

# 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: