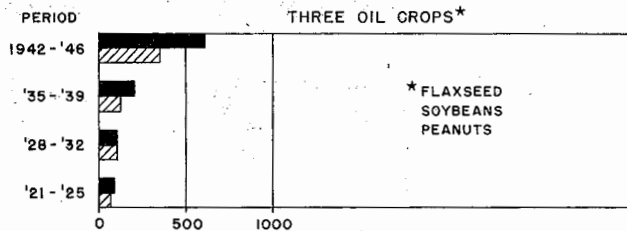
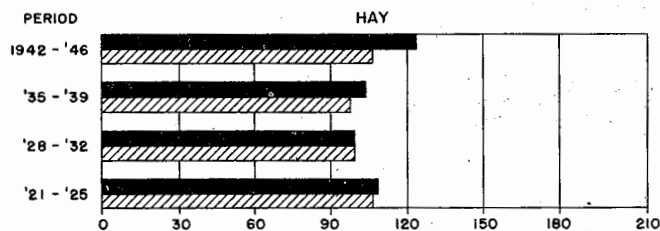
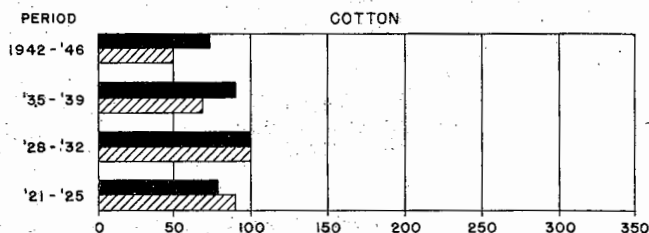
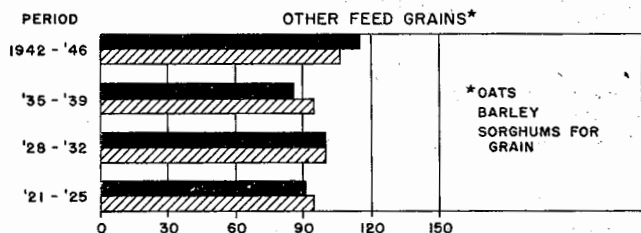
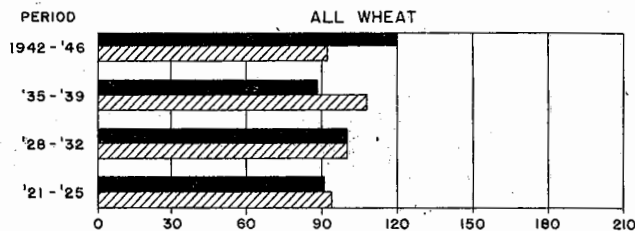
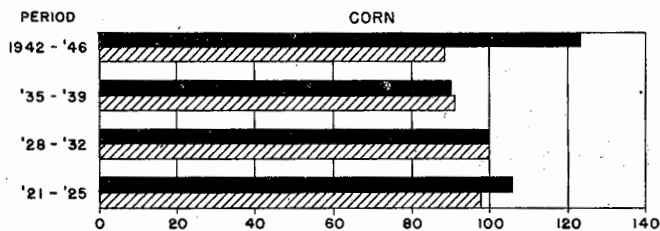


## GRAPHIC SUMMARY

CHANGES IN PRODUCTION AND ACREAGE\*  
1928 - '32 = 100

PRODUCTION

ACREAGE

\*COMPUTATIONS FROM BAE ESTIMATES OF PRODUCTION AND ACREAGE. PLANTED OR SEEDED ACREAGE FOR CORN, OATS, BARLEY, AND WHEAT; COTTON IN CULTIVATION, JULY 1.

## CHANGES IN THE ACREAGE AND PRODUCTION OF SELECTED CROPS

Changes during the past twenty-five years in the acreage and yields of individual crops have had a significant bearing upon the recent expansion of agricultural production. There was a net decrease of more than 20 million acres in the land in cotton and 10 million acres in the land planted to corn for the 5-year period 1942-1946 as contrasted with the 5-year period centering around 1930. These decreases were only partially indicative of the shifts since 1920 from land poorly adapted to these intertilled crops. Such shifts would probably exceed 50 million acres if all changes were accounted for, including geographic expansions and contractions of cropland, as well as the modifications of cropping practices on individual farms. The influence of this increased selectivity in the use of the land plus the recovery from the devastating impact of the boll weevil infestation were especially evident in the changes which have taken place in the acreage and yields of cotton. While the acreage of cotton during recent years was only slightly more than one-half that of the early 1920's, production was only about 5 percent under that of the former period. The influence upon production of shifting hill land out of corn and of the contraction of acreage in areas of high climatic risk has been overshadowed by the spectacular gains in corn production resulting from such factors as use of hybrid seed and adoption of improved cultural practices. Increases in the yields of corn above those of the early 1920's have been most pronounced in those parts of the Corn Belt where the effect of unseasonable spring weather, for example, has been modified by the introduction of earlier maturing varieties and greater timeliness of operation provided by use of power machinery.

Reemphasis on oats production and the introduction of improved varieties of grain sorghums account for recent increases in the acreage in the feed grains other than corn. The percentage increase in tonnage of these other feed grains above that of the early 1920's was even greater than that for corn. This resulted not only from additions to acreage, but also through the use of improved varieties, replacement of barley by higher-yielding oats, and lessened diversion to forage uses. After the disastrous experience with drought and low prices during the 1930's, wheat acreage in recent years has been curtailed to about the level of the early 1920's. Production exceeded this former period by one-third as a result of the use of improved and rust-resistant varieties, increased summer fallowing, and the shifting back eastward of wheat farming in the Great Plains from the areas of high climatic risk and poorer grade soils. The acreage in all hays was restored during the early 1940's to the level following 1920. The acreage in the more recent period would have been even higher if sorghums for forage were included and had it not been for shifts in such crops as soybeans harvested for beans rather than for hay, and for labor and seed shortages. An outstanding development during the war has been the increased acreage and production of the oil-bearing crops—soybeans, flaxseed, and peanuts. While not shown above, it should be noted that production of vegetables for processing and as fresh vegetables for the market has been almost doubled since the early 1920's.