

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 ¹	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

¹ 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

