

CENSUS OF AGRICULTURE: 1945.

Table 4.—NUMBER AND PERCENT DISTRIBUTION OF FARMS BY TYPE OF FARM, FOR THE UNITED STATES: CENSUSES OF 1945 AND 1940

[For basis of classification by type, see text. Figures for regions and States in table 25]

TYPE OF FARM	1945 TYPE CLASSIFICATION					1940 TYPE CLASSIFICATION (CENSUS OF 1940)	
	Number of farms		Percent distribution		Coefficient of variation of 1940 estimates (percent)	Number of farms	Percent distribution
	Census of 1945	Census of 1940 ¹	Census of 1945	Census of 1940 ¹			
All farms.....	5,859,189	6,096,799	100.0	100.0	-----	6,096,799	100.0
Farms with no farm products sold or used ²	98,673	88,502	1.7	1.5	-----	88,502	1.5
Farms, unclassified ³	7,588	39,542	0.1	0.6	-----	39,542	0.6
All classified farms.....	5,752,908	5,968,755	98.2	97.9	-----	5,968,755	97.9
Farms producing products primarily for sale.....	4,483,702	4,458,989	78.2	75.1	(x)	4,028,026	66.0
Fruit-and-nut farms.....	123,577	126,986	2.3	2.1	1	133,685	2.2
Vegetable farms.....	92,178	72,562	1.6	1.2	1	80,118	1.3
Horticultural-specialty farms.....	15,954	18,628	0.3	0.3	1	18,950	0.3
All-other-crop (field crop) farms.....	1,862,637	2,071,328	31.8	34.0	(x)	2,186,986	35.9
Dairy farms.....	559,609	509,005	9.5	8.3	1	619,008	10.2
Poultry farms.....	274,504	191,436	4.7	3.1	1	217,570	3.6
Livestock farms.....	806,320	653,281	13.8	10.7	(x)	746,413	12.2
Forest-products farms.....	29,015	25,017	0.5	0.4	5	25,500	0.4
General farms.....	690,908	790,670	11.8	13.0	1	(*)	(*)
Farms producing products primarily for own household use.....	1,269,206	1,511,866	22.0	24.8	(x)	1,942,729	31.9

¹Not available.

²0.5 percent or less.

³The 1940 figures by type of farm are based on a 2-percent sample for farms with under \$10,000 total value of farm products, plus a tabulation of all farms with \$10,000 or more total value of farm products. These figures are, therefore, subject to sampling errors. The coefficients of variation provide information on the approximate magnitudes of these errors. See text.

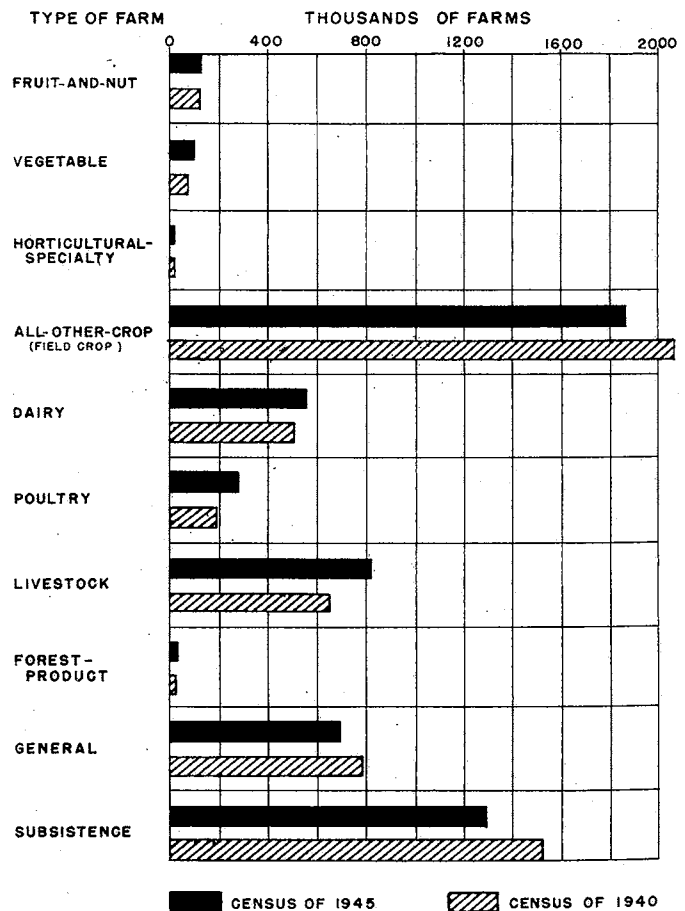
⁴Not classified by type. See text.

⁵Not classified either by total value of farm products or by type. See text.

Type of farm.—Several factors should be considered when interpreting the statistics by type of farm. In the first place, for the Census of 1945, the basis for the type classification was the relationship of the value of all farm products sold to the total value of farm products sold or used by farm households and, further, on the relationship of the value of sales from each general source to the total value of products sold. In the second place, 50 percent or more of the total value of farm products sold had to be derived from a particular source for the farm to be classified as a specific type. The use of income as a common denominator for the classification of farms by type may result in inaccuracies when the normal price relationship between various farm products is temporarily out of balance, or when yield or acreage is out of line because of weather conditions, etc. Thus, income does not provide a good basis for classification by type when there has been total or partial crop failure, when there has been an abnormal liquidation of inventory items, or when income has been affected materially by increasing inventories. In areas where income from sales of both livestock and crops is important, a change in price relationship, when type classification is based on income, may cause a shift in the type of farm, such as from a crop farm to a livestock farm, from a livestock farm to a crop farm, or from one of these types to a general farm, or vice versa.

Considerable change in the proportion of farms producing products primarily for sale and the farms producing products primarily for use by farm households occurred between 1940 and 1945 because of differences in the relative increases in the values of farm products sold and farm products for household use. The increase per farm in the value of farm products sold was considerably greater than the increase per farm in the estimated value of farm products used by farm households. Thus, as shown in table 1, the average value of sales for farms reporting any sales increased from \$1,190 in the Census of 1940 to \$3,046 in the Census of 1945 and the value of farm products used increased from \$197 to \$341. As a result of these disproportionate increases, a considerable number of farms classified as farms producing farm products primarily for use by farm households in 1940 became farms producing products primarily for sale in 1945, even when the 1945 classification procedure was used for both years.

FARMS CLASSIFIED BY TYPE, FOR THE UNITED STATES: CENSUSES OF 1945 AND 1940



SOURCE: TABLE 4.