

## 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