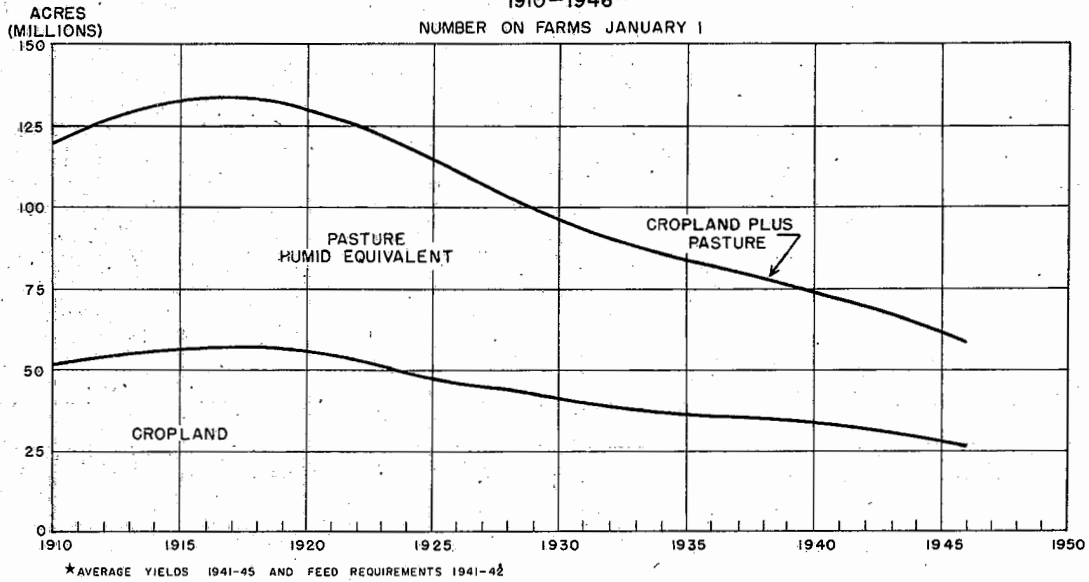
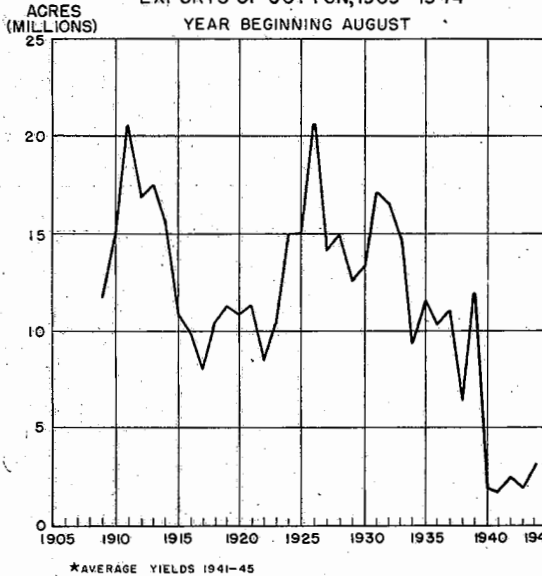


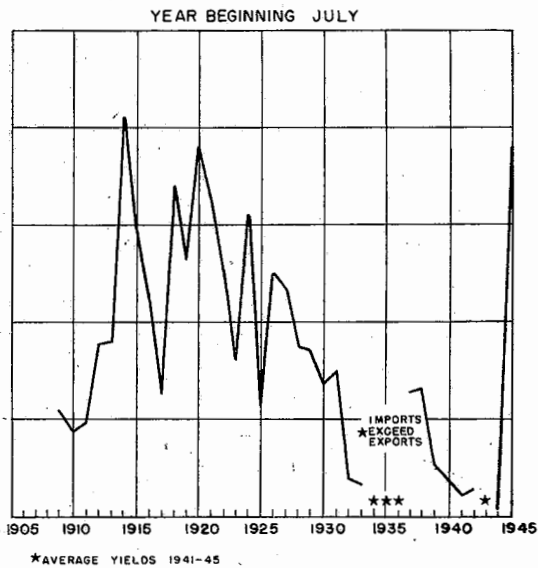
ACREAGE REQUIREMENTS TO PRODUCE FEED FOR HORSES AND MULES  
1910-1946\*



ACREAGE REQUIREMENTS TO PRODUCE NET EXPORTS OF COTTON, 1909-1944\*



ACREAGE REQUIREMENTS TO PRODUCE NET EXPORTS OF WHEAT, 1909-1945\*



CHANGES IN REQUIREMENTS FOR LAND

The population of the United States increased by approximately one-third during the past quarter-century. Provided the same ratio per capita of population had been maintained as prevailed around 1920 (nearly three and one-half acres), an addition of about 110 million acres would have been required for crops in recent years. That national requirements for land for crops have remained practically stationary since then is attributable to a number of factors. Already noted have been the geographic shifts in crops and in pasture uses, the increases in yields and production of many of the major farm crops, the greater productivity of farm animals, and the improved carrying capacities of pastures. Changes in consumer preference for foods provided directly from crops have generally resulted in increases in those crops producing high per-acre volumes. Expansion in the consumption of dairy, poultry, and similar products has enlarged the outlets for the increased production of the feed grains. Where the tendency has been toward increased consumption of products from milk cows and other forage-consuming farm livestock, the effect has been to augment the value or utility of the tremendous acreage available for producing hay and other forage crops and for pasture and grazing.

Added to the above factors, instrumental in scaling down the requirements for cropland, were the reductions which have taken place in the acreage required to produce farm power and to produce agricultural exports. The above charts are indicative of the additions to the acreage used for crops which would have been required, during the war years, to have maintained the same number of horses and mules as were on farms and ranches at the peak in 1918 and to have sustained previous net export levels for wheat and cotton, the two principal agricultural exports. Reductions in these requirements by 1944, after further declines since 1940, aggregated 60 million acres of cropland and 40 million acres of farm pasture (humid equivalent). It should be noted that these computed requirements were based upon current yields per planted or seeded acre, except for hay. In the instance of acreage requirements to feed horses and mules, these computations were based upon feeding practices as well as upon current yields by groups of States. These computed annual requirements, accordingly, are constant with respect to such factors as annual and periodic changes in the relative levels of production, carry-overs from preceding seasons, and improvements in yields and in feeding practices.