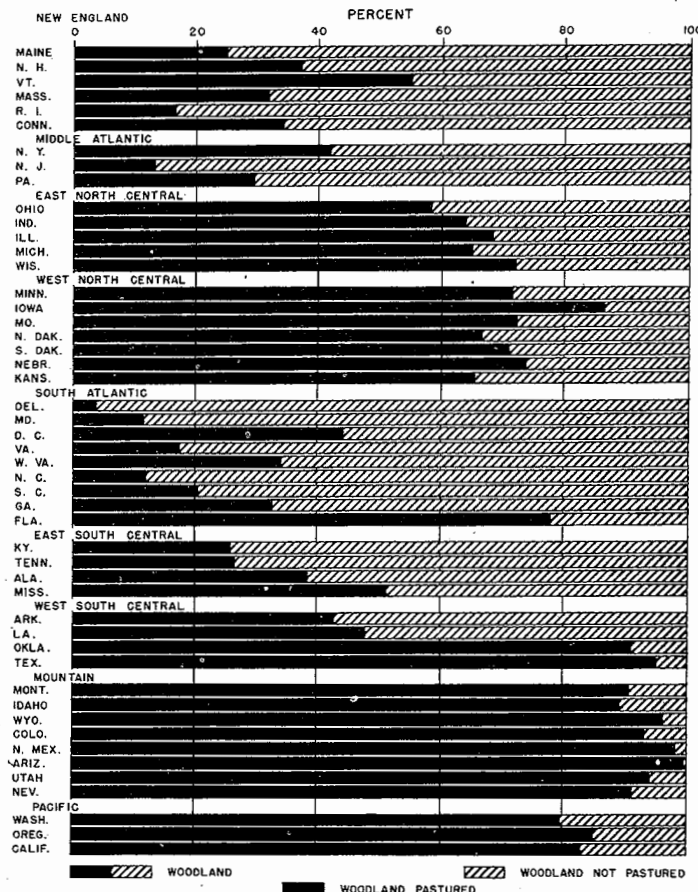
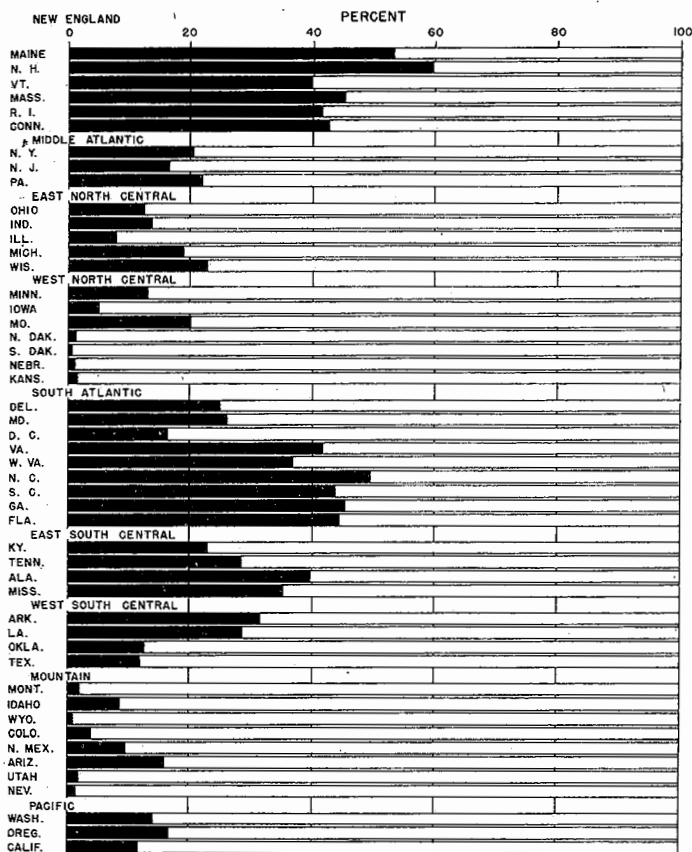


PERCENT OF ALL LAND IN FARMS REPRESENTED BY WOODLAND, BY STATES: CENSUS OF 1945

PERCENT OF WOODLAND IN FARMS REPRESENTED BY WOODLAND PASTURED AND WOODLAND NOT PASTURED, BY STATES: CENSUS OF 1945



PASTURE AND FARM WOODLAND, BY STATES

A total of 624 million acres or nearly 60 percent of the acreage used for pasture or grazing was reported under farm and ranch ownership or lease in 1945. Three-fourths of this acreage in farms and ranches was located within the 17 Western and Plains States. Combined with the additional acreage in grasses, arid shrubs, forests and woodland outside farms which was utilized for seasonal range, the pasture and grazing resource in these 17 States approximated 750 million acres or about two-thirds of their land area. The remainder was widely distributed throughout the States east of the Great Plains as improved as well as unimproved, and as rotation or permanent pastures. The acreage in farm pastures in these eastern States was greatest in Missouri, Iowa, Wisconsin, Florida, Kentucky, Minnesota, and Ohio. The highest proportion of the land area in farm pastures was reported in Missouri, Kentucky, Vermont, and West Virginia.

Public ownership of much of the dry, rough, and high-elevation land utilized under permit for grazing or for a combination of grazing, forest, and other purposes explains the low ratio of land in farms and ranches throughout much of the area of the Western States. In the four Northern Plains States—Nebraska, Kansas, and the Dakotas—practically all of the land available for agricultural purposes, including pasture and grazing, was under farm ownership or lease. Farm pasture was representative of the total pasture and grazing acreage in all those States where stock and fence laws prohibited free range of farm livestock.

At least 40 percent or more of the land area was represented by pasture land in farms in the four Plains States of Texas, Nebraska, South Dakota, and Oklahoma; in Missouri; and in all the Mountain States except Nevada, Utah, and Idaho. The value of farm pastures in providing forage for livestock and as a method of utilizing nontillable land in farms was also evident in the high ratio of land in pastures in other States including Kansas, Kentucky, Vermont, Ohio, West Virginia, and North Dakota. Under 10 percent of the land area was in farm pastures only in Maine, New Jersey, and Delaware—three States of localized agricultural development; and in Nevada and the Carolinas. Land pastured exceeded the acreage in all other classes of land in farms or ranches in Texas, Florida, South Dakota, West Virginia, Oklahoma, Missouri, Vermont, and in the 11 Western States. This class of land included less than one-fifth of the land in farms only in Delaware, North and South Carolina, and New Jersey.

Kentucky, Maryland, Tennessee, Indiana, and New Jersey had two-fifths or more of farm pastures in the crop-pasture category. The prevalence of pastures that had been rotated with crops in these States and in the Corn Belt and the Lake States, and on the rice fallow land in Louisiana and Arkansas was in sharp contrast to the limited ratio of this type to total pasture land in the Western Plains and States. Cropland used only for pasture comprised less than 10 percent of the land in farm pastures in all of these States; in the three New England States of Vermont, Maine, and New Hampshire; and in Florida and West Virginia.

Land used for pasture (other than cropland and woodland) aggregated two-thirds or more of the pasture land in all of the Western and Plains States and in West Virginia and New York. This type of noncropped or nonwooded farm pasture was widely distributed throughout the remaining Northern States and to a lesser extent in the Southern States. It comprised at least one-fourth of all farm pasture in every State. In the West, this other pasture acreage consisted primarily of land in native grasses and other plants which had never been plowed, and of about 30 million acres of former cropland which had been restored to grass. In the humid parts of the East, this type of pasture consisted of cleared land which had never been used for crops, or had been last plowed during World War I, or possibly as late as the drought years of the 30's. Some type of forest growth has been reestablished over fields or parts of fields, particularly on hill pastures.

Farm woodland pastured was prevalent throughout all of the States east of the Great Plains, both in areas where original forests had been cut over or burned over but never cleared, and where reversion to forest had followed former crop or pasture usage. This type of farm pasture exceeded acreage in all other classes in the two upper New England States of New Hampshire and Maine, and in Georgia and South Carolina. Delaware, New Jersey, Maryland, Kentucky, Iowa, and Ohio were the only States outside the 17 Western and Plains States where farm woodland pastured comprised less than one-fifth of the total farm pasture.

The proportion of land in farms represented by all woodland was highest in the New England and the Southeastern States. There are few trees in the Northern Plains States and a correspondingly small acreage in farm woodland. Much of the commercial forest land in the Western States is either under public ownership or is owned by private lumber companies.