

# FARMS AND FARM PROPERTY

Table 6.—FARMS CLASSIFIED BY VALUE OF IMPLEMENTS AND MACHINERY, FOR THE UNITED STATES, THE NORTH,  
THE SOUTH, AND THE WEST: 1945

ITEM	THE UNITED STATES			THE NORTH			THE SOUTH			THE WEST		
	Number of farms	Per- cent of all farms	Percent of farms report- ing value of implements and machinery	Number of farms	Per- cent of all farms	Percent of farms report- ing value of implements and machinery	Number of farms	Per- cent of all farms	Percent of farms report- ing value of implements and machinery	Number of farms	Per- cent of all farms	Percent of farms report- ing value of implements and machinery
All farms.....	5,859,169	100.0	xxxxxxxxxxxx	2,463,578	100.0	xxxxxxxxxxxx	2,981,135	100.0	xxxxxxxxxxxx	494,456	100.0	xxxxxxxxxxxx
Farms reporting value of implements and machinery, total..	4,704,549	80.3	100.0	2,145,346	86.4	100.0	2,183,452	75.8	100.0	375,751	76.0	100.0
\$1 to \$49.....	604,024	10.3	12.8	91,158	3.7	4.2	493,585	17.1	22.6	19,261	3.9	5.1
\$50 to \$99.....	449,661	7.7	9.6	94,417	3.8	4.4	336,152	11.7	15.4	19,092	3.9	5.1
\$100 to \$249.....	887,868	15.2	18.9	270,427	10.9	12.6	564,539	19.6	25.9	52,902	10.7	14.1
\$250 to \$499.....	441,614	7.5	9.4	180,076	7.3	8.4	219,238	7.6	10.0	42,300	8.6	11.3
\$500 to \$749.....	383,204	6.5	8.1	202,350	8.1	9.4	137,395	4.8	6.3	43,459	8.8	11.6
\$750 to \$999.....	170,384	2.9	3.6	93,045	3.7	4.3	59,040	2.0	2.7	18,299	3.7	4.9
\$1,000 to \$1,499.....	453,562	7.7	9.6	281,567	11.3	13.1	129,612	4.5	5.9	42,383	8.6	11.3
\$1,500 to \$2,499.....	654,018	11.2	13.9	462,124	18.6	21.5	135,721	4.7	6.2	56,173	11.4	14.9
\$2,500 to \$4,999.....	500,091	8.5	10.6	371,108	14.9	17.3	79,112	2.7	3.6	49,871	10.1	13.3
\$5,000 to \$9,999.....	129,044	2.2	2.7	85,318	3.4	4.0	21,699	0.8	1.0	22,027	4.5	5.9
\$10,000 and over.....	31,079	0.5	0.7	13,756	0.6	0.6	7,359	0.3	0.3	9,964	2.0	2.7
\$1 to \$499.....	2,363,167	40.7	50.7	656,078	25.6	29.6	1,613,514	56.0	73.9	133,575	27.0	35.5
\$1 to \$99.....	1,053,685	18.0	22.4	185,575	7.5	8.7	829,737	28.8	38.0	38,373	7.8	10.2
\$500 to \$999.....	555,568	9.4	11.8	295,395	11.9	13.8	196,455	6.8	9.0	61,758	12.5	16.4
\$1,000 to \$2,499.....	1,107,580	18.9	23.5	743,691	29.9	34.7	265,333	9.2	12.2	98,556	19.9	26.2
\$2,500 and over.....	660,214	11.3	14.0	470,182	18.9	21.9	108,170	3.8	5.0	81,862	16.6	21.8
Farms not reporting value of implements and machinery.....	1,154,620	19.7	xxxxxxxxxxxx	338,232	13.6	xxxxxxxxxxxx	697,683	24.2	xxxxxxxxxxxx	118,705	24.0	xxxxxxxxxxxx

operating their farms, although the census date was January 1. It should be noted that the 1945 enumeration, because of war-time conditions, required a longer than normal period for completion, the average date of enumeration falling between March 16 and March 31. In the 1940 Census, taken as of April 1, there were 441,830 operators who reported 1940 as the year they began operating their farms. (See the Introduction for the percentage of the 1945 enumeration completed by specified dates.)

Comparability in the number of farms enumerated in the various censuses may also be influenced by whether or not the farm census is taken in conjunction with, or independent of, a population census. The decennial censuses of agriculture (1850 and each 10 years thereafter) were taken in conjunction with population censuses; the mid-decennial censuses, 1945, 1935, and 1925, were taken independently. It is likely that, when taken with a population census, the enumeration of farms in urban and thickly settled rural areas is more complete. On the other hand, there is a possibility that, when only an agricultural census is taken, more attention is paid to the agricultural phase than when each enumerator is responsible for population, housing, etc., along with agriculture.

Because of the difference in price level, the \$250 limit for the minimum value of products for farms under 3 acres in size resulted in the inclusion, in 1945, of more farms than were included in the earlier censuses. In addition, there was an increase as a result of a patriotic appeal for victory gardens and the obvious advantages, under a rationing system, of producing foods for family use. On the other hand, many former part-time farmers gave up their agricultural activities entirely in order to devote full time to their jobs in wartime industries. The net result was an increase in the number of farms of under 3 acres to more than double the number reported for any previous census and a very substantial increase in the number of farms of 3 to 9 acres. In the 1945 Census, 98,966 farms under 3 acres in size were recorded, as compared with 35,977 in 1940. Farms of 3 to 9 acres increased to 495,595 in 1945 from 470,425 in 1940. Farms marginal as to the minimum requirements under the Census definition have never accounted for any appreciable proportion of farms. In 1945, farms of under 3 acres accounted for only 1.7 percent of all farms, and in 1930, the previous high, they accounted for only 0.7 percent. Not all farms of under 3 acres have limited agricultural operations. Some represent green-houses, nurseries, apiaries, broiler operations, dry-lot dairies,

and the like. Some of the outstanding counties with respect to the number of farms of this kind reported in the 1945 Census, with comparisons for 1940, are as follows:

COUNTY	ALL FARMS		FARMS UNDER 3 ACRES	
	1945	1940	1945	1940
Arizona:				
Maricopa.....	6,479	4,632	1,081	70
California:				
Alameda.....	2,658	2,447	891	337
Los Angeles.....	13,114	12,475	2,516	2,358
San Bernardino.....	7,729	6,110	946	792
San Diego.....	5,450	5,814	641	562
Santa Clara.....	5,914	5,608	473	166
Santa Cruz.....	2,222	1,712	460	154
Stanislaus.....	6,660	5,754	461	84
Texas:				
Harris.....	5,064	6,949	951	956
Jefferson.....	2,353	2,387	952	1,085
Utah:				
Utah.....	3,987	3,055	504	112
West Virginia:				
Kanawha.....	4,694	3,496	487	23

Not all marginal farms are less than 3 acres in size. Some may be found in practically every size classification. For the most part, these marginal farms are found in or near urban or industrial areas and represent part-time-farming operations of persons employed principally at nonfarm jobs. This concentration, plus the variable manner in which enumerators handled borderline cases, affects the comparability in the number of farms reported for the various censuses, particularly on a county level.

The procedure used in 1945 for the enumeration of the agricultural operations of Indians, whereby over-all returns were secured for all cooperative groups instead of individual returns as was generally the case in former years, resulted in a sharp decrease in the count of farms between 1940 and 1945 in many areas in which there were Indian reservations. This drop in the number of farms was usually accompanied by a large increase in land in farms resulting from the inclusion of all the reservation grazing lands, which were often omitted when returns were secured for individual Indians. Much of this additional grazing land included in farms represented land of very low carrying