
CHAPTER II— SIZE OF FARMS

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CHAPTER II—SIZE OF FARMS

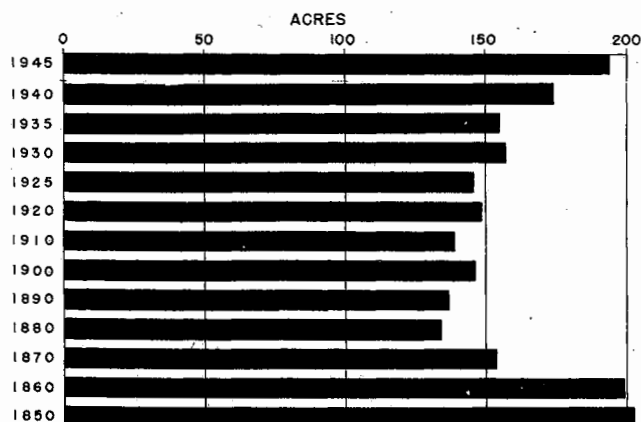
Introduction.—Statistics are given in this chapter on the number of farms, land in farms, land uses, and value of farms (land and buildings), classified on the basis of the total land area in each farm. Farms, under the Census definition, include operations which are conducted on areas varying in size from a few thousand square feet or less to hundreds of thousands of acres. The small farms include such places as village lots on which gardening, poultry-keeping, or other activity, barely meet the minimum requirements to be classified as farms. They also include highly specialized agricultural operations such as greenhouses, mushroom cellars, broiler plants, and feed lots. Typical of the extremely large holdings are stock ranches in the West and Southwest.

The statistics presented herein represent one approach for measuring the relative importance and characteristics of farms of varying sizes. Other measures of the size of operations, for which data are presented in this volume, include: the number of farms arrayed according to the total value of gross farm income (see chapter X, Value of Farm Products, and Type of Farm); number of farms by acres of cropland harvested (included in this chapter and in chapter I); number of farms by value of farm implements and machinery (see chapters I and VI); number of farms by amount of cash wages paid (see chapter V); and number of farms by number of tractors (see chapter VI). Additional items have been classified, by size of farm, for a sample of the farms enumerated in the 1945 Census. These data are included in a separate report.

The size-of-farm data shown in this chapter represent totals for the United States, regions, divisions, and States. Overall totals for the number, acreage, and value of farms, as of the census date, and the farm acreage classified according to use for the preceding calendar year are presented in chapter I. Data for these items, by color and tenure of farm operator, are presented in chapter III. This latter chapter also presents similar statistics for farms of various sizes in each color and tenure class.

Statistics collected in the 1945 Census are given, for counties, in volume I for number of farms, land in farms, cropland harvested, and value of farms (land and buildings) classified by size of farm. This volume also presents comparable data for 1940 for the number of farms. No data by size of farm, other than the average size of farm, are available for minor civil divisions (townships, precincts, etc.).

AVERAGE SIZE OF FARMS, FOR THE UNITED STATES:
1850-1945



Size-of-farm classification.—The size classification used in the 1945 Census tabulations takes into account the measurements commonly established by government land surveys.

It avoids, to a great extent, bimodal distributions of acreages within the established class intervals. This classification is particularly appropriate in those survey areas where the farms are made up of fractions or multiples of the government survey section of 360 acres. Thus, in the present classifications, farms of 20, 40, 60, 120, 160 acres, etc., fall at midpoints of the class intervals. This classification was introduced in 1935. A more detailed discussion of this grouping, in comparison with the grouping used in prior censuses, together with an analysis of data for representative survey and nonsurvey counties, is found in chapter II, volume III of the 1935 Census of Agriculture Reports.

The size classification established in 1935 provided for 17 principal size groups with a further division of two of the groups to provide exact comparisons with the classifications used in prior censuses. Thus, the 10-to-29-acre group was subdivided to show farms of 10 to 19 acres and 20 to 29 acres and the 140-to-179-acre group was subdivided to show farms of 140 to 174 acres and 175 to 179 acres.

The use of these subgroups was repeated in 1940, thus providing comparability with the old grouping for another census. These subgroups were not used in the 1945 Census tabulations. When 1930 and earlier figures are presented in comparison with the 1945 data, the 1940 and 1935 figures are shown for both the old and the new groupings.

In the 1935 classification, the largest farms were tabulated in the group "10,000 acres and over." This group, although representing less than 0.1 percent of the number of farms, accounted for approximately 12 percent of the total land in farms. To provide further information as to the range in size of the large farms, the "10,000 and over" group was further classified into seven subgroups in the 1945 Census tabulations. A supplementary tabulation of the 1940 returns for farms of 10,000 acres and over, published for the first time in the reports of the 1945 Census, provides comparable data for that year.

Table 1.—FARMS CLASSIFIED BY ACRES OF IMPROVED LAND, FOR THE UNITED STATES: 1870 AND 1860

SIZE GROUP (Based on improved land)	NUMBER OF FARMS	
	1870	1860 ¹
Total.....	2,659,985	2,044,077
Under 3 acres.....	6,875	(*)
3 to 9.....	172,021	54,676
10 to 19.....	294,607	162,178
20 to 49.....	847,614	616,558
50 to 99.....	754,221	608,878
100 to 499.....	565,054	487,041
500 to 999.....	15,873	20,319
1,000 and over.....	3,720	5,364

*Not available.

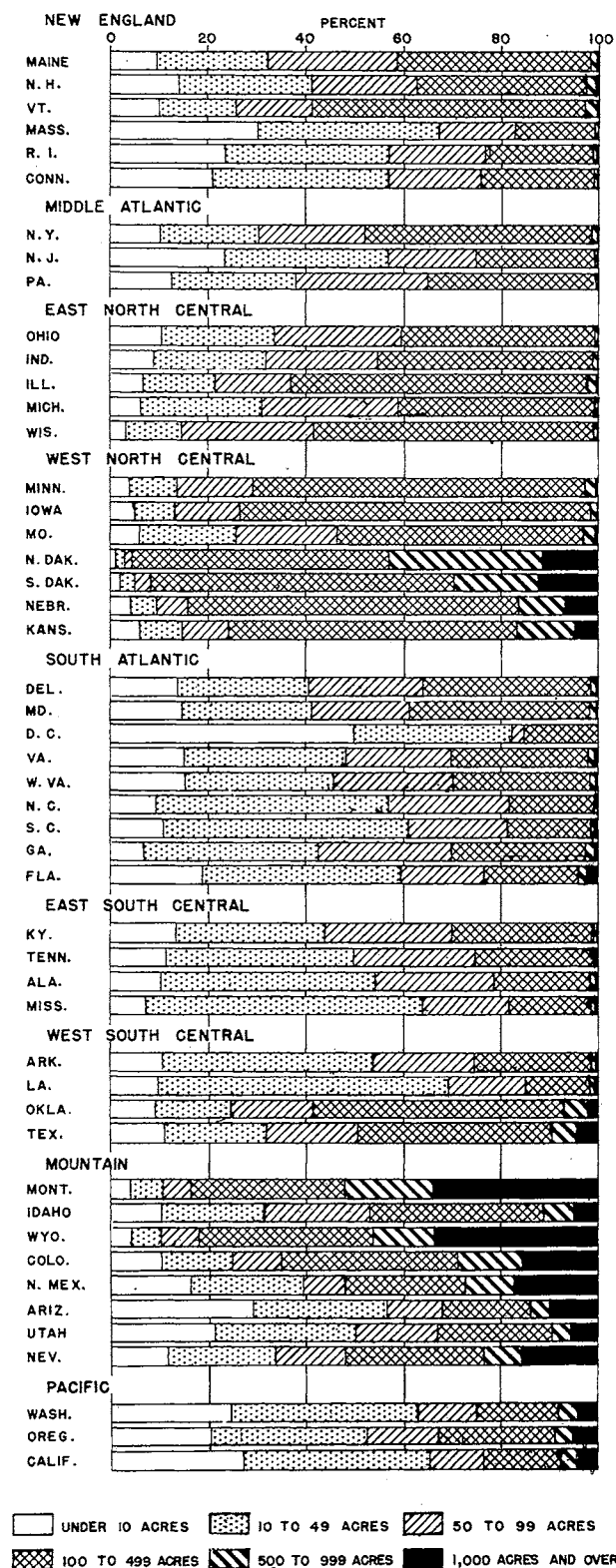
¹For 1860, the classification by acreage of improved land is for "Farms containing 3 acres and more." The number of farms in the various classes adds to 1,955,014 which is 89,063 less than the total number of farms.

Tabulations of farms classified on the basis of the total land area in the farm have been made for each census beginning with 1880. The classification used in 1880 consisted of eight size groups. Tabulations of farms by size were also made in the Censuses of 1860 and 1870, but the classification was based on the acres of "improved" land in the farm rather than on the total acres. Such a classification is not comparable with that used in subsequent censuses. The United States figures for the number of farms by size (based on improved land) are shown in table 1 for 1860 and 1870.

For each census beginning with 1900, the size-of-farm classification has included, in addition to a count of farms, a tabulation of all land in farms, the more important classes of land according to use, and the value of farms, with the exception of the value of farms for the 1935 Census. For both the

CENSUS OF AGRICULTURE: 1945

PERCENT DISTRIBUTION OF THE NUMBER OF FARMS, BY SIZE, BY STATES: 1945



1945 and 1940 Censuses, the entire land-use classification was tabulated by size of farm. A cross classification of farms by size and tenure is available for 1945, 1930, and 1925. In censuses prior to 1945, size-of-farm classifications have usually included one or more of such additional items as the value of buildings, the value of the dwelling of the farm operator, the

value of implements and machinery, the value of livestock, the number of specified classes of livestock, and the number of farms by type of farm. In this chapter statistics for previous censuses are shown only for those items for which comparable data were tabulated for all farms in the 1945 Census.

Definitions and explanations.—The definitions herein are limited to those items for which statistics are presented. Only a brief description is given for each item. (For more complete information, refer to chapter I and to the facsimile of the 1945 Farm and Ranch Schedule shown in the Appendix to this volume.) The explanations refer principally to the 1945 Census of Agriculture, but, in general, they are also applicable to earlier censuses. Attention is called to significant differences between one census and another.

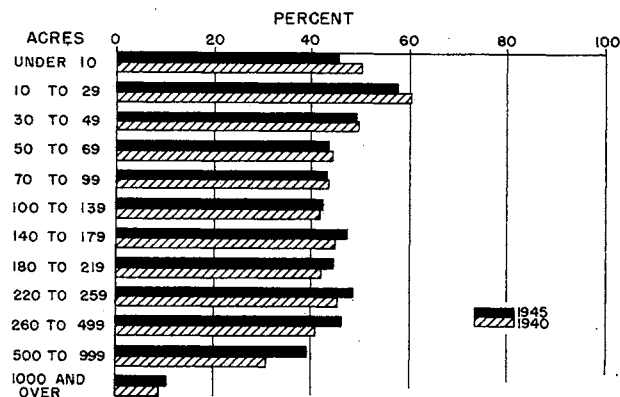
A farm, for Census purposes, is all the land on which some agricultural operations are performed by one person, either by his own labor alone or with the assistance of members of his household, or hired employees. A farm may consist of two or more separate tracts not necessarily adjacent. When a landowner has one or more tenants, renters, croppers, or managers, the land operated by each is considered a farm. Thus, on a plantation the land operated by each cropper, renter, or tenant is a separate farm. Tracts of less than 3 acres are farms only if their agricultural products for the calendar year preceding the census date were valued at \$250 or more.

Land in farms includes all land owned or leased by the farm operator, including considerable areas of land not actually under cultivation and some land not even used for pasture or grazing, but all such land must have been under the control of the operator and must have been considered a part of his farm. Land grazed under permit is excluded, likewise any sizable tract of timberland or other nonagricultural land held as a separate business and not used for pasture or grazing.

Farm land, classified according to use in 1944, includes—

Cropland harvested.—Land from which crops were harvested or from which hay was cut or land in orchards in 1944.

PERCENT OF ALL LAND IN FARMS REPRESENTED BY CROPLAND HARVESTED, BY SIZE OF FARM, FOR THE U.S.: 1945 AND 1940



Crop failure.—Land on which all crops (except orchards) were a complete failure in 1944.

Cropland, idle or fallow.—Cropland idle, in summer fallow, or in soil improvement crops only in 1944.

Cropland used only for pasture.—Land used only for pasture or grazing in 1944 that was plowed within past 7 years.

Woodland pastured.—All farm wood lots or timber tracts, natural or planted, and cut-over land with young growth, which had or would have value as wood or timber, which were pastured or grazed in 1944.

Pasture other than cropland and woodland.

Woodland not pastured.—All farm wood lots or timber tracts not pastured or grazed in 1944.

All other land.—Includes all wasteland, house yards, barnyards, feed lots, lanes, roads, ditches, etc.

In addition to these eight classes of land, the tables also present data for 1944 for four summary classifications, which are somewhat overlapping, as follows:

Total cropland.—Cropland harvested; crop failure; cropland, idle or fallow; and cropland used only for pasture.
Land used for crops.—Cropland harvested and crop failure.
Total pasture.—Cropland used only for pasture, woodland pastured, and pasture other than cropland and woodland.
Total woodland.—Woodland pastured and woodland not pastured.

Table 2.—NUMBER OF FARMS UNDER 3 ACRES IN SIZE, PERCENT OF ALL FARMS, MINIMUM VALUE OF PRODUCTS, AND INDEX NUMBERS OF PRICES RECEIVED BY FARMERS, FOR THE UNITED STATES: 1880 TO 1945

[Figures for regions and States in table 16]

YEAR	FARMS UNDER 3 ACRES IN SIZE		Minimum value of products (dollars)	Index numbers of prices received by farmers ¹ (August 1909–July 1914 = 100)
	Number	Percent of all farms		
1945.....	98,966	1.7	250	195
1940.....	55,977	0.6	250	95
1935.....	35,573	0.5	250	90
1930.....	43,007	0.7	250	149
1925.....	15,151	0.2	250	143
1920.....	20,350	0.3	250	215
1910.....	18,053	0.3	250	102
1900.....	41,385	0.7	(³)	(*)
1890.....	(*)	(*)	4500	(*)
1880.....	4,352	0.1	4500	(*)

*Not available.

¹From "Agricultural Statistics, 1945," table 571, United States Department of Agriculture. For 1910, the index number is for that calendar year. For all other years, each index number is for the calendar year preceding the census date. Series revised in 1944.

²Or requiring for its agricultural operations the continuous services of at least one person.

³No minimum limit used in the 1900 Census on value of products. "All agricultural establishments with less than three acres were reported as farms whenever their operation or management required the constant services of at least one individual."

⁴Value of products sold.

Items for earlier censuses which are not strictly comparable with those shown for the 1945 Census are shown below:

Plowable pasture, for 1924 to 1939, includes land used only for pasture or grazing which could have been used for crops without additional clearing, draining, or irrigating and differs from cropland used only for pasture for 1944 in that it includes land which may not have been plowed within 7 years preceding the census date.

Pasture other than plowable and woodland, for 1924 to 1934, differs from "pasture other than cropland and woodland" for 1944 in the same absolute amount that "plowable pasture" differs from "cropland used only for pasture." Data are not available for 1939.

Land available for crops, for 1924 to 1939, includes cropland harvested; crop failure; cropland, idle or fallow; and plowable pasture.

Improved land, for 1920 to 1920, in general, included land regularly tilled or mowed, land in pasture that had been cleared or tilled, land lying fallow, land in gardens, orchards, vineyards, and nurseries, and land occupied by buildings, yards, barnyards, etc.

Farms reporting.—The number of farms for which a specific item was reported. For example, of the 7,152 farms of 10,000 acres and over in the United States in 1945, only 4,403 reported a crop of some kind harvested in 1944. If enumerators obtained complete reports, the remaining 2,749 farms in this size group harvested no crops in 1944.

Value of farms (land and buildings).—The market value of the real estate represented in the farm. Enumerators were asked to obtain from the farm operator his estimate of the current market value of the farm he was operating.

Table 3.—NUMBER OF FARMS UNDER 10 ACRES IN SIZE, WITH LAND IN FARMS, FOR THE UNITED STATES: 1880 TO 1945

[Figures for regions and States in tables 12 and 16]

YEAR	UNDER 10 ACRES		UNDER 3 ACRES		3 TO 9 ACRES	
	Number of farms	Land in farms (acres)	Number of farms	Land in farms (acres)	Number of farms	Land in farms (acres)
1945.....	594,561	2,805,435	98,966	141,252	495,595	2,664,183
1940.....	506,402	2,667,754	35,977	50,946	470,425	2,618,808
1935.....	370,831	3,057,166	35,573	51,269	535,258	3,005,897
1930.....	358,504	1,908,370	43,007	61,338	315,497	1,847,032
1925.....	378,535	2,096,810	15,151	22,978	363,384	2,073,634
1920.....	288,772	1,600,287	20,350	33,613	268,422	1,566,674
1910.....	235,043	(*)	18,053	(*)	317,010	(*)
1900.....	287,229	1,477,379	41,385	78,715	225,844	1,398,664
1890.....	150,194	(*)	(*)	(*)	(*)	(*)
1880.....	139,241	(*)	4,352	(*)	134,889	(*)

*Not available.

Comparability of data.—The statistics for farms in some size-of-farm groups are affected by Census definitions and procedures to an even greater extent than are the over-all totals. (See discussion of "Comparability of data" in chapter I.) Of particular significance are farms which were marginal in respect to the minimum requirements under the Census definition of a farm. For each census for which data have been tabulated by size of farm, the definition has specified that places of less than 3 acres were not to be enumerated as farms unless they met certain criteria as to value of products or, as in the 1910 Census, labor requirement. The number of farms in this size group has varied greatly from census to census. However, this group has been relatively unimportant numerically. In 1945, although more than twice as numerous as at any previous census, farms of less than 3 acres represented only 1.7 percent of the total number of farms. Table 2 presents the number and proportion of farms of under 3 acres for each census from 1880 to 1945 (except 1890, when farms of under 3 acres were not tabulated separately) and the criteria used in each census for determining the inclusion of places as farms. Since the requirements generally included a minimum value of products, index numbers of prices received by farmers, as published by the United States Department of Agriculture, are included to show that, as a result of changes in price level, there have been changes in the amount of produce required to meet the minimum requirements for a farm even when there has been no change in the specified value of products. The index numbers indicate that operations qualifying as farms in the 1945 Census, with a value of products at or near the minimum of \$250, would not have qualified as farms in any of the earlier censuses except that of 1920.

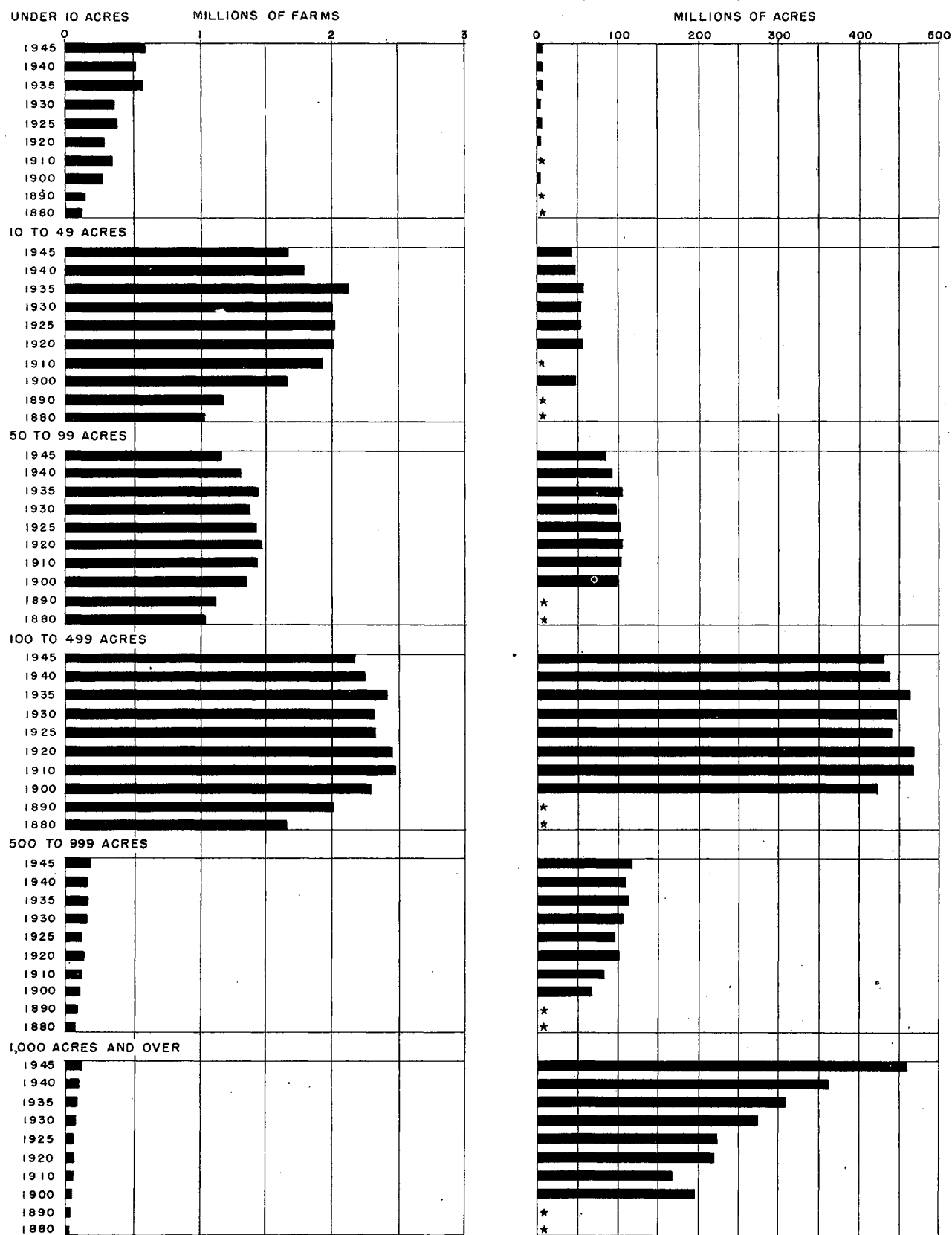
In addition to the effect of price level, the number of farms with limited agricultural operations was also influenced in 1945 by war conditions which greatly encouraged small-sized agricultural operations through the patriotic appeal for victory gardens and the obvious advantages, under a rationing system, of producing foods for family use.

Although the minimum requirements of a farm in respect to the extent of the agricultural operations were specified only for farms of under 3 acres, they may have influenced, to some extent, the enumeration of places of 3 acres and over. Farms with limited agricultural production are not limited to those of under 3 acres. This is indicated by the tabulations of farms by total gross farm income (value of products sold or used by farm households) which are presented in chapter X. In 1945, there were 453,580 farms for which the gross products in 1944 ranged from \$1 to \$249 and, in addition, there were 98,673 farms for which no products were reported as sold or used by the farm household. As there were only 98,966 farms under 3 acres in size, which number included many highly specialized operations, such as greenhouses, nurseries, mushroom cellars, hatcheries, and the like, most of the low income farms must have been 3 acres or more in area. It is probable that a large number of the farms having limited operations were under 10 acres in size, although many larger tracts also had limited agricultural operations. Table 3 presents United States totals for the number of farms of under 10 acres, as reported for the various census years, with separate totals for farms of under 3 acres and farms of 3 to 9 acres.

Changes in the procedure of enumerating Indian reservations affected the statistics by size of farm in a number of instances, particularly in Arizona and New Mexico. In the 1945 Census, if land in an Indian reservation was used by the Indians on a cooperative basis, the entire acreage was reported as a single farm, with no attempt made to segregate the individual operations. However, individual returns were obtained when the Indians carried on their agricultural activities as independent operations. In previous censuses, as a general rule, an attempt was made to obtain returns for each Indian whose agricultural production was sufficient to meet the minimum requirements of a farm, with a reservation return to account for acreage used for agricultural purposes that was not allotted or assigned to Indians or not leased to others. Under these circumstances, the returns for the individual Indians often represented a more or less arbitrary assignment of acreage, or the operations were reported with "no land owned or leased." (See table 5.) Procedures varied from one reservation to another and results were not always comparable from one census to another.

CENSUS OF AGRICULTURE: 1945

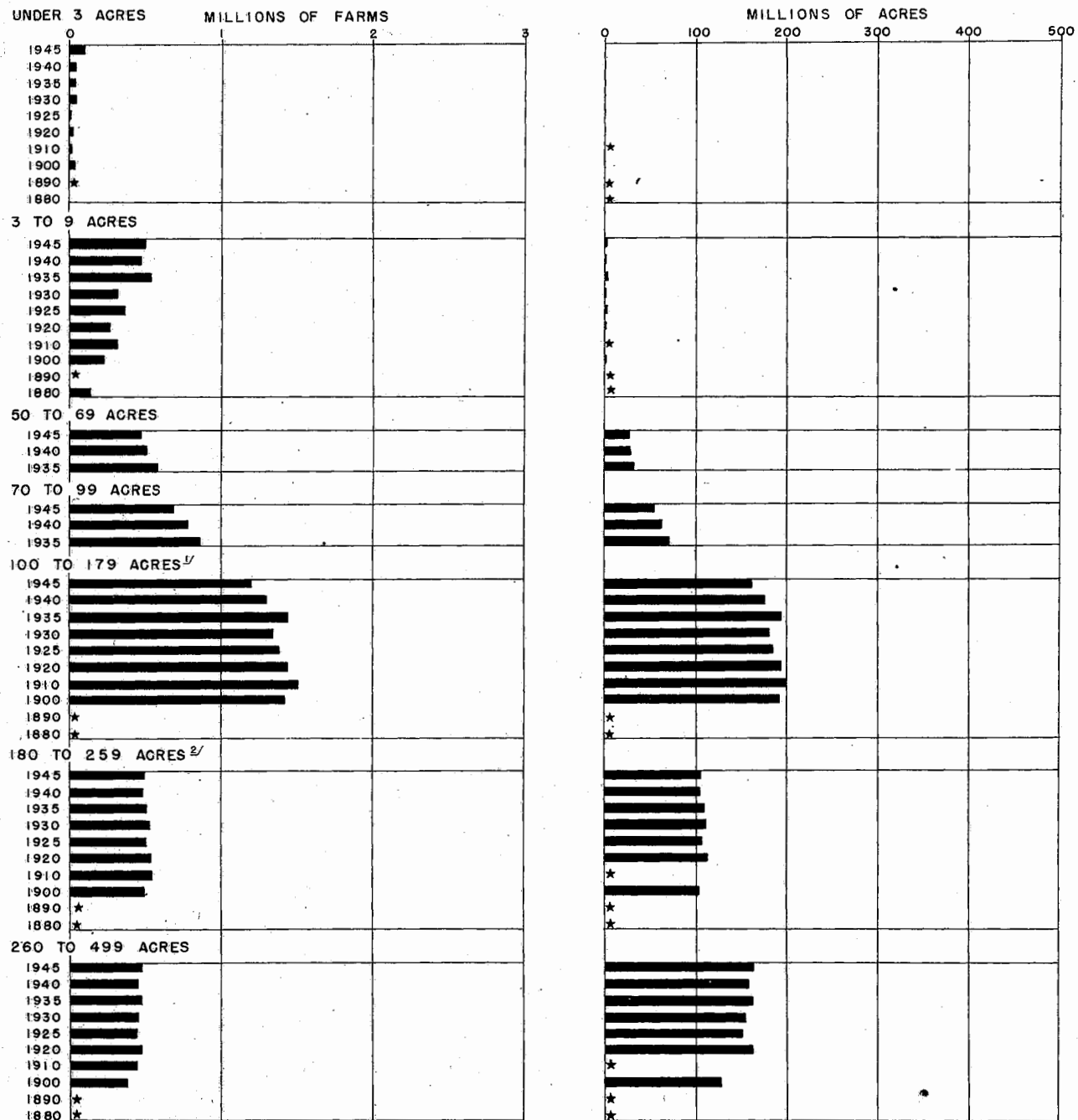
NUMBER OF FARMS, 1880 TO 1945, AND LAND IN FARMS, 1900 TO 1945, BY SIZE OF FARM, FOR THE UNITED STATES



SIZE OF FARMS

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NUMBER OF FARMS AND LAND IN FARMS FOR SELECTED SIZE-OF-FARM GROUPS,
FOR THE UNITED STATES: 1880-1945



* DATA NOT AVAILABLE.

^{1/} 100 TO 174 ACRES FOR CENSUSES PRIOR TO 1935.

^{2/} 175 TO 259 ACRES FOR CENSUSES PRIOR TO 1935.

CENSUS OF AGRICULTURE: 1945

Table 4.—NUMBER, ACREAGE, AND VALUE OF FARMS WITH NUMBER OF FARMS CLASSIFIED BY

[Data for number, total land, and value of farms relate to 1945 and for uses of

SIZE GROUP	Number of farms	ALL LAND IN FARMS		CROPLAND HARVESTED			Crop failure (acres)	Cropland, idle or fallow (acres)	Cropland used only for pasture ¹ (acres)	Woodland pastured (acres)	Pasture other than cropland and woodland (acres)	Woodland not pastured (acres)
		Acres	Average acreage per farm	Farms reporting	Acres	Average acreage per farm reporting						
1 United States, total.	5,859,169	1,141,615,364	194.8	5,363,490	352,865,765	65.8	10,297,172	40,082,105	47,449,184	95,075,246	481,016,668	71,261,183
2 Under 10 acres.....	594,561	2,805,435	4.7	413,129	1,274,206	3.1	18,846	98,356	180,173	72,850	381,337	87,521
3 Under 3.....	98,966	141,252	1.4	47,203	55,255	1.2	133	636	2,857	2,587	5,159	388
4 3 to 9.....	495,595	2,664,183	5.4	365,926	1,218,951	3.3	16,713	97,720	177,316	70,263	376,178	87,133
5 10 to 29.....	945,608	18,864,332	17.8	831,751	9,765,855	11.7	152,846	671,503	945,192	734,684	1,958,950	1,099,900
6 30 to 49.....	708,796	27,073,699	38.2	652,467	13,303,610	20.4	200,069	1,253,746	1,796,279	1,991,721	3,741,308	2,869,837
7 50 to 69.....	472,415	27,209,068	57.6	444,000	11,808,561	26.5	187,811	1,368,500	1,966,594	2,196,749	4,209,602	3,792,317
8 70 to 99.....	684,905	55,996,749	81.8	653,287	24,055,867	36.8	427,079	2,393,572	4,252,297	5,347,920	9,345,201	6,794,069
9 100 to 139.....	633,851	73,069,894	115.3	611,503	30,852,986	50.5	557,655	2,876,616	5,486,727	7,259,502	12,628,373	9,397,913
10 140 to 179.....	585,958	89,304,959	153.8	549,085	42,411,205	77.2	1,011,474	2,780,627	5,981,254	8,061,875	16,025,215	8,189,670
11 180 to 219.....	282,839	55,799,859	197.3	275,370	24,761,997	89.9	564,538	1,754,756	3,823,806	5,678,379	10,194,878	6,243,316
12 220 to 259.....	210,376	50,002,086	237.7	206,103	24,266,037	117.7	674,699	1,429,001	3,128,587	4,496,129	9,112,272	4,377,292
13 260 to 499.....	473,184	164,647,588	348.0	460,876	76,209,472	165.4	2,933,681	5,977,499	8,545,830	14,008,599	36,066,895	13,262,116
14 260 to 379.....	331,727	103,068,905	310.7	323,278	48,265,519	149.3	1,595,675	3,406,660	5,691,605	9,023,190	21,462,881	8,651,408
15 380 to 499.....	141,457	61,580,683	435.3	137,598	27,945,953	203.1	1,038,006	2,570,839	2,854,225	4,985,409	14,624,014	4,630,708
16 500 to 999.....	173,777	118,835,657	683.8	166,312	46,307,792	278.4	1,860,763	6,502,708	4,479,910	9,271,409	37,545,368	7,781,698
17 500 to 699.....	105,515	82,275,299	590.2	100,988	25,426,137	251.8	979,207	3,039,716	2,559,220	5,055,642	18,054,766	4,440,055
18 700 to 999.....	68,262	56,560,358	828.6	65,324	20,881,655	319.7	881,556	3,462,992	1,920,696	4,215,767	19,490,602	3,341,843
19 1,000 and over.....	112,899	460,505,958	4,074.5	99,607	47,849,357	480.4	2,027,931	12,975,221	6,862,583	35,975,439	339,787,269	7,371,553
20 1,000 to 4,999.....	96,733	181,930,026	1,880.7	88,328	39,219,246	444.0	1,749,871	10,638,612	4,594,163	13,841,914	101,258,175	5,986,147
21 5,000 and over.....	16,166	278,575,932	17,201.3	11,279	8,630,111	765.1	278,060	2,336,609	2,268,420	22,133,525	238,549,094	1,325,406
22 5,000 to 9,999.....	9,014	61,663,236	6,840.8	6,876	4,364,640	634.8	168,115	1,285,003	894,201	4,144,322	49,354,338	765,978
23 10,000 and over.....	7,152	216,412,696	30,259.0	4,403	4,265,471	968.8	109,945	1,051,606	1,374,219	17,989,203	189,194,756	619,428
24 10,000 to 19,999.....	4,309	58,817,343	13,649.9	2,763	2,168,909	785.0	69,100	579,241	591,480	3,703,001	50,873,529	352,863
25 20,000 to 29,999.....	1,232	29,431,922	23,889.5	748	789,502	1,055.5	17,388	153,341	205,130	1,651,555	26,198,856	155,359
26 30,000 to 39,999.....	549	18,756,800	34,165.4	298	350,541	1,176.3	7,290	69,027	103,798	1,316,657	16,674,890	12,895
27 40,000 to 49,999.....	297	13,181,208	44,381.2	184	198,453	1,078.5	2,408	53,578	105,045	1,094,941	11,655,819	17,048
28 50,000 to 74,999.....	362	21,799,650	60,220.0	187	335,075	1,791.8	5,064	111,395	190,311	942,950	19,924,126	58,880
29 75,000 to 99,999.....	141	11,947,316	84,732.7	76	115,148	1,515.1	2,549	38,751	121,477	556,912	11,016,325	9,350
30 100,000 and over.....	262	62,478,457	238,487.4	147	307,843	2,094.2	6,146	46,273	56,978	8,803,187	52,851,211	13,083

SIZE GROUP	PERCENTAGE OF ALL LAND IN FARMS										PERCENT DISTRIBUTION				
	Crop-land harvested	Crop failure	Crop-land, idle or fallow	Crop-land used only for pasture ¹	Woodland pastured	Pasture other than cropland and woodland	Wood-land not pastured	All other land ²	Total crop-land ³	Land used for crops ⁴	Total pasture	Total woodland	Number of farms	All land in farms	Crop-land harvested
1 United States, total.	30.9	0.9	3.5	4.2	8.3	42.1	6.2	3.8	39.5	31.8	54.6	14.8	100.0	100.0	100.0
2 Under 10 acres.....	45.4	0.7	3.5	6.4	2.6	13.6	3.1	24.7	56.0	46.1	22.6	5.7	10.1	0.2	0.2
3 Under 3.....	39.1	0.1	0.5	2.0	1.8	3.7	0.3	52.6	41.7	39.2	7.5	2.1	1.7	(⁶)	(⁶)
4 3 to 9.....	45.8	0.7	3.7	6.7	2.6	14.1	3.3	23.2	56.8	46.5	23.4	5.9	8.5	0.2	0.2
5 10 to 29.....	57.9	0.8	4.0	5.6	4.2	11.6	6.5	9.3	68.3	58.7	21.5	10.8	16.1	1.5	1.7
6 30 to 49.....	49.1	0.7	4.6	6.6	7.4	13.8	10.6	7.1	61.1	49.9	27.8	18.0	12.1	2.4	3.1
7 50 to 69.....	43.4	0.7	5.0	7.2	8.1	15.5	13.9	6.2	56.3	44.1	30.8	22.0	8.1	2.4	3.4
8 70 to 99.....	43.0	0.8	4.3	7.6	9.6	16.7	12.1	6.0	55.6	43.7	33.8	21.7	11.7	4.9	6.0
9 100 to 139.....	42.2	0.9	3.9	7.5	9.9	17.3	12.9	5.5	54.4	43.0	34.7	22.8	10.8	6.4	7.2
10 140 to 179.....	47.5	1.1	3.1	6.7	9.0	17.9	9.2	5.4	58.4	48.6	33.7	18.2	9.7	7.8	6.9
11 180 to 219.....	44.4	1.0	3.1	6.9	10.2	18.3	11.2	5.0	55.4	45.4	35.3	21.4	4.8	4.9	4.4
12 220 to 259.....	48.5	1.3	2.9	6.3	9.0	18.2	8.8	5.0	59.0	49.9	33.5	17.7	3.6	4.4	3.6
13 260 to 499.....	46.3	1.6	3.6	5.2	8.5	21.9	8.1	4.8	56.7	47.9	35.6	16.6	8.1	14.4	14.9
14 260 to 379.....	46.9	1.5	3.3	5.5	8.8	20.8	8.4	4.8	57.2	48.4	35.1	17.1	5.7	9.0	8.5
15 380 to 499.....	45.4	1.7	4.2	4.6	8.1	23.7	7.5	4.8	55.9	47.1	36.5	15.6	2.4	5.4	6.4
16 500 to 999.....	39.0	1.8	5.5	3.8	7.8	31.6	6.5	4.3	49.8	40.5	43.2	14.4	3.0	10.4	16.2
17 500 to 699.....	*40.8	1.6	4.9	4.1	8.1	29.0	7.1	4.4	51.4	42.4	41.2	15.2	1.8	5.5	7.6
18 700 to 999.....	36.9	1.6	6.1	3.4	7.5	34.5	5.9	4.2	48.0	38.5	45.3	13.4	1.2	5.0	8.6
19 1,000 and over.....	10.4	0.4	2.8	1.5	7.8	73.9	1.6	1.6	15.2	10.9	83.2	9.4	1.9	40.3	32.4
20 1,000 to 4,999.....	21.6	1.0	5.8	2.5	7.6	55.6	3.3	2.6	30.9	22.5	65.8	10.9	1.7	15.9	26.5
21 5,000 and over.....	3.1	0.1	0.8	0.8	8.0	85.8	0.5	0.9	4.9	3.2	94.6	8.5	0.3	24.4	5.8
22 5,000 to 9,999.....	7.1	0.3	2.1	1.5	6.7	80.0	1.2	1.1	10.9	7.4	88.2	8.0	0.2	5.4	3.1
23 10,000 and over.....	2.0	0.1	0.5	0.6	8.3	87.4	0.3	0.8	3.1	2.0	96.4	8.6	0.1	19.0	2.6
24 10,000 to 19,999.....	3.7	0.1	1.0	1.0	6.3	86.5	0.6	0.8	5.8	3.8	93.8	6.9	0.1	5.2	1.4
25 20,000 to 29,999.....	2.7	0.1	0.5	0.7	5.5	89.0	0.5	1.0	4.0	2.7	95.3	6.1	(⁶)	2.6	0.4
26 30,000 to 39,999.....	1.9	(⁶)	0.4	0.6	7.0	88.9	0.1	1.2	2.8	1.9	96.5	7.1	(⁶)	1.6	0.2
27 40,000 to 49,999.....	1.5	(⁶)	0.4	0.8	7.9	86.4	0.1	0.9	2.7	1.5	97.1	8.0	(⁶)	1.2	0.1
28 50,000 to 74,999.....	1.5	(⁶)	0.5	0.9	4.3	91.4	0.3	1.1	2.9	1.6	96.6	4.6	(⁶)	1.9	0.3
29 75,000 to 99,999.....	1.0	(⁶)	0.3	1.0	4.7	92.2	0.1	0.7	2.3	1.0	97.9	4.7	(⁶)	1.0	0.1
30 100,000 and over.....	0.5	(⁶)	0.1	0.1	14.1	84.6	(⁶)	0.6	0.7	0.5	98.8	14.1	(⁶)	5.5	0.1

*Not available.

¹Land used only for pasture which had been plowed within 7 years.²Includes wasteland, house yards, barnyards, roads, ditches, etc.³Cropland harvested; crop failure; cropland, idle or fallow; and cropland used only for pasture.⁴Cropland harvested and crop failure⁵Based on all farms.⁶0.05 percent or less.

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land to 1944. Figures for regions, divisions, and States in tables 12, 14, and 15.]

PERCENT DISTRIBUTION—Continued										FARMS REPORTING CROPLAND HARVESTED, BY ACRES HARVESTED								
Cropland used only for pasture ¹	Woodland pastured	Pasture other than cropland and woodland	Woodland not pastured	All other land ²	Total cropland ³	Land used for crops ⁴	Total pasture	Total woodland	Value of land and buildings	1 to 9 acres	10 to 19 acres	20 to 29 acres	30 to 49 acres	50 to 99 acres	100 to 199 acres	200 to 499 acres	500 to 999 acres	1,000 acres and over
100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	1,072,945	852,015	680,203	824,712	920,295	646,136	310,545	46,772	9,867
0.4 (⁶)	0.1 (⁶)	0.1 (⁶)	0.1 (⁶)	1.6 0.2	0.3 (⁶)	0.4 (⁶)	0.1 (⁶)	0.1 (⁶)	3.7 0.6	413,129 (*)	----- (*)	----- (*)	----- (*)	----- (*)	----- (*)	----- (*)	----- (*)	----- (*)
0.4	0.1	0.1	0.1	1.4	0.3	0.3	0.1	0.1	3.1	(*)	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----
2.0	0.8	0.4	1.5	3.6	2.6	2.7	0.8	1.1	5.9	330,866	367,394	133,491	167,045	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----
3.8	2.1	0.8	4.0	4.4	3.7	3.7	1.2	2.9	5.0	132,091	173,321	180,010	158,363	44,356	-----	-----	-----	-----
4.1	2.3	0.9	5.3	3.9	3.4	3.3	1.3	3.6	4.1	65,320	95,529	100,432	201,323	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----
9.0	5.6	1.9	9.5	7.8	6.9	6.7	3.0	7.3	7.8	57,107	93,444	109,519	75,715	191,894	-----	-----	-----	-----
11.6	7.6	2.6	13.2	9.2	8.8	8.6	4.1	10.0	9.4	35,460	59,989	75,175	143,894	261,132	35,313	-----	-----	-----
12.6	8.5	3.3	11.5	11.1	11.6	12.0	4.8	9.8	11.8	17,051	28,836	37,287	79,021	195,775	191,115	-----	-----	-----
8.1	6.0	2.1	8.8	6.4	6.9	7.0	3.2	7.2	7.0	7,670	12,639	16,637	35,811	82,010	119,263	1,340	-----	-----
6.6	4.7	1.9	6.1	5.8	6.5	6.9	2.7	5.3	6.6	3,608	5,923	8,159	18,203	46,205	103,490	20,515	-----	-----
18.0	14.7	7.5	18.6	18.2	20.7	21.7	9.4	16.4	17.6	6,990	10,556	13,885	30,095	73,285	151,870	174,215	-----	-----
12.0	9.5	4.5	12.1	11.5	13.1	13.7	5.8	10.6	11.7	(*)	(*)	(*)	(*)	(*)	(*)	(*)	-----	-----
6.0	5.2	3.0	6.5	6.7	7.6	8.0	3.6	5.8	5.9	(*)	(*)	(*)	(*)	(*)	(*)	(*)	-----	-----
9.4	9.8	7.8	10.9	11.7	13.1	13.3	8.2	10.3	8.6	2,302	2,946	3,369	7,352	16,836	30,185	82,265	21,057	-----
5.4	5.3	3.8	6.2	6.2	7.1	7.3	4.1	5.7	4.9	(*)	(*)	(*)	(*)	(*)	(*)	(*)	(*)	-----
4.0	4.4	4.1	4.7	5.4	6.0	6.0	4.1	4.5	3.7	(*)	(*)	(*)	(*)	(*)	(*)	(*)	(*)	-----
14.5	37.8	70.6	10.3	16.4	15.5	13.7	61.4	26.1	12.4	1,351	1,438	1,719	3,605	8,802	14,900	32,210	25,715	9,867
9.7	14.6	21.0	8.4	10.7	12.5	11.3	19.2	11.9	7.9	(*)	(*)	(*)	(*)	(*)	(*)	(*)	(*)	(*)
4.8	23.3	49.6	1.9	5.7	3.0	2.5	42.2	14.1	4.4	(*)	(*)	(*)	(*)	(*)	(*)	(*)	(*)	(*)
1.9	4.4	10.3	1.1	1.6	1.5	1.2	8.7	3.0	1.5	(*)	(*)	(*)	(*)	(*)	(*)	(*)	(*)	(*)
2.9	18.9	39.3	0.9	4.1	1.5	1.2	33.4	11.2	2.9	(*)	(*)	(*)	(*)	(*)	(*)	(*)	(*)	(*)
1.2	3.9	10.6	0.5	1.1	0.8	0.6	8.8	2.4	1.1	(*)	(*)	(*)	(*)	(*)	(*)	(*)	(*)	(*)
0.4	1.7	5.4	0.2	0.6	0.3	0.2	4.5	1.1	0.5	(*)	(*)	(*)	(*)	(*)	(*)	(*)	(*)	(*)
0.2	1.4	3.5	(⁶)	0.5	0.1	0.1	2.9	0.8	0.3	(*)	(*)	(*)	(*)	(*)	(*)	(*)	(*)	(*)
0.2	1.1	2.4	(⁶)	0.3	0.1	0.1	2.1	0.8	0.2	(*)	(*)	(*)	(*)	(*)	(*)	(*)	(*)	(*)
0.4	1.0	4.1	0.1	0.5	0.1	0.1	3.4	0.6	0.3	(*)	(*)	(*)	(*)	(*)	(*)	(*)	(*)	(*)
0.3	0.6	2.3	(⁶)	0.2	0.1	(⁶)	1.9	0.3	0.1	(*)	(*)	(*)	(*)	(*)	(*)	(*)	(*)	(*)
0.1	9.3	11.0	(⁶)	0.9	0.1	0.1	9.9	5.3	0.5	(*)	(*)	(*)	(*)	(*)	(*)	(*)	(*)	(*)

CENSUS OF AGRICULTURE: 1945

Comparability, especially for the larger farms, has been affected by changes in the administration and management of range lands which have brought under the control of individual operators increasing acreages of grazing lands which were formerly open range. Much of the 60,509,808 acre increase between 1940 and 1945 in land in farms in the West may represent such land. Nearly all of this increase (58,864,226 acres) occurred in farms of 10,000 acres and over. Individual returns for the two years indicate that additional acreages of grazing land are being leased from the Federal Government, from the various States, and from railroads, oil companies, lumber companies, cattle and land companies, etc.

Statistics by size of farm were also affected by the somewhat more rigid procedure followed in 1945 to exclude large tracts of nonagricultural lands from the Census reports; by lack of uniformity in the enumeration of citrus groves, pecan orchards, and other collectively developed operations because of difficulty in determining whether each ownership tract represented a farm or whether many tracts under one management represented a farm; and by the procedure followed in enumerating farms with acreage in two or more counties whereby the entire acreage was credited to one county. This procedure for enumerating cross-line acreage particularly affected statistics by counties. Thus, in 1945, but not in earlier censuses, a number of cropper and tenant farms were credited to the county in which the multiple-unit headquarters was located rather than to the county where these small cropper and tenant tracts were located. Some of the increases in the number of large farms may have resulted from emphasis in 1945 on the enumeration of large farms. This emphasis tended to secure over-all returns for operations which previously may have been returned separately. (See chapter I for a more complete discussion of comparability of data.)

Presentation of the statistics.—The statistics are presented to provide an over-all picture for the United States, followed by information for different sections of the country and the several States. The data are arranged to facilitate comparison of one section, or one State, with another. Averages, percentages, and other derived data are provided as aids in interpreting the statistics. Some of the derived data do not appear in the tables that carry the base figures. Comparable data from earlier censuses provide a measure of changes that have occurred from census to census. Data for earlier years are restricted to items classified by size in the 1945 Census, except for certain specified classes of farm land not strictly comparable with the 1945 classification. All such comparative data are shown for the United States. Only historical data for selected census years or for selected items are shown by States.

The tabular presentation of the data consists of 16 tables. Tables 1 to 10, inclusive, present summary data for the continental United States, and tables 11 to 16 present data by regions or divisions and States. In the division and State tables, the States are arranged in geographic order to facilitate comparisons among States in the same general area. An outline map showing the States and the geographic divisions and regions for which totals are shown appears in the Introduction to this volume.

Some of the tables provide for ready comparison of the 1945 Census data for selected items while others bring together figures for several censuses. Thus, the same data may be found in several tables, depending upon the objective of the particular table. In general, the United States, or summary, tables permit the bringing together of more related data and the showing of more historical and derived data than is practicable in the division and State tables.

Summary table 5 presents, by States, a count of agricultural operations for which no land was reported as owned or leased. In the other tables, this "0" acre group of farms is included in the size group "under 3 acres." These "0" acre farms consist for the most part of operations limited to livestock on open range, although they also include some apiaries or bee farms. Operations requiring only limited areas for buildings only, such as greenhouses or hatcheries, when covering less than 1 acre, were always given a nominal acreage of "1". Enumerators were instructed to include agricultural operations similar to those of 4-H Club members and hired help

Table 5.—NUMBER OF FARMS WITH NO LAND OWNED OR LEASED, BY STATES: 1945 AND 1940

(Number of farms with no land owned or leased included in the "under 3 acres" size group in all tables)

STATE	NUMBER OF FARMS		STATE	NUMBER OF FARMS	
	1945	1940		1945	1940
United States.....	268	489	Nevada.....	52	26
Alabama.....	1	—	New Mexico.....	24	11
Arizona.....	82	257	North Carolina.....	—	6
Arkansas.....	—	4	North Dakota.....	1	5
California.....	39	10	Oklahoma.....	—	7
Colorado.....	4	8	Oregon.....	6	9
Florida.....	1	10	South Dakota.....	3	5
Idaho.....	9	47	Texas.....	10	18
Louisiana.....	3	9	Utah.....	6	16
Montana.....	7	8	Washington.....	—	2
			Wyoming.....	20	31

in the return for the farm on which the operations were conducted. The number of farms with no land owned or leased amounted to only 268 in 1945 and 489 in 1940. The difference in the method of enumerating Indian reservations accounted for most of the decrease. In 1940 there were 257 Indian operations in Arizona reported as having no land owned or leased. In 1945 most of such operations were included in reservation returns for cooperative groups. Prior to 1940, farms with no land owned or leased were given a nominal acreage of "1" and were included in the size group "under 3 acres."

Supplementing the tabular presentation, there is a series of eight dot maps which show the geographic distribution of farms of various sizes. These maps were prepared on a county-unit basis. Cross-hatch maps, also prepared on a county-unit basis, show the geographic variation in the average size of farms and a distribution of the number of farms of less than 50 acres as a percent of all farms. A number of bar charts present, for the United States as a whole, a graphic picture of the historical changes in the number of farms and land in farms by size of farm. Another chart shows the percent distribution of the number of farms in various size groups by States.

Changes in size of farms.—The outstanding changes in size of farms shown by the 1945 Census of Agriculture were: (1) a large increase in the number of very small farms representing, for the most part, very limited agriculture operations with production primarily for home use, (2) a consolidation of small family-sized farms into somewhat larger operating units which permitted greater and more efficient use of machinery and manpower, and (3) increases in the number and in the size of operations of large commercial farms.

The foremost change in size of farms was the increase of 88,159, or 17.4 percent, in the number of farms of under 10 acres. This change, for the most part, represents places or operations included for the first time in a census of agriculture rather than a reduction in the size of operations. Many of these operations qualified as farms, under the Census definition, only as a result of a higher price level. These farms, in general, represent operations which supplement other sources of livelihood. A part of this increase represents the continuation of a trend, noticeable in previous censuses, toward part-time farming operations.

The increase in the number of farms of under 10 acres was noticeable in all areas. However, the greatest increases occurred in the Southern States. Of the total net increase for the United States, 85.9 percent was in the South.

The farms representing this large numerical increase added relatively little to the total agricultural production. Despite the increase in number, there was a decrease in total cropland harvested for farms of this size group.

Some of the increases in the number of small farms occurred in cash-crop areas, particularly the tobacco areas, because of crop-sharing arrangements offered as an inducement to keep labor on the farm. Thus, in the Carolinas, farms of under 10 acres increased by 22.7 percent. In this area there were also increases in the number of farms in all size groups up to and including the 30 to 49 group.

Another factor which tended to increase the number of farms, especially in the smaller size groups, was wartime conditions which encouraged the re-entry into production of farms which were previously idle. In the New England States, there

SIZE OF FARMS

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Table 6.—FARMS OF 10,000 ACRES AND OVER—NUMBER, ACREAGE, AND VALUE, FOR THE UNITED STATES: CENSUSES OF 1945 AND 1940

[Figures for divisions and States in table 13]

SIZE GROUP	NUMBER OF FARMS		ALL LAND IN FARMS (ACRES)		LAND IN FARMS CLASSIFIED ACCORDING TO USE									
	1945	1940	1945	1940	Cropland harvested				Crop failure (acres)		Cropland, idle or fallow (acres)		Cropland used only for pasture, ¹ 1944 (acres)	Flowable pasture, ² 1939 (acres)
					Farms reporting		Acres		1944	1939	1944	1939		
					1944	1939	1944	1939						
10,000 acres and over, total..	7,152	5,471	216,412,696	149,074,001	4,403	3,203	4,265,471	2,563,290	109,945	211,714	1,051,606	795,271	1,374,219	5,772,733
10,000 to 19,999.....	4,309	3,345	58,817,343	45,420,706	2,763	2,065	2,168,909	1,353,172	69,100	136,929	579,241	479,698	591,480	2,667,250
20,000 to 29,999.....	1,232	928	29,431,922	22,102,856	748	516	789,502	440,835	17,388	22,416	153,341	133,465	205,130	1,132,232
30,000 to 39,999.....	549	437	18,756,800	14,785,854	298	232	350,541	259,125	7,290	25,331	69,027	73,191	103,798	621,429
40,000 to 49,999.....	297	211	13,181,208	9,328,444	184	99	198,453	94,507	2,408	3,660	53,578	29,364	105,045	377,379
50,000 to 74,999.....	362	283	21,799,650	16,943,636	187	153	335,075	159,958	5,064	11,799	111,395	58,121	190,511	448,019
75,000 to 99,999.....	141	115	11,947,316	9,776,067	76	60	115,148	75,576	2,549	3,020	38,751	8,154	121,477	238,107
100,000 and over.....	262	152	62,478,457	30,716,438	147	78	307,843	160,117	6,146	8,559	46,273	15,278	56,978	288,317

SIZE GROUP	LAND IN FARMS CLASSIFIED ACCORDING TO USE—Continued						VALUE OF LAND AND BUILDINGS (DOLLARS)					
	Total cropland, ³ 1944 (acres)	Land available for crops, ⁴ 1939 (acres)	Land used for crops ⁵ (acres)		Total woodland (acres)		Amount		Average per farm		Average per acre	
			1944	1939	1944	1939	1945	1940	1945	1940	1945	1940
10,000 acres and over, total.....	6,801,241	9,343,008	4,375,416	2,775,004	16,808,631	7,001,357	1,353,910,894	759,582,789	189,305	138,838	6.26	5.10
10,000 to 19,999.....	3,406,730	4,637,049	2,238,009	1,490,101	4,055,864	2,358,703	501,354,987	288,358,538	116,351	86,206	8.52	6.35
20,000 to 29,999.....	1,165,361	1,728,948	806,890	463,251	1,786,914	923,006	222,881,549	115,456,031	180,810	124,414	7.57	5.22
30,000 to 39,999.....	530,656	979,076	357,831	284,456	1,329,552	703,212	132,188,939	76,026,821	240,781	173,974	7.05	5.14
40,000 to 49,999.....	359,484	504,910	200,861	98,167	1,051,989	531,700	75,254,446	42,773,682	253,382	202,719	5.71	4.59
50,000 to 74,999.....	641,845	677,897	340,139	171,757	1,001,780	655,844	129,827,959	62,497,614	358,641	220,840	5.96	3.69
75,000 to 99,999.....	277,925	324,857	117,697	78,596	566,262	367,506	54,113,656	39,918,251	383,785	347,115	4.53	4.08
100,000 and over.....	417,240	490,271	313,989	188,676	8,616,270	1,461,386	238,289,358	134,551,852	909,501	885,210	3.81	4.38

¹Land used only for pasture which had been plowed within 7 years.

²Land used only for pasture which could have been plowed and used for crops without additional clearing, draining, or irrigating.

³Cropland harvested; crop failure; cropland, idle or fallow; and cropland used only for pasture.

⁴Cropland harvested; crop failure; cropland, idle or fallow; and plowable pasture.

⁵Cropland harvested and crop failure.

was a general increase in the number of farms in practically all size groups. Farms of this kind have undoubtedly influenced the statistics in other areas, but the effect is not so noticeable because of other changes.

The most significant change in the size of farms was the increase in the size of those farms which are operated primarily by the farm family. In most areas there were large losses in the number of farms of less than the average size for the area, except for the very small farms previously discussed, and increases in the number of farms above the average size. For the United States as a whole, there were decreases in the number of farms in all size groups from 10 to 179 acres, representing a loss of 369,516 farms, as compared with a net loss of 237,630 farms for all size groups. For the most part, the acreages lost in these size groups were absorbed by other farms and account for much of the increase in the number of farms in the size groups above 180 acres.

This consolidation of farms into larger operating units continues a trend noticeable in previous censuses. With few exceptions, each census since 1880 has shown an increase in the average size of farms. The most noticeable increases were in areas best suited to the use of power equipment. In the West North Central States, the average size of farms increased from 251.6 acres in 1940 to 274.5 acres in 1945 and cropland harvested increased by 23.9 acres per farm. In the East North Central States there was an increase of 8.2 acres in average size and 9.0 in average acreage harvested. In the South, where there is greater dependence on hand labor, the average size of farms increased by 8.0 acres, while cropland harvested increased by only 1.2 acres.

In all areas, there were general increases in the number of large farms. There was an increase of 12,368, or 12.3 percent, in the number of farms of 1,000 acres and over. The land in these farms, however, increased by 95,937,055 acres, or 26.4 percent, and cropland harvested by 16,329,106 acres. These

farms, representing less than 2 percent of all farms, accounted for approximately two-fifths of the total land in farms and more than one-eighth of the total cropland harvested. The increase in land in farms in this size group exceeded the net increase for all size groups by 15,174,065 acres. Much of the net increase represents grazing lands in the Western States, some of which were previously open range. To this extent the increases do not represent actual changes in size of operations.

The number of farms of 1,000 acres and over increased in all but seven States. These States, except Arizona where the decrease in number was due to changes in the enumeration of Indian reservations, are all located in the East. Five of these States, although showing losses in total land for this size group, showed increases in cropland harvested. Only Tennessee showed decreases both in land in farms and in cropland harvested. However, the 500-to-999-acre group showed appreciable increases.

Farms of 10,000 acres and over, although constituting less than 0.02 percent of all farms, included 19.0 percent of the total land in farms. Only 246, or less than 4 percent of all farms in this size group, were east of the Mississippi and most of them were in the South.

The range in size in these farms of 10,000 acres and over, with comparisons for 1940, is shown by States in table 13. In this table, which presents numbers of farms only, farms in this size group are further classified by size into seven subgroups. The acreage and value figures for these subgroups are shown only for the United States as a whole in table 6.

The 262 farms of 100,000 acres and over represent an increase of 72.4 percent over the number in this size group in 1940. The land in these farms more than doubled. Nearly two-thirds of these farms were in Texas, Arizona, and New Mexico. Some of these extremely large farms represent grazing land having very low carrying capacity and therefore their area is not a true indication of their size of operations.