



**ALL PASTURE AND FOREST LAND**

An aggregate of more than one billion three hundred million acres, or two-thirds of the Nation's land area, was in use for pasture, grazing, forest, and woodland purposes at the beginning of 1945 or had been utilized, or was available for these uses, during the preceding year. The remaining one-third was in cropland not pastured, in urban areas, in parks, and in miscellaneous uses. Only 696 million acres, or slightly more than one-half of this acreage, were reported under farm ownership or lease, of which 624 million acres, or 90 percent, furnished pasture or grazing for livestock. In addition 428 million acres in national forests, vacant public land, or other land not reported in farms, were available for pasture and grazing of farm and ranch livestock. About 186 million acres were in ungrazed forest land located outside of farms.

Four-fifths of the 481 million acres of farm pasture and grazing land (other than the cropland or woodland used for pasture) and practically all of the 178 million acres of nonforested grazing land outside farms were concentrated upon the dry, rough, or otherwise nontillable areas of the 17 Western and Plains States. Nontillable and nonforested pasture and grazing land was also widely distributed throughout the humid areas in tracts of open or unwooded land too poor, steep, swampy, or eroded to be of other than limited value for crops. An undetermined portion of this other pasture or grazing land had been, but no longer was being, used for crops. A relatively small proportion of this land in untilled but cleared pasture is suited to crops under a long-term rotation with a year or two in such crops as corn, wheat, and tobacco. This type of pasture in the Corn and Dairy Belts is maintained to provide pasture for dairy herds and other farm livestock. The 48 million acres of cropland in farms used only for pasture in 1944 (land plowed during the preceding 7 years) were mostly confined to the humid areas and to the areas under irrigation. An additional acreage of cropland furnished pasture or grazing, but if a crop had been harvested during 1944 the land was not included in the acreage in farm pastures.

The 95 million acres of farm woodland pastured in 1944 also were concentrated in the humid parts of the eastern United States. This concentration was partially offset by the reporting as farm woodland of from 20 to 25 million acres of pinon-juniper, chaparral, mesquite, cedar, and post oak. Farm woodland not pastured was confined almost exclusively to the humid areas. Only a small or negligible acreage of all forest and woodland has been cleared and used for crops in such areas as the rougher sections of the Appalachians, the Ozarks and other eastern highlands, the cut-over land of the upper Lake States, the poorly drained and low-lying areas along the Atlantic and Gulf Coasts, and the mountain slopes and plateaus of the Western States. The present forest and woodland, in other areas, especially in the earlier settled communities, represent varying degrees of maintenance or of reestablishment of forest vegetation on old crop and pasture fields.

The 44 million acres of other land in farms in 1944 were distributed about equally among sites occupied by farmsteads, the areas of farm roads and lanes, and the acreage in miscellaneous farm wasteland.