

SIZE OF FARMS

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	478,698	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	165,341	133,465	205,130	1,152,232
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	190,311	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	258,107
100,000 and over.....	262	152	62,478,457	30,716,438	147	78	307,843	180,117	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	16,608,631	7,001,357	1,353,910,894	759,582,789	189,305	138,838	6.26	5.10
10,000 to 19,999.....	3,408,730	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	8,816,270	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.