

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:

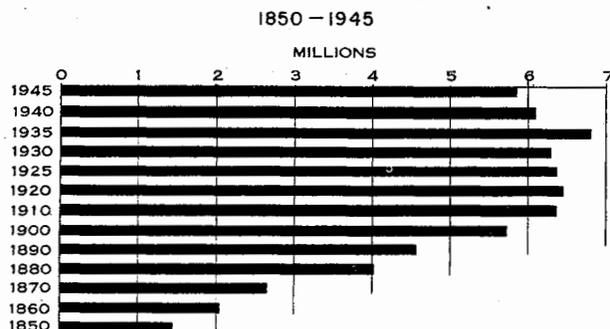
A farm, for Census purposes, is all the land on which some agricultural operations are performed by one person, either by his own labor alone or with the assistance of members of his household, or hired employees. The land operated by a partnership is likewise considered a farm. A "farm" may consist 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