



The enumeration.— In the 1945 Census, as in previous censuses of agriculture, each enumerator made a personal canvass of the farms in his district. Thus, the agricultural census data are the results obtained from tabulating the information given by the farm operators to Census enumerators.

The number of enumerators employed in the 1945 Census of Agriculture was approximately 31,000, each enumerator being assigned one or more of the 64,690 enumeration districts. These districts were designed so that (1) all incorporated places formed separate enumeration districts; (2) each township, precinct, judicial district, or other minor civil division, or "balance of township" formed one or more enumeration districts; (3) parts of two or more townships, or other minor civil divisions, were not included in the same enumeration district.

For purposes of administrative control of the enumeration, the continental United States was divided into three regions with a regional supervisor in charge of each region. These regions were divided into 40 areas, each of which was administered by an area supervisor. For the most part, these areas corresponded to the individual States. The areas in turn were subdivided into 230 districts, each under a local supervisor directly in charge of the enumeration in his district. Each local supervisor was provided with an assistant and with a clerical force in proportion to the number of farms in the district. Authority to appoint the enumerators was delegated by the Director of the Census to the local supervisors.

The regional and area supervisors attended a class of instruction held in Washington from September 25 to October 21, 1944. They were given intensive training, covering all administrative and technical phases of Census work required in carrying out the field work, in the taking of an agricultural census. Each area supervisor was responsible for the training of the local supervisors in his area. In addition, both the area and local supervisors were provided with detailed written instructions, supplemented by numerous memoranda prepared as problems arose and as inquiries from the field indicated the need for additional instructions. Also, several members of the staff of the Agriculture Division were used in the field, working with

the area and district supervisors in interpreting or explaining the instructions, providing special instructions for the handling of unusual problems, and checking on the work of supervisors and enumerators.

The local supervisors were responsible for the training of enumerators. After their selection, the prospective enumerators were to be assembled for a maximum of 3 days of training (with pay). Because of the difficulty of obtaining enumerators, many did not receive this assembled training and, hence, it was necessary to instruct these enumerators individually. Prior to the assembled training, each prospective enumerator was provided with training material for home study, including a description, in narrative form, of a typical farm to serve as the basis for filling in the required information on a Farm and Ranch Schedule.

The local supervisor was also instructed to make a detailed examination of the first schedule book completed by each enumerator, giving particular attention to a list of checks shown in the schedule book opposite the Enumerator's Certificate. The enumerator was not to prepare his second schedule book until he had been instructed that the work in the first book was satisfactory. In addition, the local supervisor and his assistant were instructed that they must be in the field most of the time guiding enumerators and checking their work. Enumerators were instructed to forward to the local supervisor each schedule book as it was completed, and the local supervisor was instructed to check the schedule book before certifying payment to the enumerators. The supervisor was instructed to return, with any necessary notations or instructions, books which were incomplete or erroneous. The enumerator was instructed to complete or correct these books, revisiting the farm operator if necessary.

Each enumerator was provided with a map outlining the district to be enumerated and showing the sample areas, or segments, in which the farms were to be enumerated in the special schedule books carrying the supplemental inquiries. Generally, aerial photographs were also provided for these sample segments in order that the area might be more easily identified and in order that the exact boundaries of the segments might be determined.