

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 ¹	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

¹The 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.