all land in the farm, "the timber or range of which is used for farm purposes," including tracts not necessarily contiguous, and perhaps located at a distance. Reference to the enumeration of farms extending into other districts first appeared in the instructions for the 1900 Census. Definite reference to the exclusion of large areas of timber land or other nonagricultural lands held by an operator of a farm as a separate business first appeared in the instructions to enumerators for 1940.

In the enumeration of range lands, the procedures followed in previous censuses were similar to those followed in 1945. However, changes in the administration and management of range lands have caused increasing acreages of land, formerly open range, to come under the control of individual operators. This is discussed further under "Comparability of data."

**Approximate land area of the United States.**—Figures on the land area of the United States and of the several States, published along with the area of land in farms, show to what extent the land is utilized for agriculture. It should be noted, however, that the land in farms is not an exact measure of the agricultural use of land. It excludes some land not in farms or ranches which was used for grazing but includes some land not cropped, grazed, or otherwise used for agricultural purposes. The land area in the United States was 1,905,361,920 acres in 1945 and in 1940 and is defined to include dry land and land temporarily or partially covered by water, such as marshland, swamps, and river flood plains; streams, sloughs, estuaries, and canals less than one-eighth of a statute mile in width; and lakes, reservoirs, and ponds having less than 40 acres of area. Land areas in the various States are shown in table 8. The approximate land areas reported for 1945 and 1940 resulted from a complete remeasurement of the United States, its individual States and their counties, and, consequently, are at variance with those shown for earlier years.

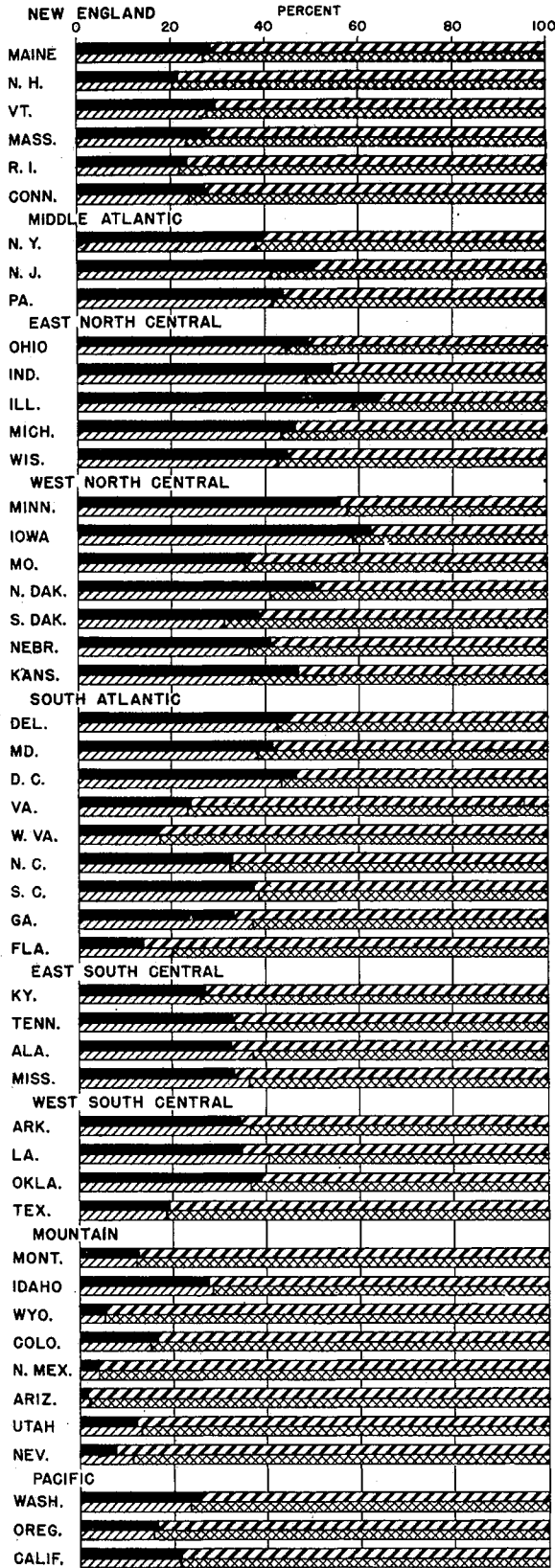
These entirely new determinations represent the first basic remeasurement of the United States since the work of Henry Gannett, prepared for the Tenth Decennial Census of 1880. The measurements, involving geodetic values and planimeter readings, were based on U. S. Coast and Geodetic Survey aeronautical charts.

NUMBER OF FARMS, BY ACRES OF CROPLAND  
HARVESTED, FOR THE UNITED STATES: 1944

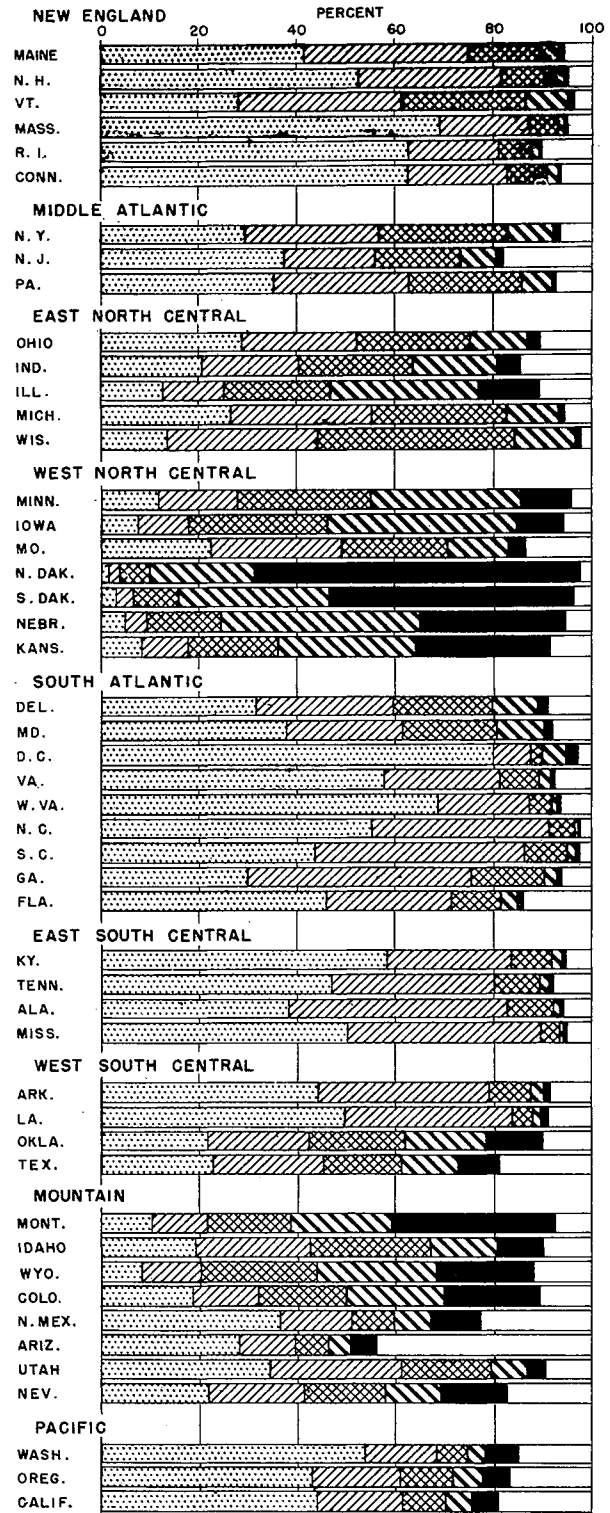


# FARMS AND FARM PROPERTY

PERCENT OF ALL LAND IN FARMS REPRESENTED BY CROPLAND HARVESTED, BY STATES: 1945 AND 1940



PERCENT DISTRIBUTION OF NUMBER OF FARMS, BY ACRES OF CROPLAND HARVESTED, BY STATES: 1945







# FARMS AND FARM PROPERTY

Table 3.—FARMS CLASSIFIED BY ACRES OF CROPLAND HARVESTED, FOR THE UNITED STATES, THE NORTH, THE SOUTH, AND THE WEST: 1944

[Figures for divisions and States in table 19]

ITEM	THE UNITED STATES			THE NORTH			THE SOUTH			THE WEST		
	Number of farms	Percent of all farms	Percent of farms reporting cropland harvested	Number of farms	Percent of all farms	Percent of farms reporting cropland harvested	Number of farms	Percent of all farms	Percent of farms reporting cropland harvested	Number of farms	Percent of all farms	Percent of farms reporting cropland harvested
All farms.....	5,859,169	100.0	xxxxxxxxxxxx	2,483,578	100.0	xxxxxxxxxxxx	2,881,155	100.0	xxxxxxxxxxxx	494,456	100.0	xxxxxxxxxxxx
Farms reporting cropland harvested, total.....	5,363,490	91.5	100.0	2,293,193	92.3	100.0	2,653,638	92.1	100.0	416,659	84.3	100.0
1 to 9 acres.....	1,072,945	18.3	20.0	306,926	12.4	13.4	645,188	22.4	24.3	120,851	24.4	29.0
10 to 19 acres.....	852,015	14.5	15.9	191,980	7.7	8.4	603,327	20.9	22.7	56,708	11.5	13.6
20 to 29 acres.....	680,203	11.6	12.7	171,326	6.9	7.5	474,199	16.5	17.9	54,678	7.0	8.3
30 to 49 acres.....	824,712	14.1	15.4	318,827	12.8	13.9	457,801	15.9	17.3	48,084	9.7	11.5
50 to 99 acres.....	920,295	15.7	17.2	574,946	23.1	25.1	284,140	9.9	10.7	61,209	12.4	14.7
100 to 199 acres.....	646,136	11.0	12.0	480,233	19.3	20.9	120,159	4.2	4.5	45,744	9.3	11.0
200 to 499 acres.....	310,545	5.3	5.8	118,957	4.8	9.5	558,842	1.9	2.1	35,746	7.2	8.6
500 to 999 acres.....	46,772	0.8	0.9	26,232	1.1	1.1	10,214	0.4	0.4	10,323	2.1	2.5
1,000 acres and over.....	9,887	0.2	0.2	3,768	0.2	0.2	2,768	0.1	0.1	3,333	0.7	0.8
1 to 19 acres.....	1,924,960	32.9	35.9	498,906	20.1	21.8	1,248,515	43.3	47.0	177,539	35.9	42.6
20 to 49 acres.....	1,504,915	25.7	28.1	490,153	19.7	21.4	952,000	32.3	35.1	82,762	16.7	19.9
50 to 99 acres.....	920,295	15.7	17.2	574,946	23.1	25.1	284,140	9.9	10.7	61,209	12.4	14.7
100 to 199 acres.....	646,136	11.0	12.0	480,233	19.3	20.9	120,159	4.2	4.5	45,744	9.3	11.0
200 acres and over.....	367,164	6.3	6.8	248,955	10.0	10.9	68,824	2.4	2.6	49,405	10.0	11.9
Farms not reporting cropland harvested.....	495,679	8.5	xxxxxxxxxxxx	190,385	7.7	xxxxxxxxxxxx	227,497	7.9	xxxxxxxxxxxx	77,797	15.7	xxxxxxxxxxxx

County areas, shown in volume I for 1945, were measured from United States Geological Survey and Post Office Department State maps and adjusted to the State totals. For a more complete description of the methods used and for areas by States, counties, minor civil divisions, and cities, refer to the 1940 Census report entitled "Areas of the United States."

The apparent increase of 2,145,280 acres in the area of the United States since 1935 is largely due to the more accurate maps used in the redetermination of areas, showing a rather general decrease in inland water areas. Variations in the land areas of the several States from census to census (except from 1935 to 1940) may be ascribed to increases or decreases in water area, map improvements involving longitudinal and latitudinal position, or to the more accurate placement of boundaries. Changes in the total area of the United States and of the individual States from 1850 to 1935 represent corrections or adjustments in the figures originally determined by Henry Gannett and were necessitated by boundary changes, drainage of lakes and swamps, building of reservoirs, and the like. The particular changes during this period and their principal causes are given in footnote 1 of table 1.

**Uses of land.**—In 1945, data were obtained for eight classes of land in farms, based upon the use made of the land in 1944, as follows:

1. **Cropland harvested.**—The land from which cultivated crops were harvested; land from which hay (including wild hay) was cut; and land in small fruits, orchards, vineyards, nurseries, and greenhouses. When two or more crops were harvested in 1944 from the same acreage, such acreage was included only once in the acreage for cropland harvested. However, the acreage and the quantity of each individual crop were reported separately as crops harvested. Thus, in some counties the total of the acreage of crops may greatly exceed the acreage designated as cropland harvested.

2. **Crop failure.**—The land from which no crop was harvested in 1944 because of destruction by wind, hail, drought, floods, insects, disease, or from any cause, or from failure to harvest because of low prices or lack of labor. If a crop was harvested, even though the yield was very low, the land from which the crop was actually harvested was included in the acreage for cropland harvested, not crop failure. The acreage designated as crop failure does not represent the entire acreage of crops which failed, but only that acreage of land in crops that failed which acreage was not successfully replanted to a crop that was harvested in 1944. Correspondence with individual operators indicates that enumerators sometimes included under crop failure land which had not been planted to crops in 1944 because of floods, shortage of labor, or for other reasons.

3. **Cropland idle or fallow.**—Cropland which was lying idle or which was in cultivated summer fallow; or land on which crops were planted for soil improvement or the prevention of erosion, and which was not pastured, or from which no crop of any kind was harvested in 1944.

4. **Cropland used only for pasture.**—Cropland used only for pasture in 1944 that was plowed within the last 7 years. This class of land does not include land pastured from which a crop was also harvested in 1944, such as land pastured after a crop was harvested, or grain fields which were pastured for a time but which later produced a crop.

5. **Woodland pastured.**—Woodland used for pasture or grazing in 1944. If returns for various census years indicated that there was some question as to whether land should be classed as woodland or as other land, such land was retained as reported by the enumerator. Thus, some of the changes, from one census to the next, in the acreage of woodland pastured and other land pastured may merely represent differences in the interpretation of the definition of woodland by the census enumerators.

6. **Pasture other than cropland and woodland.**—Land, other than cropland and woodland, used for pasture or grazing in 1944. This class of land is referred to as "Other land pastured" in volume I.

7. **Woodland not pastured.**—All farm wood lots or timber tracts, natural or planted, and cut-over land with young growth which has or will have value as wood or timber. Chaparral and woody shrubs were to be reported as other land used only as pasture or as all other land in farms.

8. **All other land.**—This classification includes all wasteland, house yards, barnyards, feed lots, lanes, roads, ditches, etc.

In addition to these eight classes of land, the tables also present data for 1944 for four summary classifications, which are somewhat overlapping, as follows:

**Cropland, total.**—Cropland harvested; crop failure; cropland, idle or fallow; and cropland used only for pasture.

**Land used for crops.**—Cropland harvested and crop failure.

**Land pastured, total.**—Cropland used only for pasture, woodland pastured, and pasture other than cropland and woodland.

**Woodland, total.**—Woodland pastured and woodland not pastured.

The land use classification from 1925 to 1940 was essentially the same as that used in 1945 with these exceptions: (1) "plowable pasture" was used in these earlier censuses instead of the more restricted "cropland used only for pasture," and (2) in 1940, the inquiry on plowable pasture was the only pasture question included on the schedule. In 1940, all woodland was grouped into a single class and pasture other than plowable and woodland was included in the inquiry "All other land."

**Plowable pasture,** for 1924 to 1939, was defined as land used only for pasture or grazing which could have been used for crops without additional clearing, draining, or irrigating.

Thus, "plowable pasture" differs from "cropland used only for pasture" in that the former includes land which may not have been plowed within 7 years preceding the census date.

Large acreages of land which had never been plowed were included under plowable pasture for the 1925 to 1940 Censuses, particularly in the States lying between the Mississippi River and the Rocky Mountains. The nearest approach, in previous censuses, to "cropland used only for pasture," as used in the 1945 Census, was an even more restrictive class, "rotation pasture" (land cropped from time to time), carried in the 1930 Census. This inquiry was separated on the schedule from the inquiries on land in farms according to use. It appears that this item was incompletely enumerated. The following table presents the acreages of "cropland used only for pasture" in 1944; plowable pasture for 1924 to 1939; and the portion of the plowable pasture in 1929 which was reported as rotation pasture:

AREA	Cropland used only for pasture, 1944	PLOWABLE PASTURE				
		1939	1934	1929		1924
				Total	Rotation pasture	
United States...	47,449,184	131,379,940	98,579,038	109,159,914	21,793,311	113,567,498
The North...	21,259,809	63,705,208	50,068,343	54,351,409	14,556,771	54,541,497
The South...	21,108,825	46,084,758	32,801,875	35,121,209	5,644,110	37,425,104
The West...	5,080,550	21,589,974	15,708,820	19,687,296	1,592,430	21,600,897

Pasture other than plowable and woodland, for 1924 to 1934, differs from "pasture other than cropland and woodland" for 1944 in the same absolute amount that "plowable pasture" differs from "cropland used only for pasture."

Land available for crops, for 1924 to 1939, includes cropland harvested; crop failure; cropland, idle or fallow; and plowable pasture. It represents roughly the limit of land which could be used for crops, while "cropland for 1944" measures the approximate area of land that has actually been utilized for crops within recent years.

Improved land, for 1850 to 1920, in general, included land regularly tilled or mowed, land in pasture that had been cleared or tilled, land lying fallow, land in gardens, orchards, vineyards, and nurseries, and land occupied by buildings, yards, barnyards, etc. Improved land was rather loosely defined at the various censuses, the definition given here representing the one used for the 1920 Census. Prior to 1910, there was no specific mention of land occupied by buildings; in 1900, it included all land not classed as unimproved which was defined as "land which has never been plowed, mown, or cropped, including land once cultivated but now grown up to trees and shrubs"; in 1890, permanent meadows or pastures and cultivated forests were included with improved land; in 1880, permanent meadows and pastures were included; in 1870, improved land was identified as "cleared land used for grazing, grass, or tillage, or lying fallow"; in 1860, there were no printed instructions or descriptions; and, in 1850, the instructions again specifically identified improved land as cleared land.

No exact comparison can be made between improved land, as reported for 1850 to 1920, and any grouping of the 1924 to 1944 classes. The most nearly comparable groups are "cropland" in 1944 and "land available for crops" in 1924 to 1939.

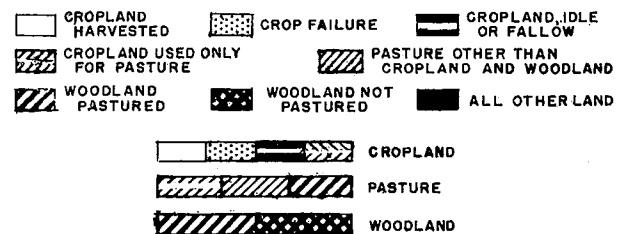
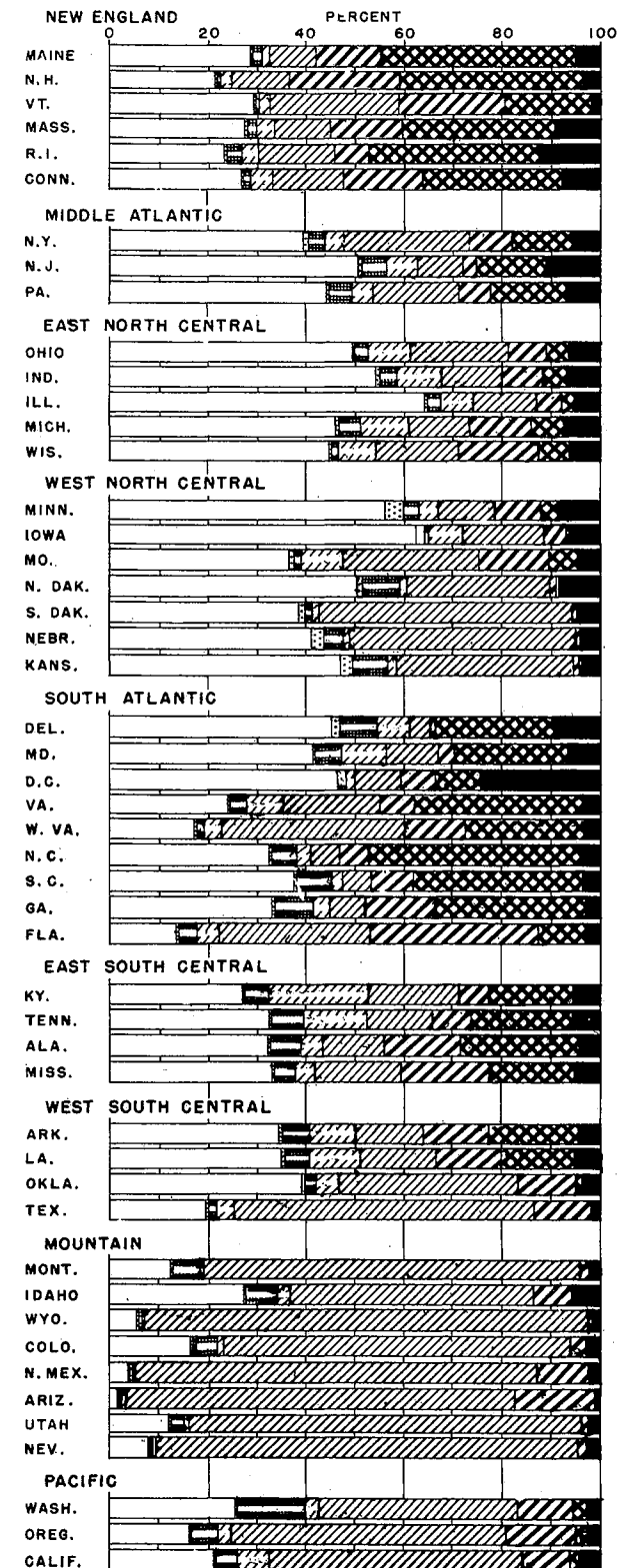
The acreage of cropland harvested provides a convenient measure for comparing the level of agricultural production in the different censuses. For the census years 1879 to 1919, when data for cropland harvested are not available, the acreages of the several crops were summarized and the totals are shown for the United States in table 2 and for the several States in table 18 with the data for cropland harvested for 1924 to 1944. These figures are not strictly comparable because the totals of acres of crops do not include the acreages of a number of minor crops and farm gardens nor do they take into account all the duplications which may have resulted from the harvesting of two or more crops in the same year from the same land. In chapter VIII, a comparison is made of the acreages of cropland harvested for 1924 to 1944 and the total acreages of the several crops reported for the corresponding census, accompanied by a discussion of the differences in the two sets of figures. The figures for the censuses of 1925 to 1945 for the United States are as follows:

ITEM	1944	1939	1934	1929	1924
Cropland harvested (acres).....	352,865,765	521,242,450	295,624,176	359,242,091	344,549,267
Sum of the acreages of individual crops <sup>1</sup> .....	349,803,130	519,124,373	298,642,348	358,067,868	334,315,671
Difference.....	3,062,635	2,118,077	-3,018,172	1,174,223	10,233,596

<sup>1</sup> Figures for the different censuses are not strictly comparable. Crops included for the several years vary; for example, the 1924 figures are for specified field crops only.

The enumeration of the several uses of land has been difficult at each census because: (1) it is not always easy to differentiate between one class of land and another; (2) a farmer does not always know the exact acreages in the various classes, especially those other than cropland; and (3) a farmer who had recently moved onto his farm may not have been familiar with the past year's operations on that farm. Differentiation as to land use is most difficult when there is conflict between the local concept and the intent of an inquiry or when the land has been utilized in several ways during the year. Examples of these confusing situations are: crops considered as failure but actually harvested with a very low yield or utilized for grazing or forage in lieu of harvesting in the conventional manner; land, on which crops failed, successfully replanted to another crop

PERCENT DISTRIBUTION OF LAND IN FARMS ACCORDING TO USE, BY STATES: 1944



harvested during the year; orchards in which the crop was a failure (which was, in accordance with instructions, to have been included with cropland harvested); land both cropped and pastured during the year; and land with shrubby woody growth or with scattered trees. For farms with new operators, the cropland harvested and the individual crops may have been incompletely enumerated. Comparisons of the classifications made by different enumerators in the same general area and of the same enumeration districts for the different censuses indicate that enumerators often influenced the reports made for the various classes of land. There has been a tendency on the part of some enumerators to report a figure for cropland harvested and to enter all the remaining acreage in one total under one of the other classes of land. The enumerator's reports on the several uses of land on individual farms were left unchanged except when obviously in error. If reports of other enumerators in the same general area or reports from previous censuses indicated that there might be some doubt as to the proper classification of the land, the returns were allowed to stand as enumerated.

**Farms reporting.**—The term "farms reporting," as used in the tables, indicates the number of farms for which the specified items shown in the particular table were reported.

In 1945, there were 3,429 farms in Nevada. Of these 2,839 harvested crops in 1944. Therefore, the number of farms reporting cropland harvested for 1944 was 2,839, as shown in the tables herein. Although, in general, the farms reporting a particular item represent the number of farms having that item, in some instances it may represent a minimum statement of the number of farms having the item. The total number of farms is used as farms reporting "Land in farms" and "Value of land and buildings."

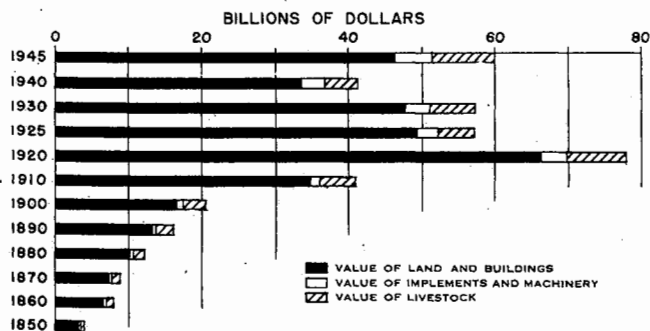
**Value of specified classes of farm property.**—Three classes of farm property are included in this value, as follows:

1. **Value of farms (land and buildings).**—The market value of the real estate represented in the farm. The enumerator was asked to obtain from the farm operator his estimate of the current market value of the farm he was operating. Thus, for owner-operated land the value represents the owner's appraisal and, for tenant-operated land, the tenant's appraisal. This item is shown by tenure of operator in chapter III.

2. **Value of implements and machinery.**—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.

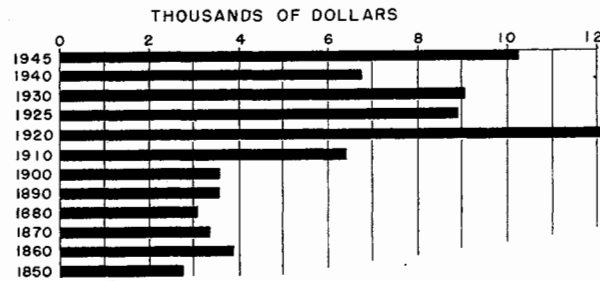
3. **Value of livestock.**—The value of livestock was obtained by multiplying the inventory numbers of livestock and poultry on the farms in each county by county-unit prices obtained cooperatively by the Department of Agriculture and the Bureau of the Census. (See chapter VII for the numbers and classes of livestock included for the various censuses.)

VALUE OF SPECIFIED CLASSES OF FARM PROPERTY IN THE UNITED STATES: 1850-1945



The values of these three classes of farm property, except the value of implements and machinery in the 1935 Census, have been obtained in each census, beginning with 1850. For all censuses, the value of farms (land and buildings) and value of implements and machinery represent enumerated values. The value of livestock reported for the censuses of 1850 to 1920 represent enumerated values; those reported for 1925 and later represent computed values. The values for livestock shown for 1940 and

AVERAGE VALUE PER FARM OF SPECIFIED CLASSES OF FARM PROPERTY, FOR THE UNITED STATES: 1850 TO 1945



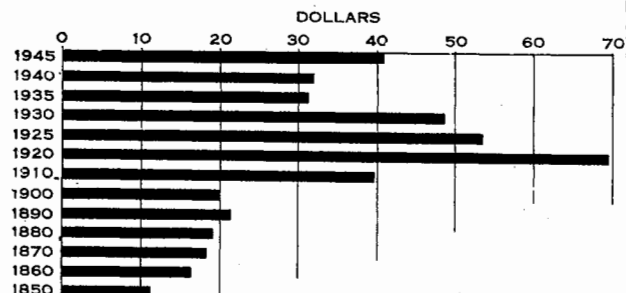
1930 were calculated on a county level in the same manner as those shown for 1945; the 1935 value was calculated on a State basis applying State-unit prices; and the 1925 value was calculated on a county level, using unit prices for crop-reporting districts (groups of contiguous counties within the State).

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. Except for 1870, the values presented in this chapter for each census are as shown in the reports for those censuses. The 1870 figures are as carried in the reports for 1880 and subsequent censuses and represent an adjustment of the original figures to a gold basis. These figures were approximately one-fifth less than the figures reported in 1870. The value of farms, for the United States, is shown as \$9,262,803,861 in the 1870 report and as \$7,444,054,462 in subsequent reports; the value of implements and machinery as \$336,878,429 in 1870 and \$270,913,678 in later reports; and the value of livestock as \$1,525,276,457 in 1870 and \$1,229,889,610 in the later reports.

The kinds of property representing each of the three major classes were essentially the same for each census, with the exception of the exclusion of automobiles in 1945 from the value of implements and machinery and some differences as to the minor classes of livestock included in the censuses of 1925 to 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.

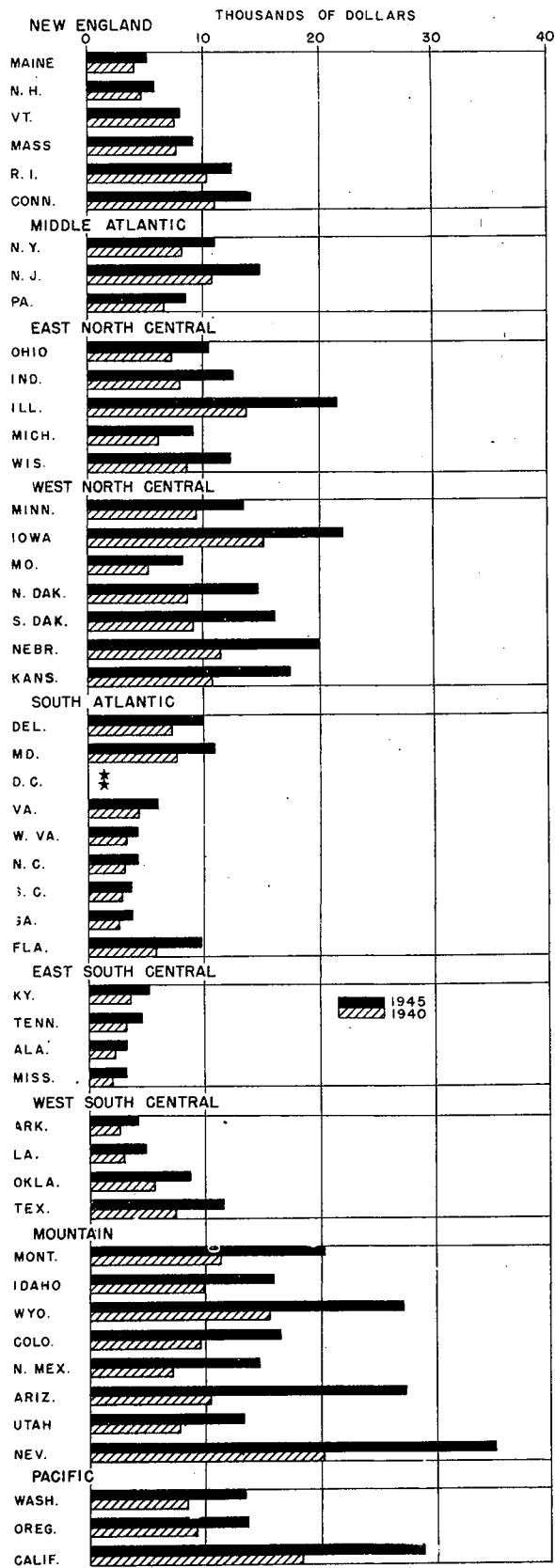
The value of many farms includes some increment not attributable to agricultural use. The value of a farm may be affected materially by its proximity to a city, the presence of minerals, or buildings as in the case of a country estate. In general, the inclusion of nonagricultural values does not affect the usefulness of the figures for comparing the agricultural worth of farm real estate for large areas, but it does affect comparisons on a county or minor civil division level.

AVERAGE VALUE OF LAND AND BUILDINGS PER ACRE, FOR THE UNITED STATES: 1850-1945



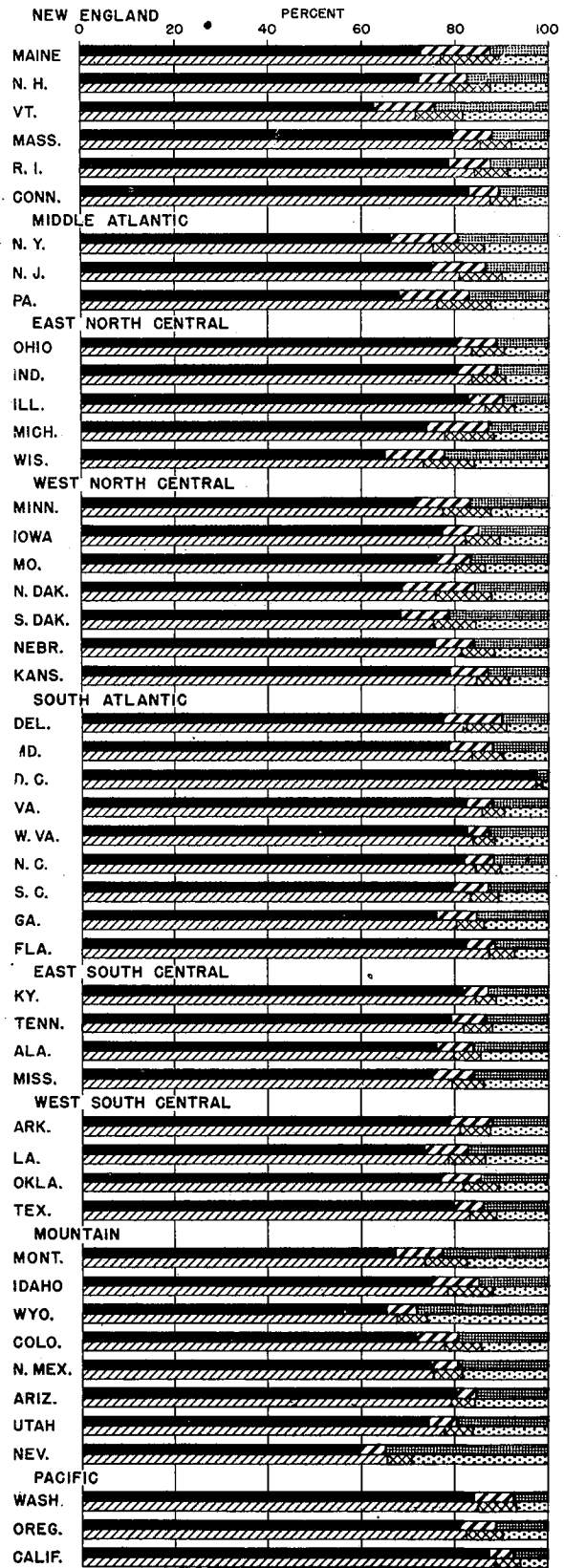
# CENSUS OF AGRICULTURE: 1945

AVERAGE VALUE PER FARM OF SPECIFIED CLASSES OF FARM PROPERTY, BY STATES: 1945 AND 1940



\*D.C. AVERAGE VALUE PER FARM { 1945 - \$128,146  
1940 - \$ 93,863

PERCENT DISTRIBUTION OF VALUE OF SPECIFIED CLASSES OF FARM PROPERTY, BY STATES: 1945 AND 1940



LAND AND BUILDINGS { 1945 (Solid black), 1940 (Hatched)  
 IMPLEMENTS AND MACHINERY { 1945 (Dotted), 1940 (Cross-hatched)  
 LIVESTOCK { 1945 (Horizontal lines), 1940 (Vertical lines)

# FARMS AND FARM PROPERTY

Table 4.—VALUE OF SPECIFIED CLASSES OF FARM PROPERTY, FOR THE UNITED STATES: 1850 TO 1945

[Figures for regions, divisions, and States in tables 7, 8, 17, and 18]

ITEM AND YEAR	FARMS REPORTING				VALUE			
	Total	Percent of all farms	Amount (dollars)	Percent of total	Increase or decrease (-)		Average (dollars)	
					Amount (dollars)	Percent	Per farm (based on all farms)	Per acre (based on all land in farms)
<b>Total value of specified classes of farm property</b> .....								
1945..	5,859,169	100.0	60,008,207,993	100.0	18,780,358,705	45.6	10,242	52.56
1940..	6,086,799	100.0	41,227,849,287	100.0	-15,732,244,641	-27.6	6,762	38.86
1935..	6,288,648	100.0	56,980,095,928	100.0	-28,484,323	(1)	9,058	57.72
1925..	6,371,640	100.0	56,986,578,251	100.0	-20,886,148,563	-26.8	8,944	61.65
1920..	6,448,345	100.0	77,874,726,814	100.0	37,075,075,010	90.9	12,077	81.47
1910..	6,361,502	100.0	40,789,651,804	100.0	20,587,490,447	101.9	6,414	46.45
1900..	5,737,372	100.0	20,212,161,357	100.0	4,129,893,668	25.7	3,523	24.10
1890..	4,564,641	100.0	16,082,287,689	100.0	3,901,766,151	32.0	3,523	25.81
1880..	4,008,907	100.0	12,180,501,538	100.0	3,255,643,788	36.2	3,038	22.72
1870..	2,659,985	100.0	<sup>2</sup> 8,944,857,750	100.0	964,364,687	12.1	3,363	21.94
1860..	2,044,077	100.0	7,980,493,063	100.0	4,013,149,483	101.2	3,904	19.60
1850..	1,449,073	100.0	3,987,343,580	100.0	-----	-----	2,738	13.51
<b>Land and buildings</b> .....								
1945..	5,859,169	100.0	46,388,925,560	77.3	12,747,186,854	37.9	7,917	40.63
1940..	6,086,799	100.0	33,641,758,726	81.6	782,894,714	2.4	5,516	31.71
1935..	6,812,350	100.0	32,858,844,012	(*)	-15,020,994,346	-31.4	4,823	31.16
1925..	6,288,648	100.0	47,879,858,358	84.1	-1,587,808,929	-3.2	7,614	48.52
1920..	6,371,640	100.0	49,467,647,287	86.8	-16,848,355,315	-25.4	7,764	53.52
1910..	6,448,345	100.0	66,316,002,602	85.2	31,514,876,905	90.6	10,284	69.38
1900..	6,361,502	100.0	34,801,125,697	85.3	18,186,478,206	109.5	5,471	39.60
1890..	5,737,372	100.0	16,614,647,491	82.2	3,335,394,842	25.1	2,896	19.81
1880..	4,564,641	100.0	13,279,252,649	82.6	3,082,155,873	30.2	2,909	21.31
1870..	4,008,907	100.0	10,197,096,776	83.7	2,755,042,314	37.0	2,544	19.02
1860..	2,659,985	100.0	<sup>2</sup> 7,444,054,462	83.2	799,009,455	12.0	2,799	18.26
1850..	2,044,077	100.0	6,645,045,007	83.3	3,373,489,581	103.1	3,251	16.32
	1,449,073	100.0	3,271,575,428	82.5	-----	-----	2,258	11.14
<b>Implements and machinery</b> .....								
1945..	4,704,549	80.3	5,146,851,100	8.6	2,086,663,711	68.2	878	4.51
1940..	5,015,252	82.3	3,060,187,389	7.4	-241,467,092	-7.3	502	2.88
1935..	5,529,424	87.9	3,301,654,481	5.8	609,950,852	22.7	525	3.35
1925..	(*)	(*)	2,691,703,629	4.7	-903,069,299	-25.1	422	2.81
1920..	(*)	(*)	3,594,772,928	4.6	2,329,623,145	184.1	557	5.76
1910..	(*)	(*)	1,265,149,783	3.1	515,378,813	68.7	199	1.44
1900..	(*)	(*)	749,775,970	3.7	255,528,503	51.7	131	0.89
1890..	(*)	(*)	494,247,467	3.1	87,727,412	21.6	108	0.79
1880..	(*)	(*)	406,520,055	3.3	135,606,377	50.1	101	0.76
1870..	(*)	(*)	<sup>2</sup> 270,913,678	3.0	24,795,537	10.1	102	0.66
1860..	(*)	(*)	246,118,141	3.1	94,530,503	62.4	120	0.60
1850..	(*)	(*)	151,567,638	3.8	-----	-----	105	0.52
<b>Livestock</b> <sup>3</sup> .....								
1945..	(*)	(*)	8,472,451,333	14.1	3,946,508,161	67.2	1,446	7.42
1940..	(*)	(*)	4,525,923,172	11.0	1,119,080,542	32.8	742	4.27
1935..	(*)	(*)	3,406,842,630	(*)	-2,371,758,459	-41.0	500	3.23
1925..	(*)	(*)	5,778,601,089	10.1	949,373,754	19.7	919	5.86
1920..	(*)	(*)	4,623,227,335	8.5	-3,134,723,949	-39.4	758	5.22
1910..	(*)	(*)	7,963,951,284	10.2	3,230,574,960	68.3	1,235	8.33
1900..	(*)	(*)	4,733,376,324	11.6	1,885,638,428	66.2	744	5.39
1890..	(*)	(*)	2,847,737,896	14.1	538,970,323	23.3	496	3.40
1880..	(*)	(*)	2,308,767,573	14.4	731,882,866	46.4	506	3.70
1870..	(*)	(*)	<sup>2</sup> 1,576,684,707	12.9	346,995,097	28.2	393	2.94
1860..	(*)	(*)	<sup>2</sup> 1,229,889,610	13.7	140,559,695	12.9	462	3.02
1850..	(*)	(*)	1,089,329,915	13.6	545,149,399	100.2	533	2.68
			544,180,516	13.7	-----	-----	376	1.85

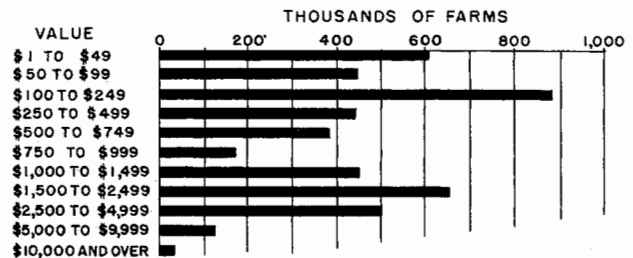
<sup>1</sup>Not available.  
<sup>2</sup>0.05 percent or less.  
<sup>3</sup>Value in gold—approximately one-fifth less than reported currency values published in the 1870 report which shows \$9,262,803,861 for value of farms, \$536,878,429 for value of implements and machinery, and \$1,525,276,457 for value of livestock.  
<sup>4</sup>In general, does not include the value of young animals; also, for some years, certain minor classes of livestock were not enumerated. For the items included for each census, see chapter VII, table 3.

In reporting values of institutional farms and establishments where farming was combined with nonfarm activities, enumerators were instructed to include only the acreage and the value of land and buildings actually used for farm purposes.

The reported value of farms represents 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; however, in general, the totals represent a composite of many opinions and therefore are reasonably dependable. 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. In the editing process, the reported values were accepted unless they included the value of nonfarm property, such as institutional buildings, or were otherwise obviously in error.

The value of the farm real estate and the value of livestock are probably more accurate than the value of implements and machinery. A value figure for the land and buildings combined can usually be given by the operator with a reasonable degree of accuracy for most farms since farms are generally sold as a unit. A value was supplied in the editing process for the relatively few returns, usually for tenant operators, for which the value was not reported by the enumerator. This was done on the basis of returns for surrounding farms of similar size and type. A value has thus been included in the final summation for every farm.

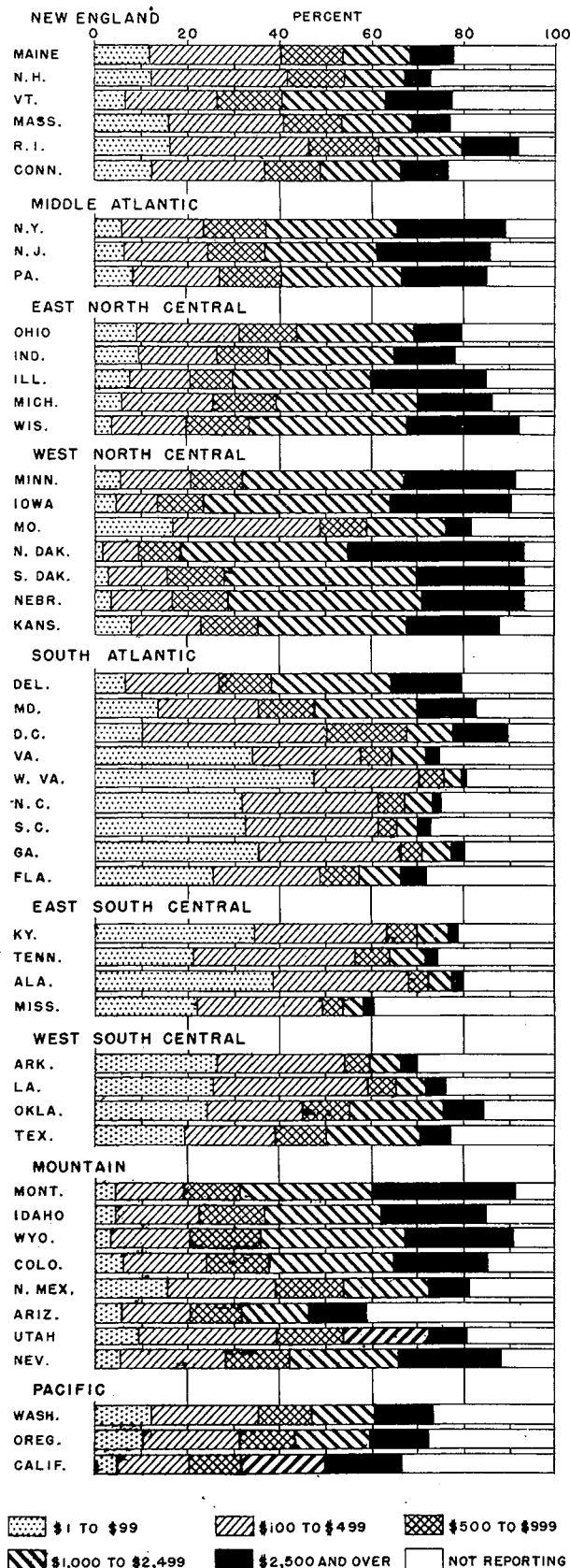
NUMBER OF FARMS, BY VALUE OF IMPLEMENTS AND MACHINERY, FOR THE UNITED STATES: 1945



If the numbers of livestock have been enumerated with a reasonable degree of accuracy and completeness, the values should also be reasonably accurate, whether supplied by the enumerator or calculated on the basis of reports of price correspondents.

The value of farm implements and machinery has been obtained by one inquiry covering all items. A lump-sum type of inquiry, such as this, 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. It appears that the value of implements and machinery has also been incompletely enumerated through failure to obtain reports for this

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



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. Table 5 shows the number and proportion of farms not reporting the value of implements and machinery for 1945, 1940, and 1930, the only years for which a tabulation of this nature was made.

Table 5.—FARMS NOT REPORTING VALUE OF IMPLEMENTS AND MACHINERY, FOR THE UNITED STATES, THE NORTH, THE SOUTH, AND THE WEST: 1945, 1940, AND 1930

YEAR	THE UNITED STATES		THE NORTH	
	Farms not reporting value of implements and machinery	Percent of all farms	Farms not reporting value of implements and machinery	Percent of all farms
1945.....	1,154,620	19.7	358,232	13.6
1940.....	1,081,547	17.7	354,848	13.0
1930.....	759,224	12.1	210,965	8.2

YEAR	THE SOUTH		THE WEST	
	Farms not reporting value of implements and machinery	Percent of all farms	Farms not reporting value of implements and machinery	Percent of all farms
1945.....	597,633	24.2	118,705	24.0
1940.....	559,034	21.9	87,965	17.2
1930.....	477,986	14.8	70,275	14.0

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 showed 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.

**Comparability of the statistics.**—Although the number of farms, land in farms, and value of specified classes of farm property other than livestock do not fluctuate to any appreciable extent with the seasons, the data for these items and the several classes of land according to use are affected by the time of the year in which the census is taken. The enumerations for 1945, 1935, 1925, and 1920 were made as of January 1; those for 1940 and 1930, April 1; that for 1910, April 15; and those for earlier censuses, June 1. The ease of enumeration, with the consequent completeness of coverage, depends, in part, upon the farm activity at the time of the enumeration. All areas having appreciable numbers of nonresident operators, or operators who live on their farm only a part of a year, are particularly difficult to enumerate at any period of low farm activity. It is not uncommon for a farm operator to live off his farm in the off-season months, usually during the winter. In Utah, about one out of every four farmers does not live on a farm at any time of the year. In the winter-garden areas, where large numbers of the farm operators do not live on their farms, the enumeration would be much more difficult after April 1 than in January. Agricultural operations in "suit-case" farming areas in the wheat-growing sections of the Great Plains are difficult to enumerate in any season other than at the time of planting or harvesting. On the other hand, better reports may be obtained from farmers, who live on their farms throughout the year, in a period of low farm activity, particularly if secured at or near the close of a crop season.

The enumeration of the uses of land for the year preceding the census date becomes more difficult with the lapse of time. If delayed until the current season's operations have started, the operator may report the current intentions rather than the previous year's operations. The enumeration of farms for operators who have just moved onto their farms tends to be incomplete as the operators may not be able to give complete reports of the operations for the preceding year. This difficulty becomes more serious since more and more cases are encountered with the lapse of time. In the 1945 Census, there were 238,210 operators who reported 1945 as the year in which they began

# FARMS AND FARM PROPERTY

Table 6.—FARMS CLASSIFIED BY VALUE OF IMPLEMENTS AND MACHINERY, FOR THE UNITED STATES, THE NORTH,  
THE SOUTH, AND THE WEST: 1945

ITEM	THE UNITED STATES			THE NORTH			THE SOUTH			THE WEST		
	Number of farms	Per- cent of all farms	Percent of farms report- ing value of implements and machinery	Number of farms	Per- cent of all farms	Percent of farms report- ing value of implements and machinery	Number of farms	Per- cent of all farms	Percent of farms report- ing value of implements and machinery	Number of farms	Per- cent of all farms	Percent of farms report- ing value of implements and machinery
All farms.....	5,859,169	100.0	xxxxxxxxxxxx	2,463,578	100.0	xxxxxxxxxxxx	2,981,135	100.0	xxxxxxxxxxxx	494,456	100.0	xxxxxxxxxxxx
Farms reporting value of implements and machinery, total..	4,704,549	80.3	100.0	2,145,346	86.4	100.0	2,183,452	75.8	100.0	375,751	76.0	100.0
\$1 to \$49.....	604,024	10.3	12.8	91,158	3.7	4.2	493,585	17.1	22.6	19,261	3.9	5.1
\$50 to \$99.....	449,661	7.7	9.6	94,417	3.8	4.4	336,152	11.7	15.4	19,092	3.9	5.1
\$100 to \$249.....	887,868	15.2	18.9	270,427	10.9	12.6	564,539	19.6	25.9	52,902	10.7	14.1
\$250 to \$499.....	441,614	7.5	9.4	180,076	7.3	8.4	219,238	7.6	10.0	42,300	8.6	11.3
\$500 to \$749.....	383,204	6.5	8.1	202,350	8.1	9.4	137,395	4.8	6.3	43,459	8.8	11.6
\$750 to \$999.....	170,384	2.9	3.6	93,045	3.7	4.3	59,040	2.0	2.7	18,299	3.7	4.9
\$1,000 to \$1,499.....	453,562	7.7	9.6	281,567	11.3	13.1	129,612	4.5	5.9	42,383	8.6	11.3
\$1,500 to \$2,499.....	654,018	11.2	13.9	462,124	18.6	21.5	135,721	4.7	6.2	56,173	11.4	14.9
\$2,500 to \$4,999.....	500,091	8.5	10.6	371,108	14.9	17.3	79,112	2.7	3.6	49,871	10.1	13.3
\$5,000 to \$9,999.....	129,044	2.2	2.7	85,318	3.4	4.0	21,699	0.8	1.0	22,027	4.5	5.9
\$10,000 and over.....	31,079	0.5	0.7	13,756	0.6	0.6	7,359	0.3	0.3	9,964	2.0	2.7
\$1 to \$499.....	2,363,167	40.7	50.7	656,078	25.6	29.6	1,613,514	56.0	73.9	133,575	27.0	35.5
\$1 to \$99.....	1,053,685	18.0	22.4	185,575	7.5	8.7	829,737	28.8	38.0	38,373	7.8	10.2
\$500 to \$999.....	555,568	9.4	11.8	295,395	11.9	13.8	196,455	6.8	9.0	61,758	12.5	16.4
\$1,000 to \$2,499.....	1,107,580	18.9	23.5	743,691	29.9	34.7	265,333	9.2	12.2	98,556	19.9	26.2
\$2,500 and over.....	660,214	11.3	14.0	470,182	18.9	21.9	108,170	3.8	5.0	81,862	16.6	21.8
Farms not reporting value of implements and machinery.....	1,154,620	19.7	xxxxxxxxxxxx	338,232	13.6	xxxxxxxxxxxx	697,683	24.2	xxxxxxxxxxxx	118,705	24.0	xxxxxxxxxxxx

operating their farms, although the census date was January 1. It should be noted that the 1945 enumeration, because of war-time conditions, required a longer than normal period for completion, the average date of enumeration falling between March 16 and March 31. In the 1940 Census, taken as of April 1, there were 441,830 operators who reported 1940 as the year they began operating their farms. (See the Introduction for the percentage of the 1945 enumeration completed by specified dates.)

Comparability in the number of farms enumerated in the various censuses may also be influenced by whether or not the farm census is taken in conjunction with, or independent of, a population census. The decennial censuses of agriculture (1850 and each 10 years thereafter) were taken in conjunction with population censuses; the mid-decennial censuses, 1945, 1935, and 1925, were taken independently. It is likely that, when taken with a population census, the enumeration of farms in urban and thickly settled rural areas is more complete. On the other hand, there is a possibility that, when only an agricultural census is taken, more attention is paid to the agricultural phase than when each enumerator is responsible for population, housing, etc., along with agriculture.

Because of the difference in price level, the \$250 limit for the minimum value of products for farms under 3 acres in size resulted in the inclusion, in 1945, of more farms than were included in the earlier censuses. In addition, there was an increase as a result of a patriotic appeal for victory gardens and the obvious advantages, under a rationing system, of producing foods for family use. On the other hand, many former part-time farmers gave up their agricultural activities entirely in order to devote full time to their jobs in wartime industries. The net result was an increase in the number of farms of under 3 acres to more than double the number reported for any previous census and a very substantial increase in the number of farms of 3 to 9 acres. In the 1945 Census, 98,966 farms under 3 acres in size were recorded, as compared with 35,977 in 1940. Farms of 3 to 9 acres increased to 495,595 in 1945 from 470,425 in 1940. Farms marginal as to the minimum requirements under the Census definition have never accounted for any appreciable proportion of farms. In 1945, farms of under 3 acres accounted for only 1.7 percent of all farms, and in 1930, the previous high, they accounted for only 0.7 percent. Not all farms of under 3 acres have limited agricultural operations. Some represent green-houses, nurseries, apiaries, broiler operations, dry-lot dairies,

and the like. Some of the outstanding counties with respect to the number of farms of this kind reported in the 1945 Census, with comparisons for 1940, are as follows:

COUNTY	ALL FARMS		FARMS UNDER 3 ACRES	
	1945	1940	1945	1940
Arizona:				
Maricopa.....	6,479	4,632	1,081	70
California:				
Alameda.....	2,658	2,447	891	337
Los Angeles.....	13,114	12,475	2,516	2,358
San Bernardino.....	7,729	6,110	946	792
San Diego.....	5,450	5,814	641	562
Santa Clara.....	5,914	5,608	473	166
Santa Cruz.....	2,222	1,712	460	154
Stanislaus.....	6,660	5,754	461	84
Texas:				
Harris.....	5,064	6,949	951	956
Jefferson.....	2,353	2,387	952	1,085
Utah:				
Utah.....	3,987	3,055	504	112
West Virginia:				
Kanawha.....	4,694	3,496	487	23

Not all marginal farms are less than 3 acres in size. Some may be found in practically every size classification. For the most part, these marginal farms are found in or near urban or industrial areas and represent part-time-farming operations of persons employed principally at nonfarm jobs. This concentration, plus the variable manner in which enumerators handled borderline cases, affects the comparability in the number of farms reported for the various censuses, particularly on a county level.

The procedure used in 1945 for the enumeration of the agricultural operations of Indians, whereby over-all returns were secured for all cooperative groups instead of individual returns as was generally the case in former years, resulted in a sharp decrease in the count of farms between 1940 and 1945 in many areas in which there were Indian reservations. This drop in the number of farms was usually accompanied by a large increase in land in farms resulting from the inclusion of all the reservation grazing lands, which were often omitted when returns were secured for individual Indians. Much of this additional grazing land included in farms represented land of very low carrying

## CENSUS OF AGRICULTURE: 1945

capacity. The greatest changes were in the Southwest, particularly in Arizona and New Mexico. The following figures for the numbers of farms and land in farms, as reported in 1945 and 1940, for Indian-operated lands in specified counties indicate the extent to which this change in procedure affected the count of farms and the acreage of farm lands in these counties. Several other areas with Indian reservations were also affected but to a lesser extent.

INDIAN RESERVATION FARMS,<sup>1</sup> FOR SPECIFIED COUNTIES: 1945 AND 1940

COUNTY	FARMS		ACRES	
	1945	1940	1945	1940
<b>Arizona:</b>				
Apache.....	7	2,738	3,614,103	3,328,276
Cocconino.....	11	1,147	3,133,787	2,343,480
Gila.....	7	313	580,007	1,354
Graham.....	11	142	1,089,124	245
Mohave.....	14	114	926,808	991,823
NavaJo.....	11	1,958	5,743,044	2,551,467
Pima.....	24	539	2,419,112	47,952
Pinal.....	539	691	465,819	34,642
Yavapai.....	15	8	121	993
Yuma.....	62	100	5,296	4,102
Total (Spec. counties).....	701	7,750	<sup>2</sup> 17,937,221	9,304,334
<b>Colorado:</b>				
La Plata.....	41	42	167,340	39,746
Montezuma.....	4	7	442,620	18
Total (Spec. counties).....	45	49	609,960	39,764
<b>New Mexico:</b>				
Bernalillo.....	21	237	276,684	7,456
McKinley.....	1,029	1,890	2,273,043	1,373,660
Otero.....	125	142	463,022	4,748
Rio Arriba.....	3	226	807,637	536,687
Sandoval.....	172	687	310,733	82,452
San Juan.....	375	1,491	1,622,834	<sup>3</sup> 1,428,676
Santa Fe.....	5	90	75,051	1,585
Socorro.....	1	28	20,580	7,040
Taos.....	7	167	62,399	4,586
Valencia.....	4	540	794,879	19,468
Total (Spec. counties).....	1,742	5,498	6,704,662	3,466,378
<b>Utah:</b>				
San Juan.....		380		<sup>2</sup> 386,507
Uintah.....	97	71	313,951	5,176
Total (Spec. counties).....	97	451	313,951	391,463
Grand total.....	2,585	13,748	25,565,794	13,201,959

<sup>1</sup>These figures represent totals for all nonwhite operators in these counties plus reservation returns under white management. Therefore, they include a few farms of nonwhite operators other than Indians, as well as a few farms of nonreservation Indians.

<sup>2</sup>The Arizona figures for 1945 include approximately 1,000,000, "cross-line" acres located in San Juan County, Utah.

<sup>3</sup>The Colorado figures for 1945 include approximately 100,000 "cross-line" acres located in San Juan County, New Mexico.

Lack of uniformity in the enumeration of Indian reservations prior to 1945 also affected the comparability of data for those years. The 1920 report specifically mentioned that "In 1910 special efforts were made to obtain a schedule for each Indian engaged in agriculture, while in 1920 many reservation groups were enumerated as single farms." Comparison, on a county level, of the statistics by color and tenure of operator indicates a similar lack of comparability for other censuses.

Additional large increases in the farm acreage, between 1940 and 1945, which did not represent gains in land used for agricultural purposes also occurred because of the inclusion, in farms, of land which formerly represented open range. These increases, which occurred quite generally throughout the range areas, account for much of the total increase in many of the Western States. Changes in the administration and management of range lands have caused increasing acreages to come under the control of individual ranchers and grazing associations, thereby increasing the acreages of land reported in farms. Although much of the Federal grazing land is handled on a permit basis (which land was not to be included as farm acreage), an increasing amount is leased. Leased grazing lands were included in the reports as farm acreage. Reports of the Secretary of the Interior for 1945 and 1940 show that, of the grazing lands administered under the Taylor Grazing Act, 11,310,316 acres were leased in 1945 under section 15 of the Act, as compared with 7,411,987 acres in 1940. Leased State lands, likewise, have contributed to the increase in farm acreage. Increases in leased State lands were also noted in the 1940 Census. The individual returns for 1945 also indicated that additional acreages of land are being leased from railroads, oil companies, lumber companies, cattle and land companies, and the like. It is likely

that some of the increases in privately owned lands, leased by ranchers, also represent range formerly used without a rental agreement.

The more rigid procedure followed in the 1945 Census to exclude large tracts of nonagricultural lands from the Census reports resulted in substantial decreases, especially in woodland, for individual counties. These decreases were more than compensated for in some States by what seemed to be bona fide gains in land used for grazing, particularly woodland.

Seeming loss of land in farms in one county, with compensating gains in adjoining or nearby counties, may have occurred as a result of the procedure used in enumerating "cross-line" acreage. Thus, a shift in the control of land from an individual with farm headquarters in one county to an operator whose headquarters is in a different county results in a corresponding shift of this acreage in the Census reports, regardless of the physical location of the land. Shifts due to this procedure were particularly noticeable in the Western States. Additional shifts occurred in the 1945 Census because of the different methods used in the enumeration of Indian reservations and in the enumeration of multiple units or plantations. For example, 386,307 acres of Indian lands were enumerated in San Juan County, Utah, in 1940 when the operations were reported largely on the basis of a schedule for individual Indians, but this land was credited to Arizona in the 1945 Census because the cooperating groups controlling this land had their headquarters in Arizona.

Comparability, especially among counties, is also affected by differences in the management, or by differences in the enumeration, of citrus groves, pecan orchards, or the like, where the land has been developed and sold in small tracts to non-residents. If the land had been collectively developed and the tracts were being farmed essentially as a unit, such development should have been returned as one farm. In time, the operators of such units may take over the management or care of additional tracts developed by others or tracts within the original unit may be withdrawn and placed under different management. Also, the owners may have the various operations, such as pruning, cultivating, fertilizing, irrigating, spraying or dusting, harvesting, etc., performed on a contract basis, often by several individuals. Under these varying conditions, it has not been possible to obtain uniform treatment in the enumeration of such operations, thus causing considerable variation in numbers of farms from one census to another but with little change in the total land in farms.

For the plantation areas of the South in general, and particularly in the alluvial areas along the Mississippi River, the number of farms does not provide an adequate measure for those who are interested primarily in changes in management units. Since each cropper or tenant operation on a multiple unit or plantation is considered a farm, the Census figures tend to reflect changes in the internal organization of the multiple units, but fail to show the changes which have occurred in the multiple units as a whole. In the South, there was a loss of 126,035 in the number of farms between 1940 and 1945 with a loss of 94,735 cropper farms. This loss in croppers reflects some of the adjustments in multiple units to meet manpower shortages which were especially acute in this area, the loss of farm population amounting to 25.4 percent as compared with 22.9 percent for the country as a whole. As a result of a net loss in his croppers and tenants, the plantation operator increased the size of his "home farm" operations, relying more on power equipment and adjusting his farming operations to the available labor supply.

Other variations in county figures, which may not represent actual differences among counties or actual changes within a county from one census to another, occasionally result from enumerators' interpretation and application of the definitions and instructions, from the influence of local concepts of a farm, and, less frequently, from laxity on the part of enumerators in covering the farms in their districts. The influence of enumerators on the statistics is most pronounced for those items which are the most difficult to define with exactness, or those items calling for quantitative data not generally measured or known by the farm operator. Examples of such differences in interpretation may be found in the classification of land according to use. This is especially true of classes of land, such as "woodland pastured" and "woodland not pastured" which, in areas where the woody growth tended to be sparse or shrubby,



could not be clearly differentiated from "other land pastured" and "all other land." Although such variations may affect the comparability of the data on a county level, the effect on the State data is usually negligible.

**Changes in number and acreage of farms and value of farm property.**—Largely as a result of wartime conditions the agriculture of our Nation underwent great changes between 1940 and 1945. Notwithstanding a decrease in farm population, agricultural production in 1944 was at a higher level than ever before. Although there was a loss of 237,630 farm operators in the five-year period, the 5,859,169 who were on farms in 1945 had taken over the land of those who had left to go into the armed services or into war industry. In most areas, these farmers not only maintained, but increased the production on the land. In the five-year period, 80,762,990 acres of land were added to the land in farms, an increase of 7.6 percent. However, as previously mentioned, most of this increase represented grazing land, much of which had been open range. Land from which crops were harvested in 1944 totaled 352,865,765 acres which represent an increase of 31,623,335 acres over that reported for 1939.

The average size of a farm increased from 174.0 acres in 1940 to 194.8 in 1945, a gain of 20.8 acres. On an average, farms in the North increased by 11.7 acres, averaging 180.3 acres in 1945; those in the South increased by 8.0 acres, averaging 131.1 acres; and those in the West gained 137.8 acres, averaging 639.3 acres, or more than three times the United States average. The average farm in the United States harvested crops in 1944 from 60.2 acres, or 7.5 more than in 1939. In the North, the increase in acres of cropland harvested amounted to 13.2 acres per farm, while in the South, where there was more dependence on hand labor, the increase was only 1.2 acres. In the North, crops were harvested in 1944 from an average of 85.5 acres as compared with 35.5 acres in the South. In the West, the gain in crops harvested amounted to 15.7 acres per farm with an average of 77.3 acres harvested in 1944, or approximately the same as that for the North.

The decrease of 237,630 in the number of farms in the period 1940 to 1945 continued a downward trend which was first indicated in the period following the 1920 Census. Until that year each succeeding census had shown an increase in the number of farms over the number recorded at the preceding census. However, the slight gain in 1920 over 1910, as compared with the gains reported previously, indicated that the agriculture of the Nation had about reached its peak of expansion as measured by the acreage available for crop production. Each census following 1920, except 1935, has shown a decrease in the number of farms. The back-to-the-farm movement during the depression years of the thirties reversed this downward trend temporarily, with the 1935 Census showing an all-time high of 6,812,350 farms, or 5.6 percent more than the previous peak reached in 1920. By 1940, improved industrial conditions had again drawn persons from farms until the number of farms had dropped below the predepression level. Although the decline in the number of farms between 1940 and 1945 was marked for the country as a whole, there were substantial increases in certain classes of farms. For example, the number of small family-living-type farms, tracts with limited agricultural production usually supplementing a primary source of livelihood, increased quite generally. A part of this increase represents a continuation of the trend toward part-time farming indicated by previous censuses. As previously noted, many small places were included as farms in 1945 only because the high prices prevailing in 1944 brought their annual production up to \$250 or more. Another set of circumstances which tended to increase the number of farms was found in some of the cash-crop areas, particularly tobacco. In such areas, many farmers had entered into crop-sharing arrangements with their help as an inducement to keep this labor on the farm. These persons are listed as tenants, or croppers, and their acreages are listed as separate farms. Thus, despite the over-all picture of fewer farms, many counties showed substantial increases. In the New England States, the number of farms recorded in 1945 increased by 15,121, or 11.2 percent over the number reported in 1940. The Carolinas and Georgia also showed net gains, particularly in the tobacco areas. Other eastern States which showed net increases in the number of farms were New Jersey, Pennsylvania, and Delaware. The only other States with net increases were California, Oregon, and Utah.

The largest net decreases in the number of farms occurred in: (1) those areas best suited to mechanized agriculture; (2) much of the Cotton Belt where agriculture depends largely on hand labor; and (3) self-sufficing farming areas where the returns offered by agriculture, in comparison with those offered by war industries, were insufficient to hold farm operators on their farms.

Highly mechanized farming areas accounted for approximately half the total net loss in farms, the loss ranging from approximately 5 percent in the eastern Corn Belt to nearly 10 percent in Kansas. With labor replaced by power equipment, these mechanized farming areas accounted for much of the increase in total agricultural production. In the period 1940 to 1945, cropland harvested increased by 24,223,867 acres in the North Central States, which represents more than two-thirds of the total net increase for the United States as a whole.

Although there were net losses in the number of farms in the Cotton Belt, the eastern cotton-growing States showed net increases, but from Alabama westward there were decreases, ranging to 13.8 percent in Louisiana. In the South as a whole there was a loss in crop acreage. In the East South Central States and in Arkansas and Louisiana, where there were decreases in both the number of farms and cropland harvested, the loss in cropland harvested amounted to 2,869,487 acres or 7.9 percent. In the South Atlantic States, although there was a net increase in farms, the loss in cropland harvested amounted to 828,393 acres. However, limited areas in the South, through increased mechanization and shifts in the utilization of cropland, were able to utilize a greater part of their cropland. In Mississippi counties in the Delta area, there were 1,919,712 acres of cropland harvested in 1944 as compared with 1,936,908 acres in 1939. Despite losses in crop acreage, many areas in the South showed substantial increases in total land in farms. Most of this increase represented land used for grazing, reflecting the increasing importance of livestock in this section.

Comparisons which reflect differences in the dependence of agriculture on mechanized equipment and on hand labor, respectively, may be found in table 9 which presents the number of farms classified by acres of cropland harvested and table 7 which presents the number of farms classified by value of implements and machinery. In the East North Central States, nearly one-half of the farms each harvested 50 or more acres of crops and had \$1,000 or more invested in implements and machinery, with 17.7 percent of all farms reporting \$2,500 or more. In the West North Central States, about one-half of the farms each harvested 100 or more acres of crops and had \$1,000 or more invested in implements and machinery, with 20.5 percent reporting \$2,500 or more worth of implements and machinery. In most of the Southern States, approximately one-half of the farms each harvested less than 20 acres of crops and had less than \$500 worth of implements and machinery, with a large proportion reporting less than \$100 worth of implements and machinery.

Changes in farm area were greatest in the West, with this region accounting for approximately three-fourths of the total increase. Other sizable increases occurred in North Dakota, South Dakota, Texas, Oklahoma, and Florida. For the country as a whole, losses occurred in 10 States. Of these, Arkansas, Tennessee, and Kentucky showed the largest net losses in acres. Other States showing net losses in farm areas were North and South Carolina, Virginia, West Virginia, New Jersey, Georgia, and Alabama. The net increase in land in farms in the United States continues a trend as shown by each census except that of 1925. The gain recorded in 1945 was greater than that shown by any census since 1900.

The value of farm property in the 1945 Census was approximately 45 percent higher than in 1940. Although the 1945 value of farms (land and buildings) showed an increase of 37.9 percent over that reported in 1940 and 41.2 percent over that reported in the 1935 Census, the 1945 total was still 30.0 percent below the total value in 1920, following World War I. The greatest increases in value between 1940 and 1945 occurred in a portion of the Great Plains, extending from North Dakota southward to Oklahoma and Texas. In this area a series of severe drought years in the thirties had caused a much greater decline in land values than had occurred in other parts of the country. While other sections generally showed some recovery between 1935 and 1940, the value of farms in this area showed a further decline.