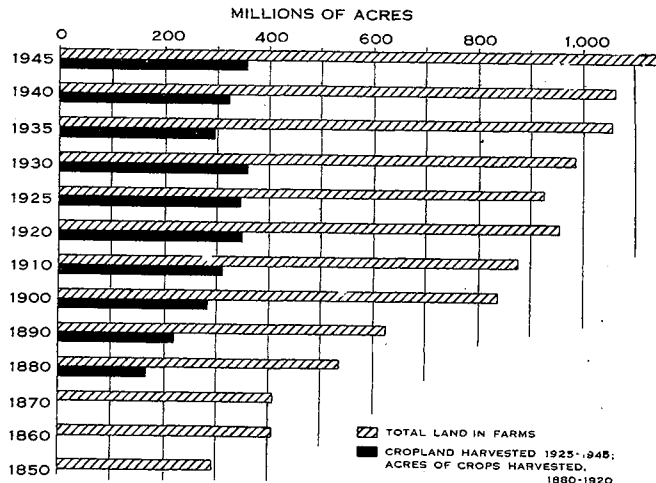


**Land in farms.**—The acreage designated as "all land in farms" includes considerable areas of land not actually under cultivation and some land not even used for pasture or grazing, but all such land must have been under the control of the operator and must have been considered a part of his farm. 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

