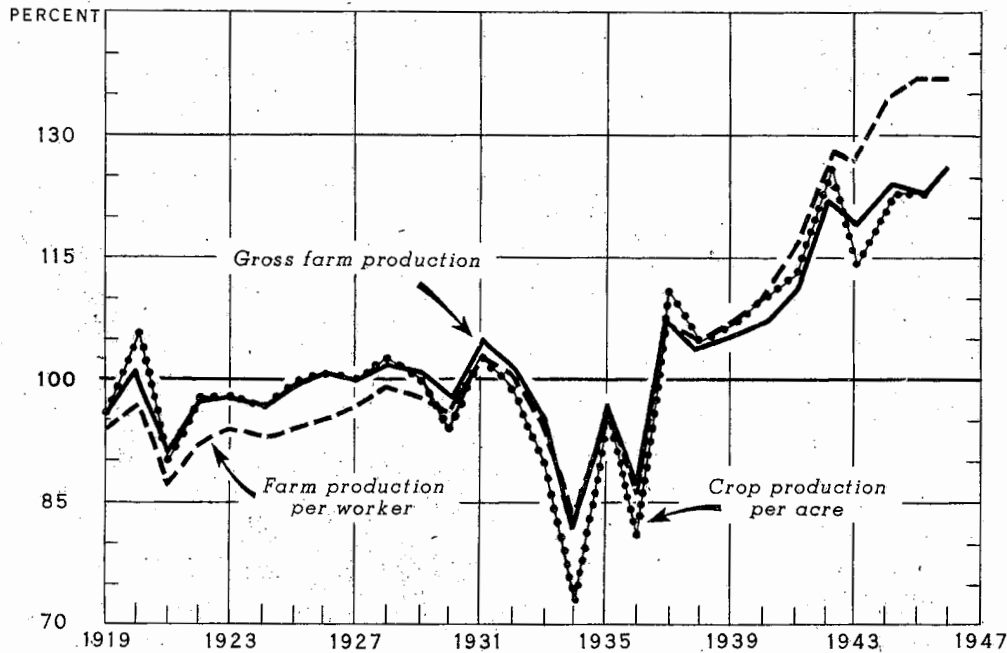


GRAPHIC SUMMARY

GROSS FARM PRODUCTION, PRODUCTION PER WORKER, AND CROP PRODUCTION PER ACRE, UNITED STATES, 1919-46

INDEX NUMBERS. (1935-39=100)

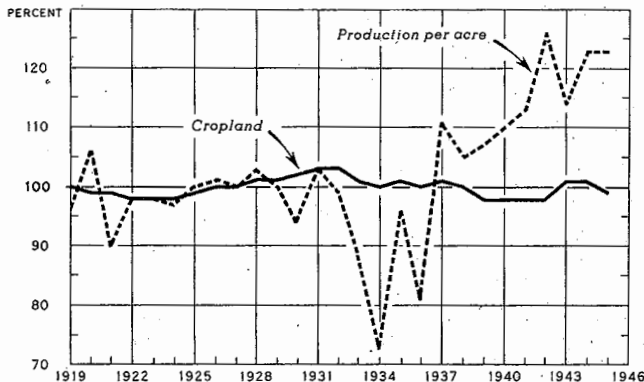


U. S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

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TOTAL CROPLAND, AND CROP PRODUCTION PER ACRE, UNITED STATES, 1919-45* INDEX NUMBERS (1935-39=100)

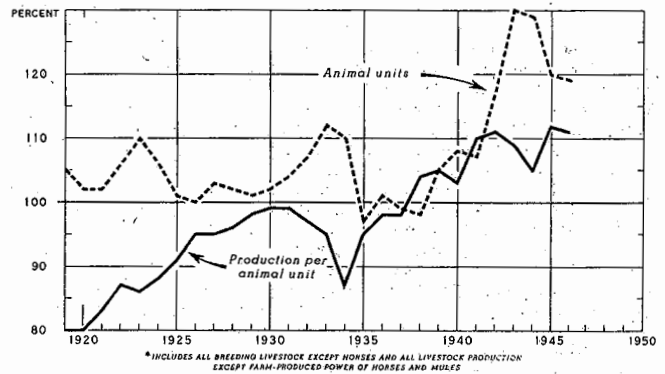


DATA FOR 1944 AND 1945 ARE PRELIMINARY
* TOTAL CROPLAND IS THE SUM OF THE ESTIMATED ACREAGE OF LAND FROM WHICH ONE OR MORE CROPS WERE HARVESTED PLUS ESTIMATED CROP FAILURE AND SUMMER FALLOW ACREAGE.

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ANIMAL UNITS OF BREEDING LIVESTOCK AND LIVESTOCK PRODUCTION PER BREEDING UNIT, 1919-46* INDEX NUMBERS (1935-39=100)



* INCLUDES ALL BREEDING LIVESTOCK EXCEPT HORSES AND ALL LIVESTOCK PRODUCTION EXCEPT FARM-PRODUCED POWER OF HORSES AND MULES

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CHANGES IN AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTION

The pronounced increases in agricultural production during recent years stemmed from such influences as improvements in technologies in farm and land management and from changed economic conditions resulting from the war and other related factors. These influences accelerated previous tendencies toward fewer workers on farms, accompanied by fewer acres per capita for the population as a whole and, conversely, toward higher yields per acre and increased production of farm livestock. Gross farm production (production of all crops and of pasture consumed by livestock plus the product added in converting feeds to livestock and livestock products) in 1944 was one-fifth greater than during 1931, the peak year of the predrought period, or during 1920, following conclusion of World War I. Stimulation of the long-time decline in farm employment, as a result of departures of workers from farms to the services and to war industries, was reflected in even more pronounced increases in production per worker, a productivity in 1944 which was nearly one-fourth above 1939 and two-fifths above 1920.

The land actually used for crops in 1944, although more than 20 million acres above the total used in 1939, was about 10 million acres under the predrought peak of the early 1930's. There has been little change in recent years in the acreage used for pasture and grazing. Increases brought about by shifts to grassland from crops such as cotton and from poorly adapted cropland were offset during the war years by the plowing of farm pastures for crops and as a result of purchases of land for military and similar purposes.

Increased production per crop acre was associated with such developments as the (a) introduction of higher-yielding, and drought-, cold-, and disease-resistant varieties; (b) increased use of fertilizers and of lime or other amendments; (c) improved cultural practices; (d) establishment and maintenance of soils and moisture safeguards; (e) concentration of crops on more productive and dependable land; and (f) increases in acreage of crops from which high per-acre yields are obtained.

Increases in livestock production during the war years were associated with both increases in numbers of breeding stock and productivity per unit. More milk per cow, eggs per hen, pounds per litter, and meat produced per hundredweight of feed consumed were correlated with progressive and long-standing technological improvements. Numbers of units of livestock, exclusive of farm work stock, as well as productivity per unit, were expanded along with both long- and short-term increases in output of feed and forage crops and improved condition and carrying capacity of farm pastures.