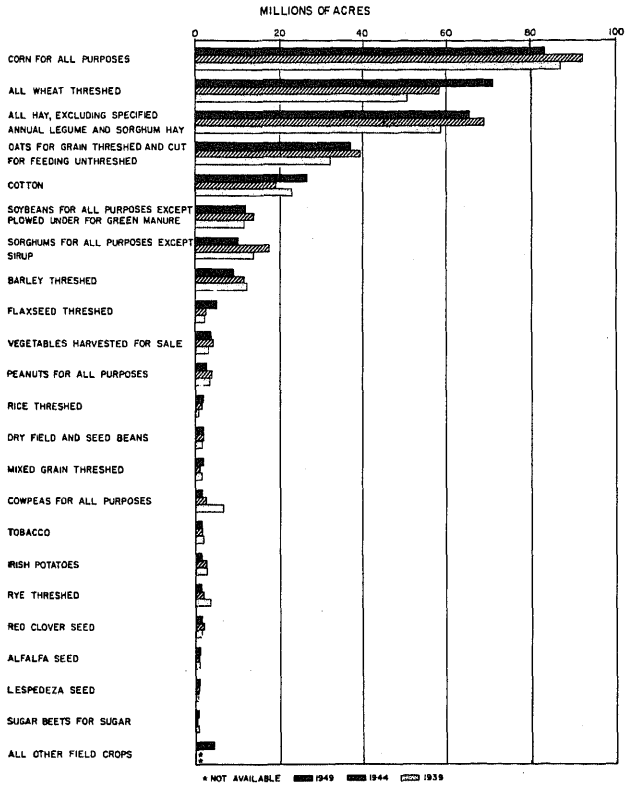
FARM PRODUCTION

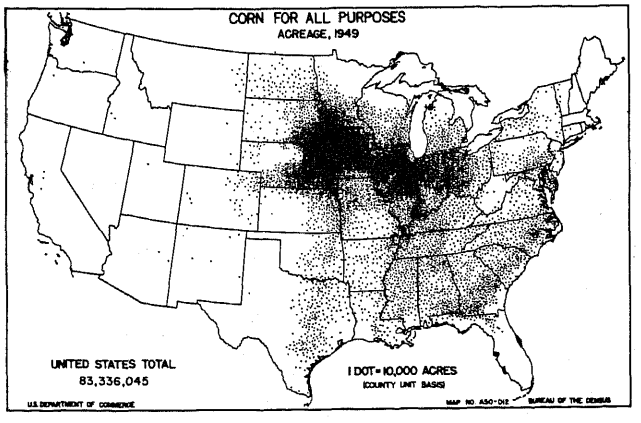
The wide range in climate and agricultural resources in the United States makes possible a wide diversity of agricultural products. Rainfall, length of growing season, terrain, kind of soil, distance to market, bulk of product, etc., influence the type of farm products in most areas.

ACREAGE OF SPECIFIED FIELD CROPS AND VEGETABLES HARVESTED FOR THE UNITED STATES: 1949, 1944, AND 1939

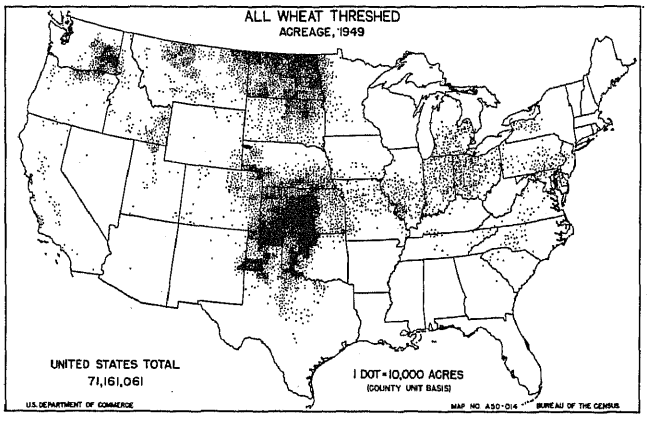


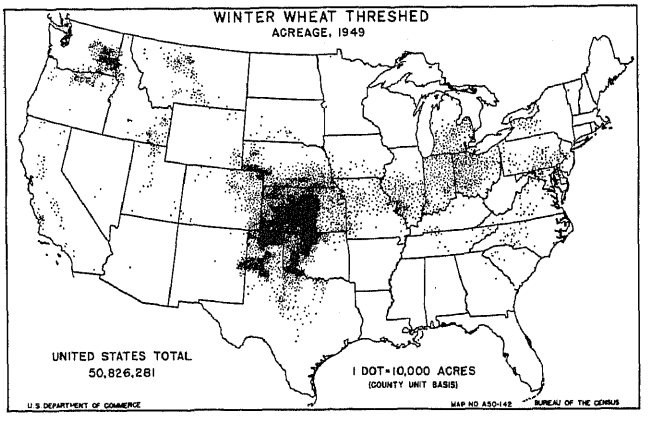
Crops

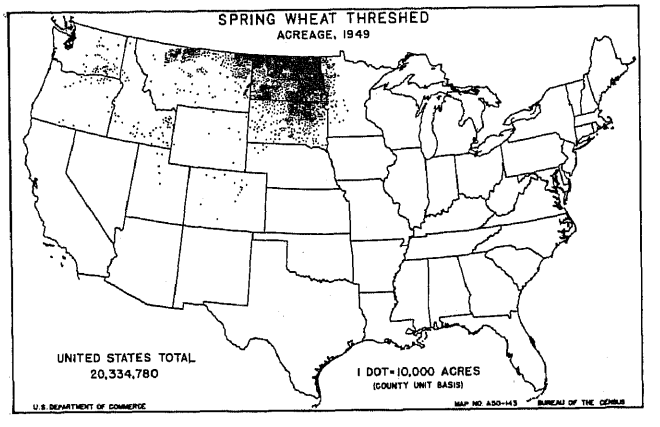
On the basis of acreage, the eight leading crops in the United States in 1949 were corn, wheat, hay, oats, cotton, soybeans, sorghums for feed, and barley. These crops accounted for more than 90 percent of the acreage of all crops. Other crops harvested were largely specialty crops with a high value per acre.



Corn.—Corn, the leading crop in the United States, was grown in every State. Almost a fourth of the cropland harvested was in corn, more than 90 percent of which was harvested for grain. The United States corn crop made up more than one-half of the world's annual production. The center of production was Iowa, Illinois, Missouri, and the surrounding area commonly referred to as the Corn Belt.

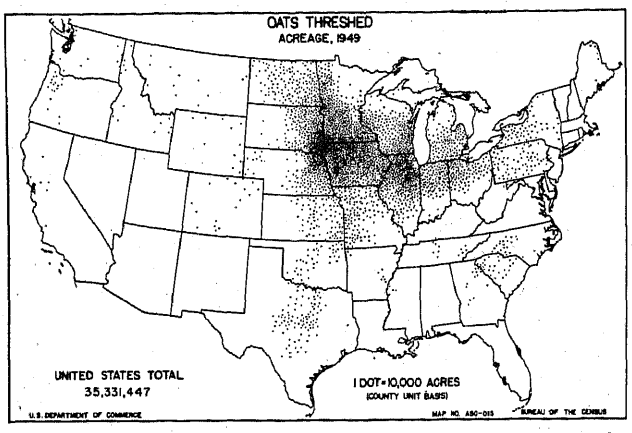




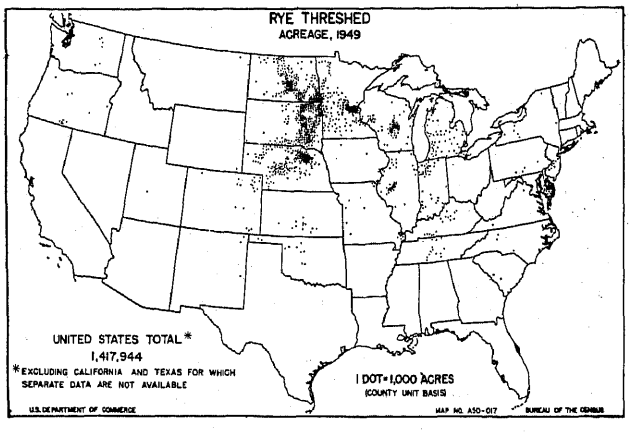


Wheat.—Wheat was the second most important crop. In 1949, it was harvested from more than 71 million acres or approximately a fifth of the cropland in the Nation. Wheat production was centered in the Great Plains States, west of the Mississippi River and east of the Rocky Mountains. Almost three-fourths of the United States acreage was in the States of Montana, North Dakota, South Dakota, Kansas, Nebraska, Oklahoma, Texas, Washington, and Colorado.

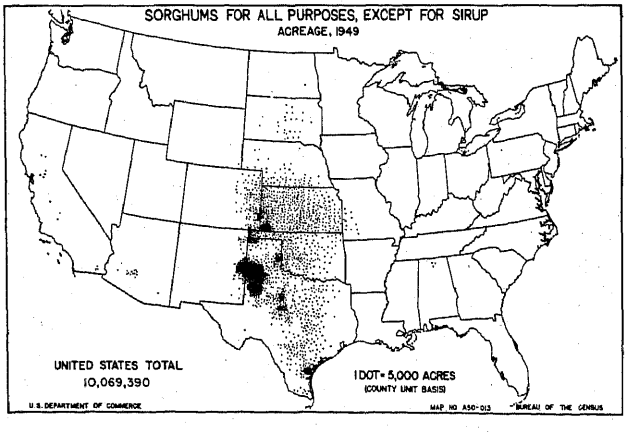
Winter wheat, which is sowed in the fall, comprised 71 percent of the total wheat acreage. The acreage was concentrated in Kansas, Texas, Oklahoma, Nebraska, Colorado, Washington, Illinois, Ohio, Indiana, Missouri, and Michigan. Spring wheat, which is sowed in the spring, represented 29 percent of the total wheat acreage. The two spring wheat areas were in North Dakota, South Dakota, Minnesota, Montana, and in Washington. In these areas, the winters are severe and fall-sown winter wheat does not generally survive. Durum or macaroni, a spring wheat, was concentrated in North Dakota and South Dakota.



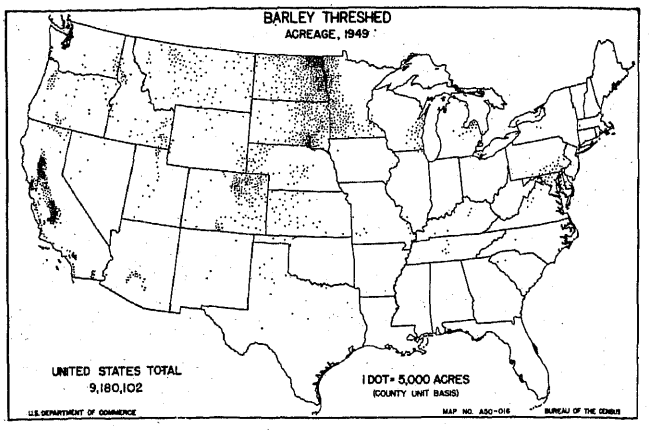
Oats.—Oats harvested for grain and for feeding unthreshed was the fourth most important crop in the United States. The principal oat-producing areas were in the Midwest. The three leading States were Iowa, Minnesota, and Illinois.



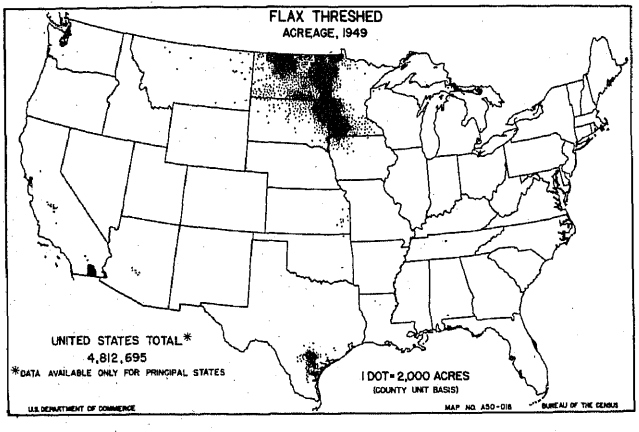
Rye.—Rye acreage comprised 0.4 percent of the acreage of all crops harvested in 1949. Almost half of the rye acreage was in the three States of North Dakota, South Dakota, and Nebraska. Smaller acreages were scattered throughout most of the other Western States. Slightly more than half the crop is sold for use as flour and for use in the distilling industry. The remaining part of the crop is used for feed and seed.



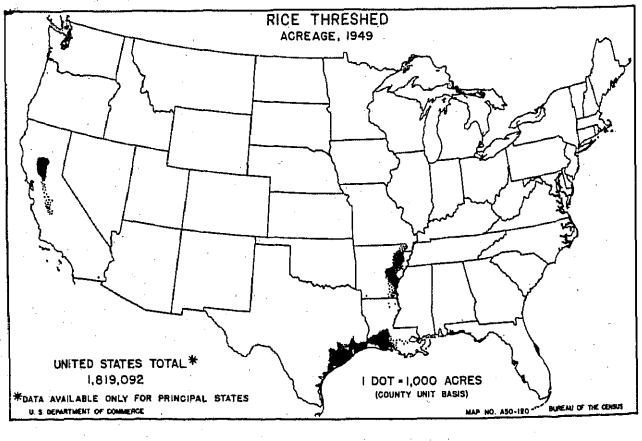
Sorghums.—The acreage of sorghums for grain and forage was 2.9 percent of the acreage of all harvested crops. Sorghums have drought-resisting qualities and are used as a substitute for corn and barley in areas that have low and uncertain rainfall. Production was concentrated almost exclusively in Texas, Oklahoma, and Kansas.



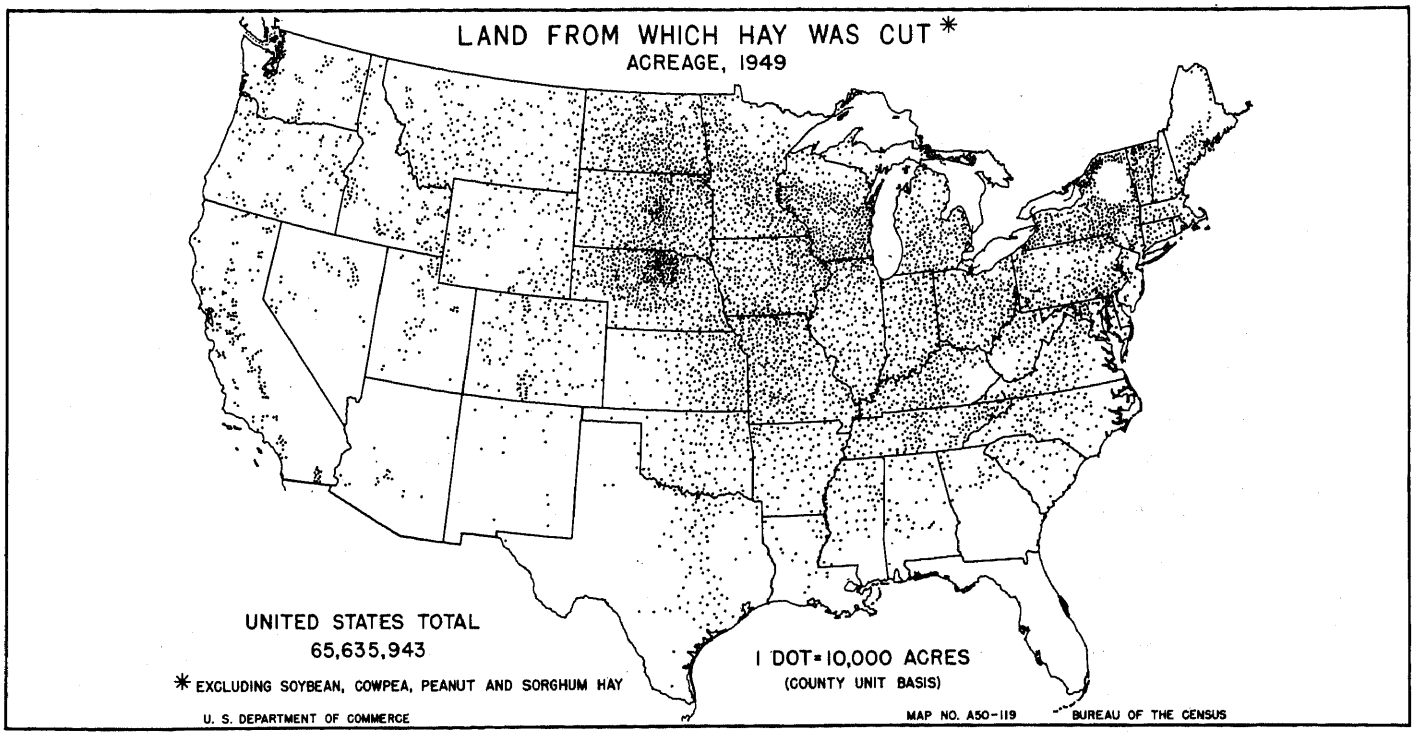
Barley.—Barley represented less than 3 percent of the acreage of all crops in the United States. A large part of the acreage was in California, North Dakota, South Dakota, Minnesota, and Colorado.



Flax.—Flax was grown in localized areas and comprised 1.2 percent of the acreage of all harvested crops in 1949. North Dakota, South Dakota, Minnesota, Texas, and the Imperial Valley of California accounted for 95 percent of the total acreage. Flax is a cash crop, most of which is sold for industrial use as oil. The meal, a byproduct of the crushing of flaxseed, is used for feeding livestock.

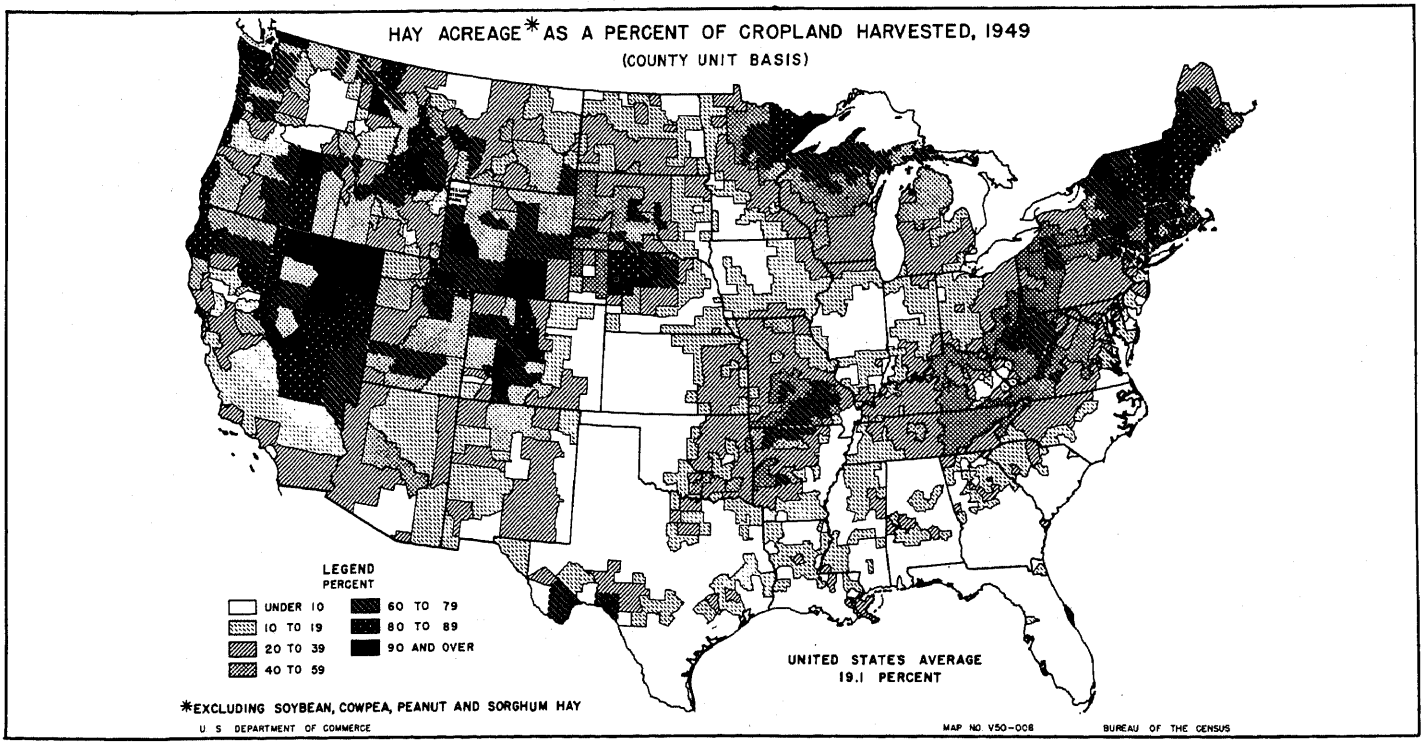


Rice.—The acreage of rice comprised one-half of one percent of the acreage of all crops. Rice production was limited to four States—California, Texas, Louisiana, and Arkansas. The entire crop was harvested from irrigated land.



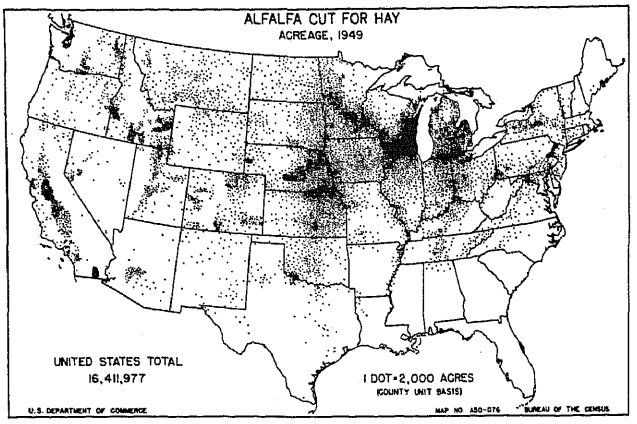
Hay.—Hay is a crop of great agricultural importance in the United States. Hay was harvested from more farms than any other crop except corn. While it occupied a smaller acreage than wheat, the value of the hay crop exceeded that of any other crop except corn and cotton.

Land from which hay was cut comprised almost a fifth of the land from which crops were harvested in 1949. The acreage was concentrated in the northern and eastern parts of the country and in the irrigated areas of the West.

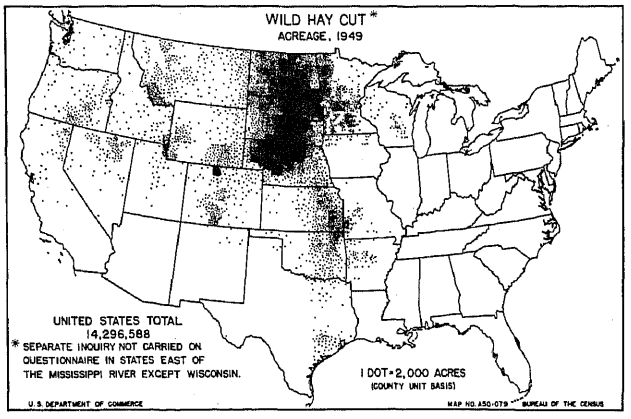


There was a relatively small acreage of hay land in the South. In that region, dependence has been placed upon annual legumes, such as cowpeas, soybeans, etc., for hay. The acreage of land from which hay was cut does not include the acreage of annual-legume hay or the acreage of sorghums cut for hay or forage.

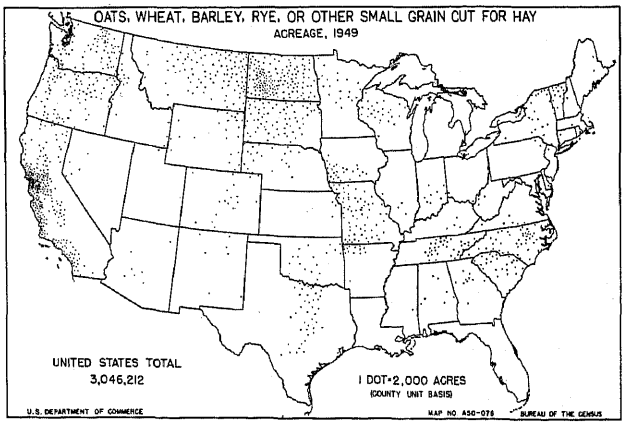
The total acreage of hay in 1949 was composed of alfalfa, 25.0 percent; clover and timothy, 28.3 percent; wild hay, 21.8 percent; lespedeza, 10.6 percent; small grain hay (oat, wheat, rye), 4.6 percent; and other tame hay, 9.7 percent.

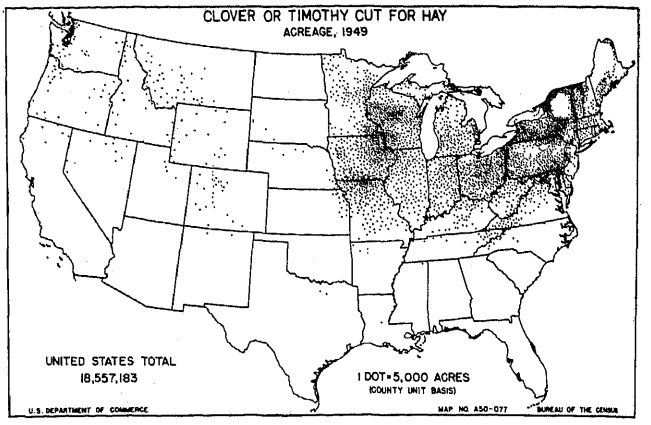


On the basis of production and value, alfalfa was the most important kind of hay. The acreage was concentrated in irrigated areas and in the North Central States.

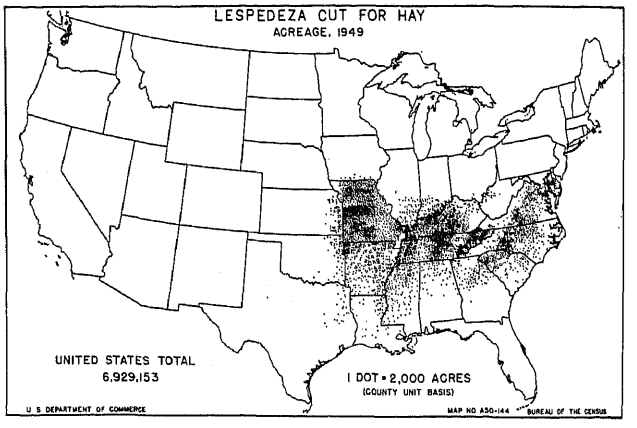


Wild hay was important in North Dakota, South Dakota, Nebraska, Kansas, and Oklahoma, and in the range areas of the West.



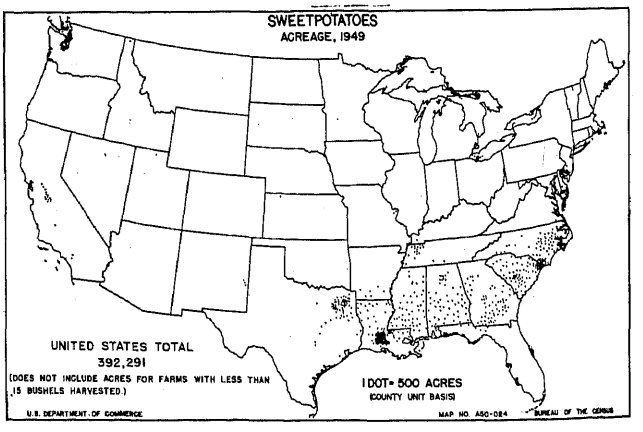


The production of clover and timothy hay was concentrated almost wholly in the North. The three leading States were New York, Wisconsin, and Pennsylvania.

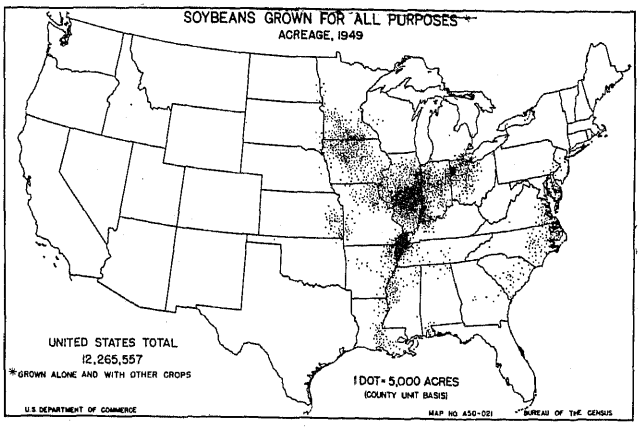


Lespedeza was limited largely to the northern part of the South and to the Northern States bordering the South. Nearly all lespedeza hay is fed in the area in which it is harvested.

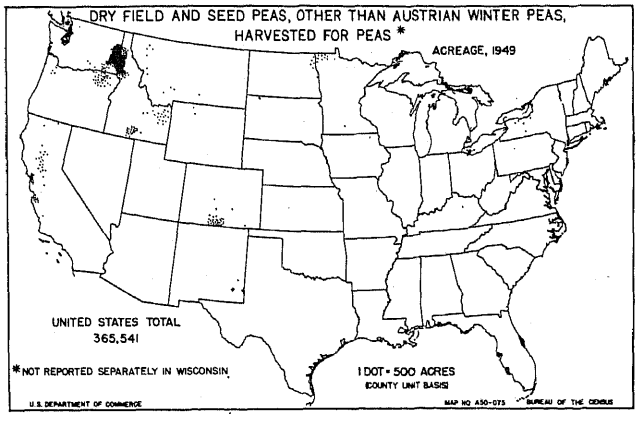
The acreage of other hay, which included redtop, orchard grass, bent grass, bluegrass, millet, and sudan grass, was distributed throughout the United States with a concentration in the northeastern States.



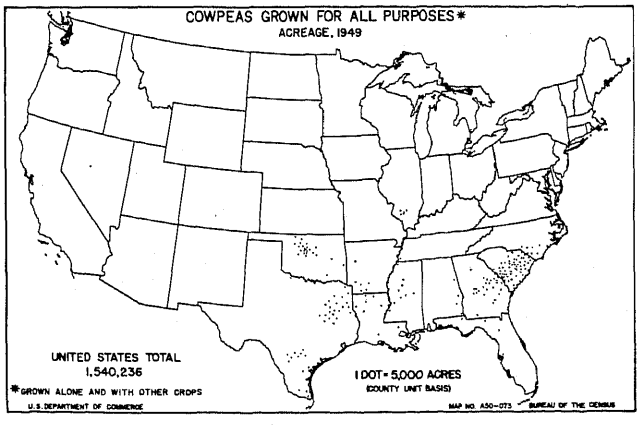
Sweetpotatoes.—The acreage of sweetpotatoes comprised one-tenth of one percent of the total acreage of crops harvested. More than 90 percent of the acreage was in the South. About one in four farms in the South harvested sweetpotatoes in 1949.



Soybeans.—Soybeans comprised 3.5 percent of the acreage of all crops harvested. Soybeans are used for forage, pasture, and for the production of oil for industrial uses and for food. The principal areas of soybean production were Illinois, Iowa, Indiana, Ohio, Minnesota, and the upper Mississippi River Delta.



Dry field and seed peas.—The acreage of dry field and seed peas made up one-tenth of one percent of the acreage of all crops harvested. The acreage of dry field and seed peas was confined mostly to the irrigated valleys of the West. Almost four-fifths of the acreage was in eastern Washington and western Idaho.



Cowpeas.—The acreage of cowpeas for all purposes represented 0.4 percent of the acreage of all harvested crops. Cowpeas are grown largely for soil improvement, although considerable quantities are grown for seed and for human consumption. More than one-half of the United States total was grown in the three leading States of South Carolina, Texas, and Georgia.

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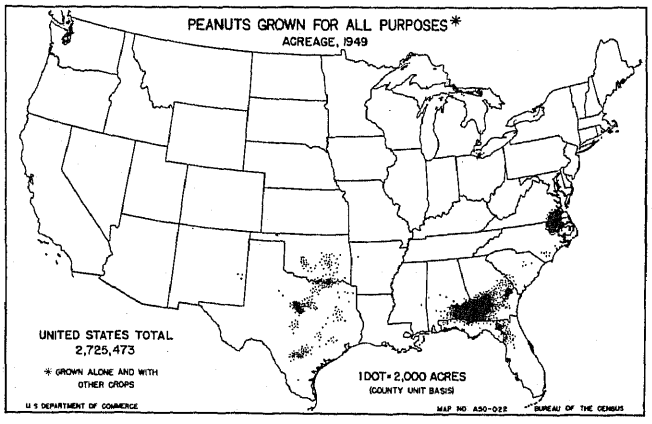
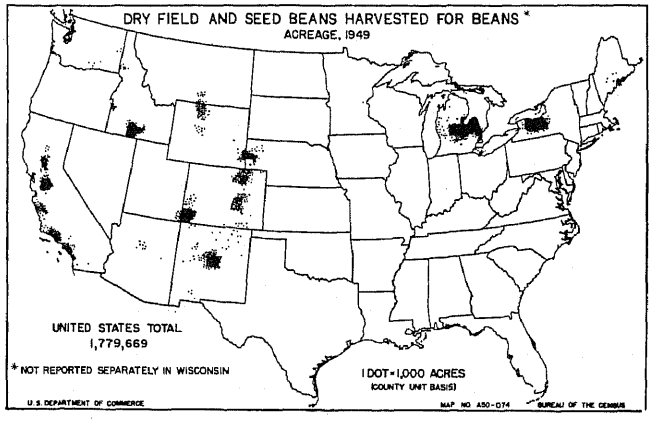
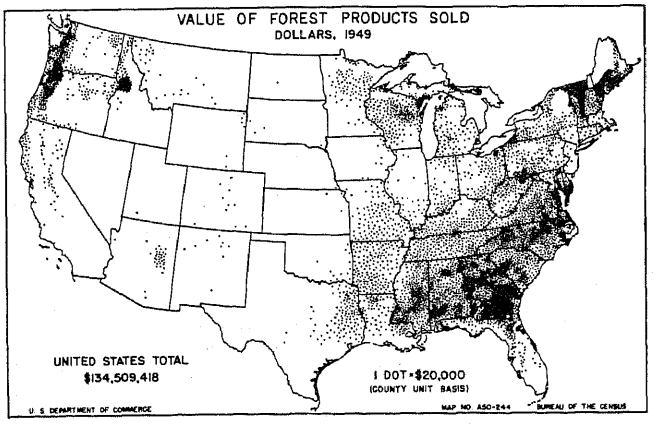


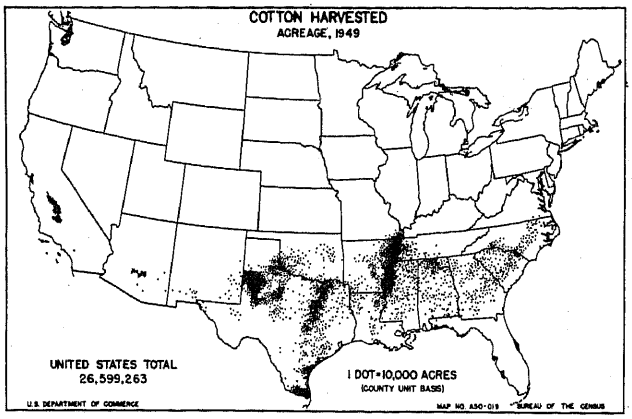
Peanuts.—The acreage of peanuts for all purposes represented 0.8 percent of the acreage of all harvested crops. Peanuts were an important cash crop in southeastern Virginia, northeastern North Carolina, southern Georgia, southeastern Alabama, and the eastern part of Texas. A large part of the peanut crop was sold for use in the manufacture of oil, peanut butter, confectionery, etc. Peanuts were also used for feed, particularly for hogs. In many areas, peanut vines were fed as forage.



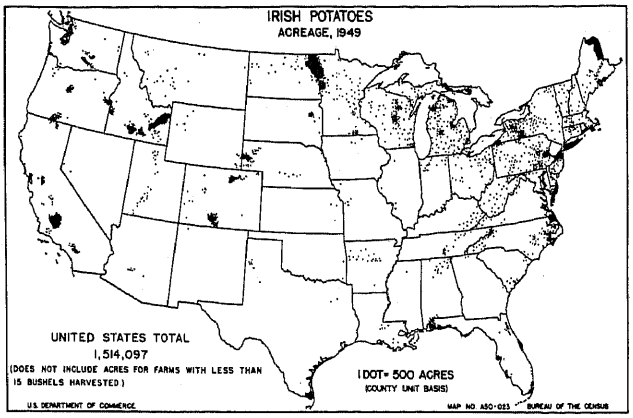
Dry field and seed beans.—The acreage of dry field and seed beans was highly localized and comprised 0.5 percent of the acreage of all crops. Production was concentrated almost completely in approximately a dozen areas. The three leading States in acreage were Michigan, California, and Colorado.



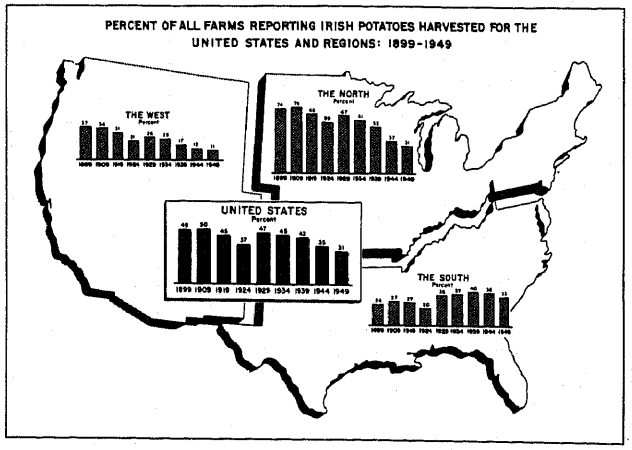
Forest products.—The value of forest products sold represented 0.6 percent of the value of all farm products sold. Considerable amounts of firewood, fence posts, lumber, and other forest products were cut and used on farms in 1949.



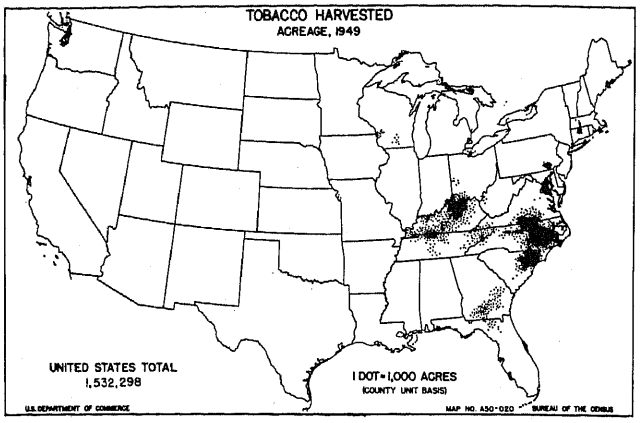
Cotton.—Cotton, the outstanding nonfood agricultural commodity in the United States, occupied 7.7 percent of the land from which crops were harvested in 1949. All cotton was grown in the southern part of the country. Texas, Mississippi, and Arkansas were the leading cotton-producing States.



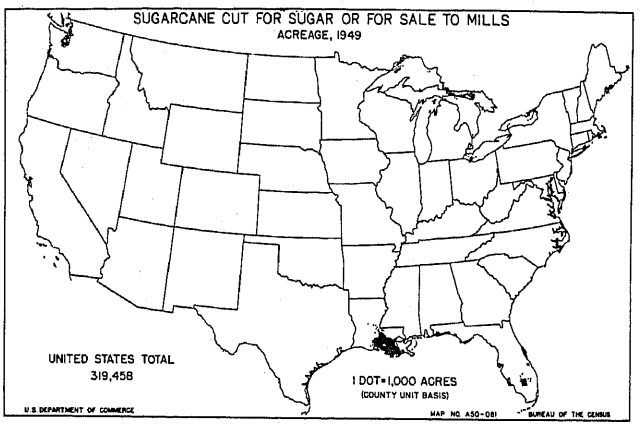
Irish potatoes.—Irish potatoes were grown on 30.7 percent of the farms and occupied 0.4 percent of the acreage of all crops harvested. They were grown largely in the northern part of the country. The commercial production of Irish potatoes was highly localized. About a third of the 1949 crop was produced in six counties—Aroostook County, Maine; Kern County, California; Suffolk County, New York; Bingham County, Idaho; Rio Grande County, Colorado; and Walsh County, North Dakota. Over nine-tenths of the crop was produced by the 62,000 farms harvesting 3 or more acres.



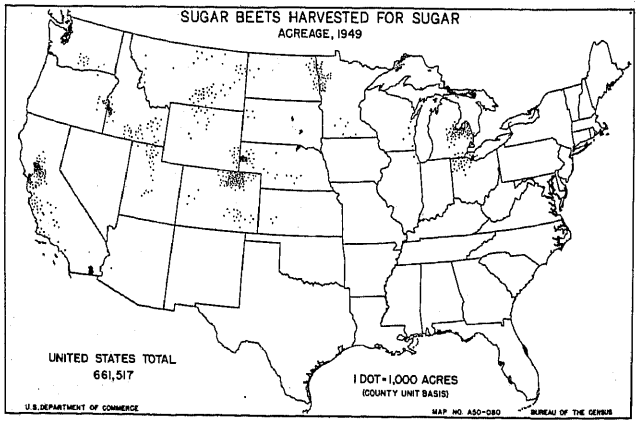
Tobacco.—The tobacco acreage comprised 0.4 percent of all harvested crops and farms growing tobacco represented 9.9 percent of all farms in the United States. Tobacco production is



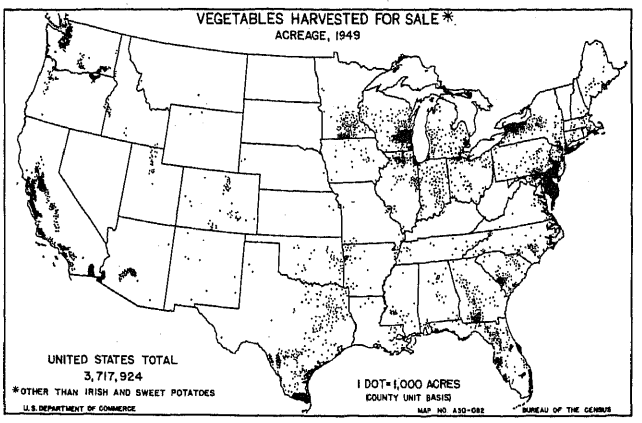
highly localized due primarily to the influence of climate and soil on the properties of the leaf. Flue-cured tobacco was produced in North Carolina, South Carolina, Virginia, and Georgia; Burley and dark-fired tobacco, in Kentucky and Tennessee; Maryland-type, in Maryland; and cigar-type in Pennsylvania, Wisconsin, Florida, and Georgia. In most areas, the acreage per farm was small.



Sugarcane.—Sugarcane for sugar occupied 0.1 percent of the total acreage of harvested crops. The growing of sugarcane for sugar was limited to Louisiana and Florida. More than nine-tenths of the acreage was in the lower Mississippi Valley in Louisiana.

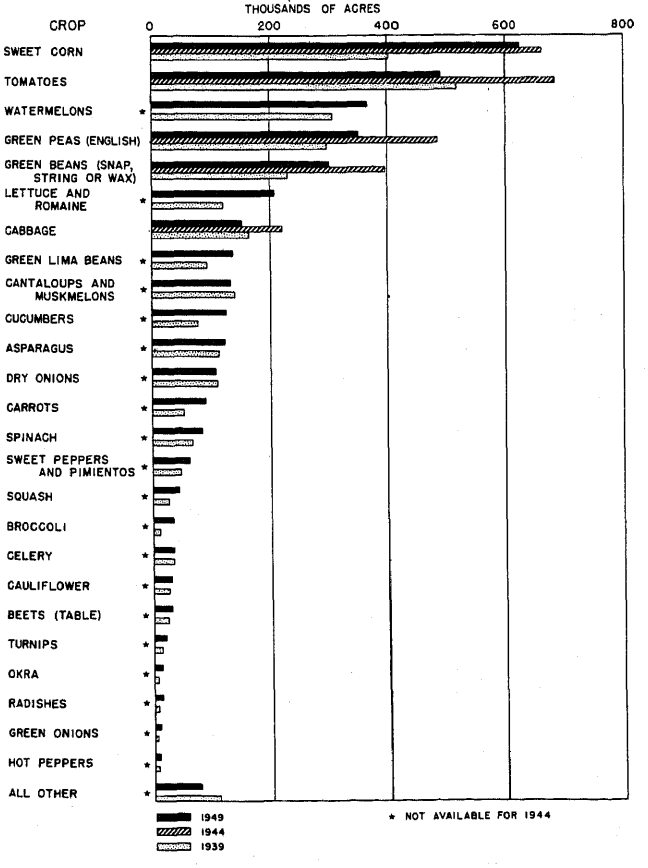


Sugar beets.—The production of sugar beets for sugar was confined to specialized irrigated areas in the Western States. The acreage of sugar beets was 0.2 percent of the acreage of all harvested crops. Four-fifths of the acreage was in three States California, Colorado, and Michigan.

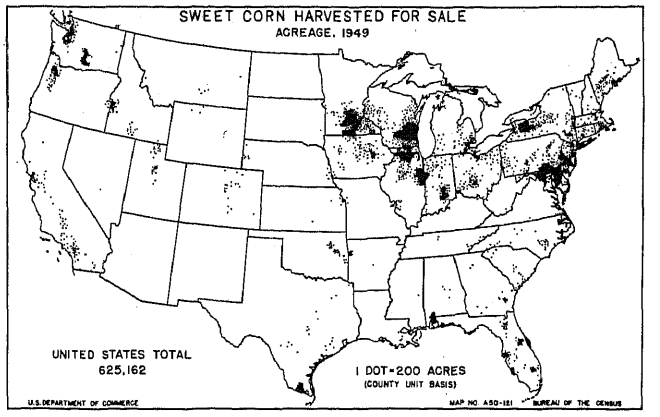


Vegetables for sale.—Vegetables for sale were grown chiefly in areas near urban centers and in the winter vegetable-producing areas of California, Arizona, Texas, and Florida. The western part of the country accounted for more than two-fifths of the value of vegetables sold. California was the leading State, producing about three-tenths of the value of all vegetables harvested for sale. The other leading States in order of rank on the basis of acreage were Texas, Florida, Wisconsin, New York, and New Jersey. Two-fifths of the value of all vegetables produced for sale came from irrigated land.

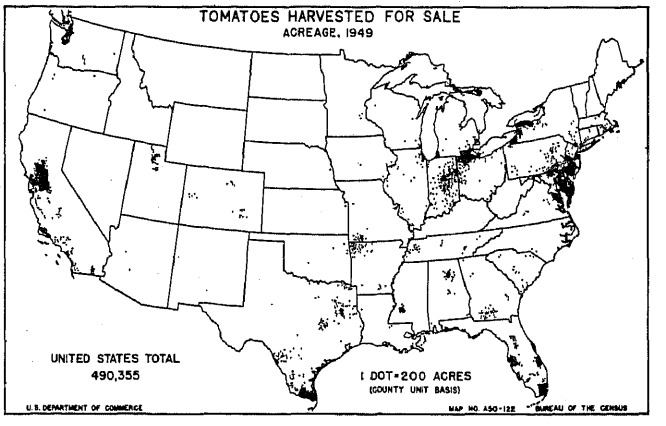
ACREAGE OF SPECIFIED VEGETABLE CROPS HARVESTED FOR SALE FOR THE UNITED STATES: 1949, 1944, AND 1939



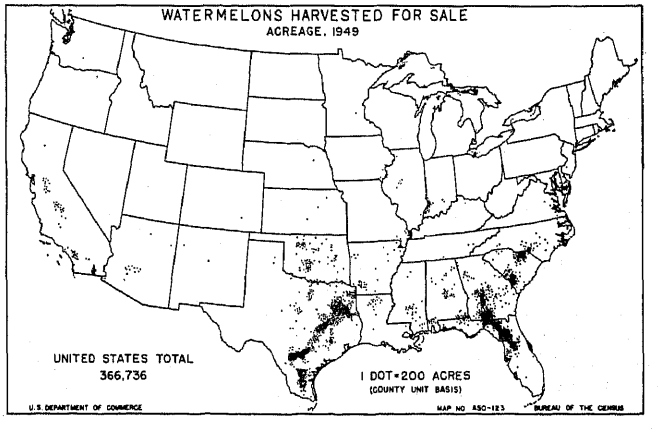
In 1949, the total acreage of vegetables grown for market or processing was 3,717,924. This acreage was equivalent to 1 acre for every 41 persons in the United States and represented 1.1 percent of the acreage of all crops. The five vegetables leading in acreage were sweet corn, comprising 16.8 percent of the total vegetable acreage; tomatoes, 13.2 percent; watermelons, 9.9 percent; green peas, 9.5 percent; and green snap beans, 8.1 percent.



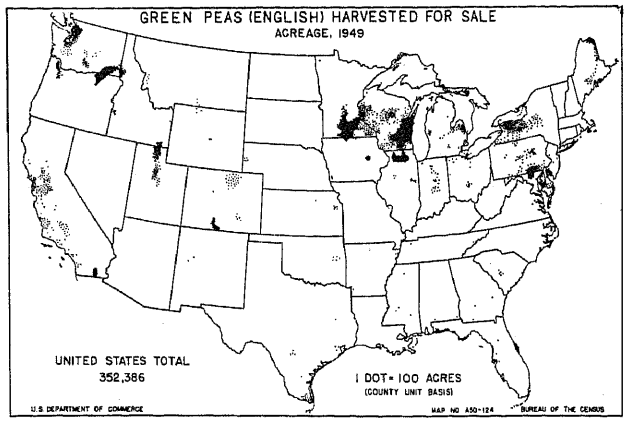
Sweet corn.—Sweet corn was grown for sale chiefly in the Northern States and in California. Most of the crop grown in the North was canned. In California, in the South, and in areas near urban centers, it was sold fresh in nearby city markets.



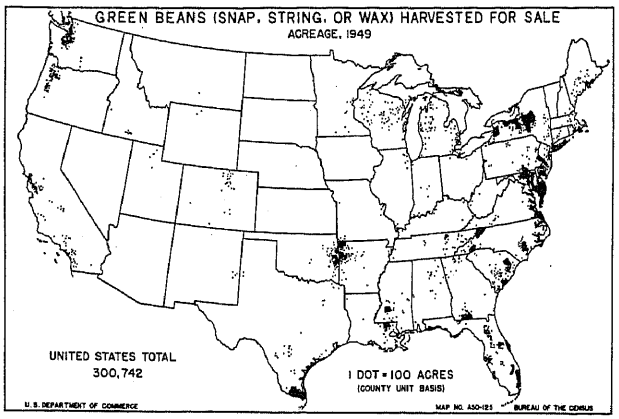
Tomatoes.—Tomatoes are grown commercially for use as fresh vegetables and for processing as canned tomatoes, catsup and sauces, pastes, and juices. The acreage in the Northern States was chiefly for processing, while a considerable part of the acreage in California and in the South was for sale for consumption as fresh tomatoes.



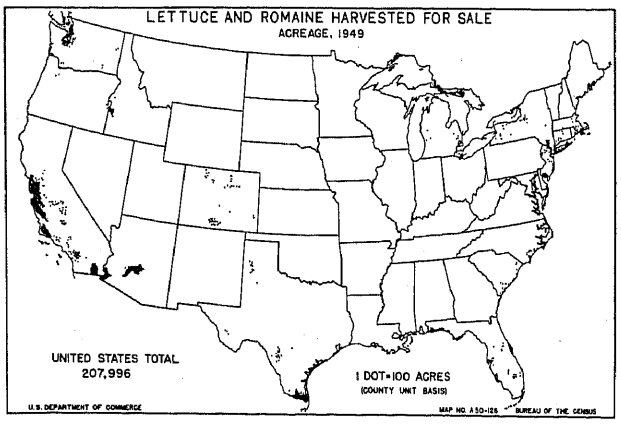
Watermelons.—The production of watermelons for sale was confined largely to the Southern States. The three States having the largest acreage in 1949 were Texas, Florida, and Georgia.



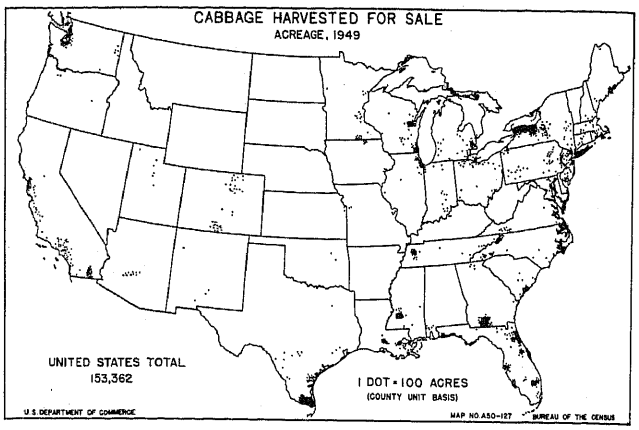
Green peas.—Most of the acreage of green peas was in the Northern States. A large part of the crop was canned. On the basis of acreage, Wisconsin, Oregon, Washington, Minnesota, Illinois, and New York were the leading States.



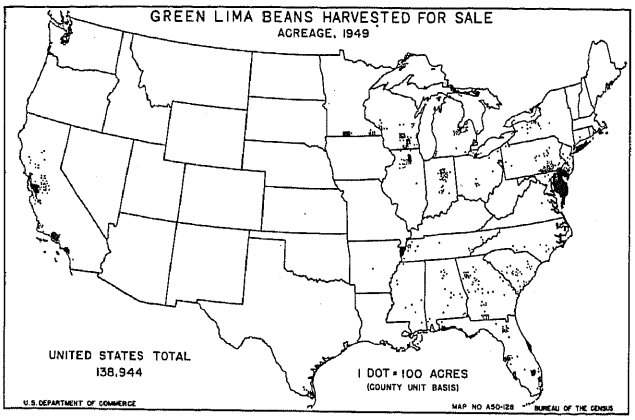
Green beans.—Green beans were harvested for sale for use as fresh vegetables and for canning. Much of the acreage in Florida was harvested during the winter. On the basis of acreage, Florida, New York, Virginia, and Texas were the leading States.



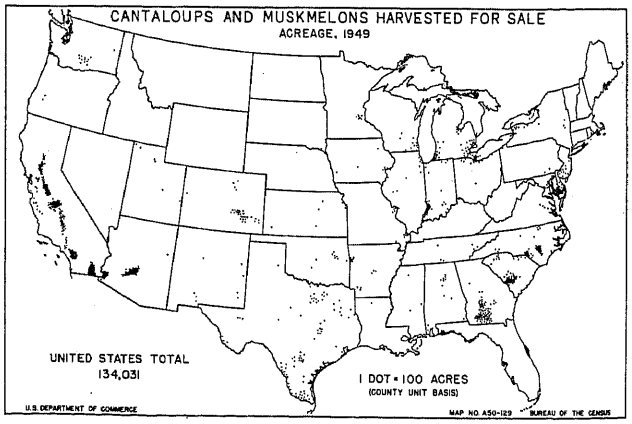
Lettuce.—Lettuce was the most important salad crop and one of the principal vegetable crops grown. More than three-fifths of the acreage was in California. Over two-thirds of the remainder was in Arizona, Colorado, and Texas.



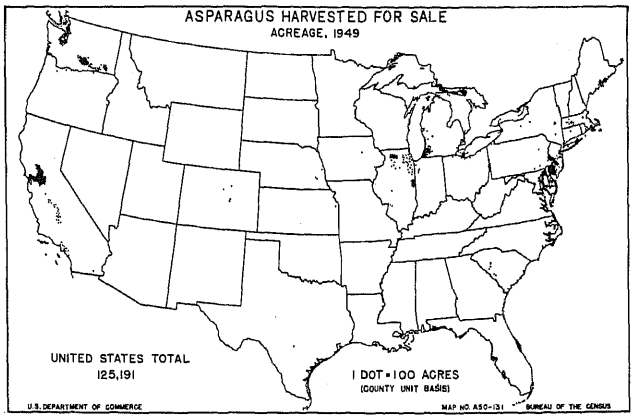
Cabbage.—The Southern States produced cabbage for marketing in the first part of the year. The Middle Atlantic States and North Carolina, Michigan, and Wisconsin produced cabbage for the mid-season harvest, and Pennsylvania, New York, Michigan, Colorado, and Wisconsin produced late-season cabbage. The four leading States on the basis of acreage were Texas, New York, Florida, and North Carolina.

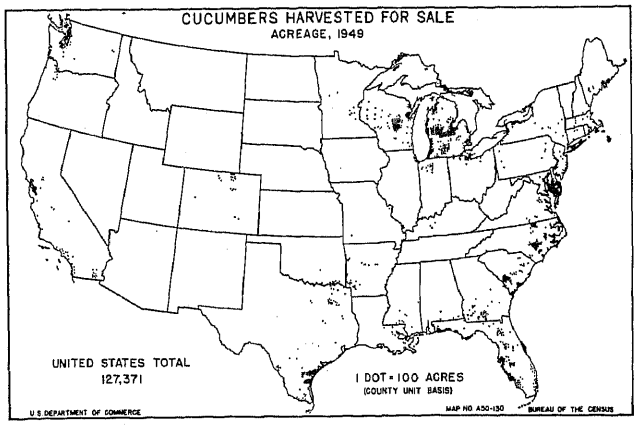


Lima beans.—More than two-fifths of the acreage of green lima beans was in the three States of California, Delaware, and New Jersey.



Cantaloups and muskmelons.—The principal cantaloup-producing areas were in California and Arizona. These two States had 48.7 percent of the total acreage in 1949.

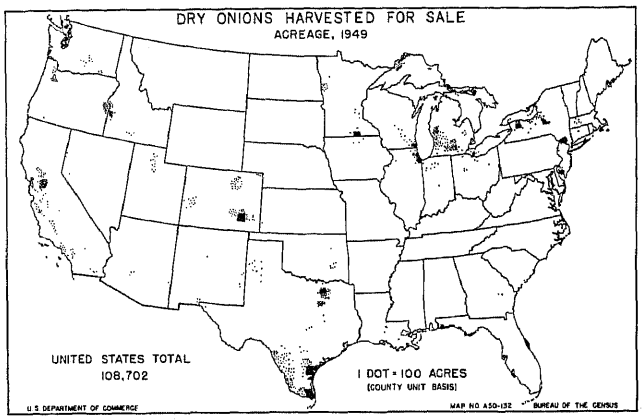




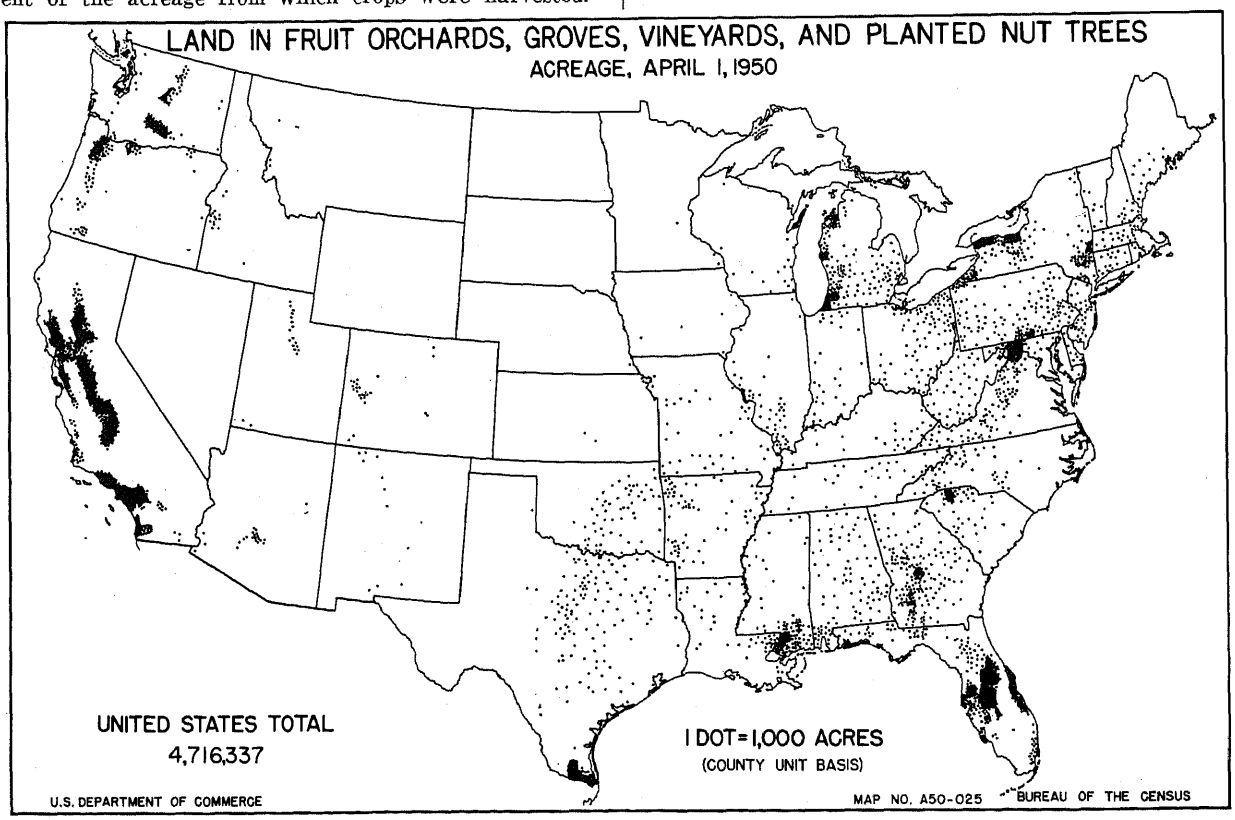
Asparagus.—California had over half the Nation's asparagus acreage. Washington, New Jersey, Illinois, and Michigan had about one-third of the total acreage.

Cucumbers.—Cucumbers harvested in Colorado, Michigan, Wisconsin, Indiana, Ohio, Virginia, and Maryland were used chiefly for pickles. Other areas produced cucumbers both for fresh use and for pickles.

Onions.—Texas had a larger acreage of dry onions than any other State. Texas, New York, Michigan, Colorado, California, and Minnesota had over three-fourths of the total acreage in 1949.

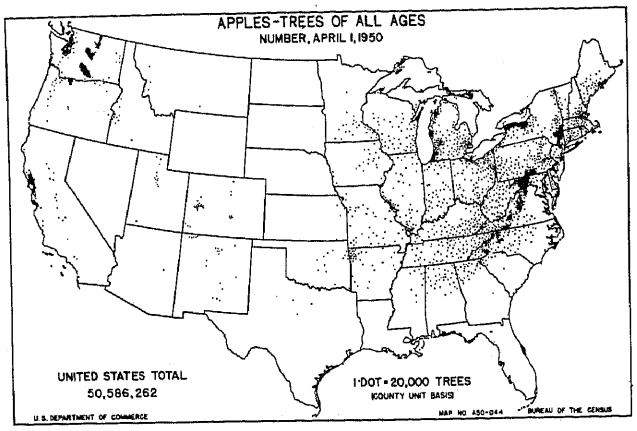


Land in fruit orchards.—Land in fruit orchards, vineyards, and planted nut trees totaled 4,700,000 acres in 1950 and comprised 1.4 percent of the acreage from which crops were harvested.

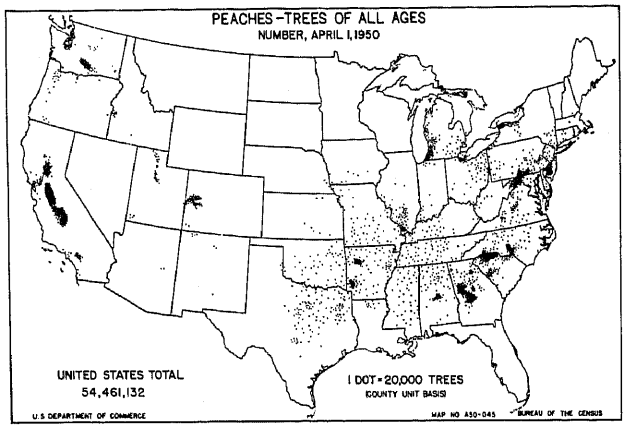


California had almost a third of the total acreage. Florida had slightly over a third as many acres as California, mostly in citrus fruits. Considerable acreages of apples, grapes, and peaches were concentrated in areas in Michigan and New York. Peaches and pecans were important in Georgia, and apples, in Maryland, Virginia, and West Virginia.

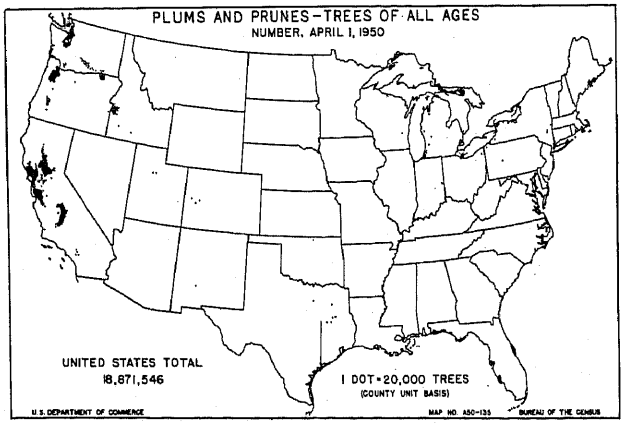
The total value of all fruits (except berries and small fruits) and grapes and nuts harvested in 1949 was $896 million.



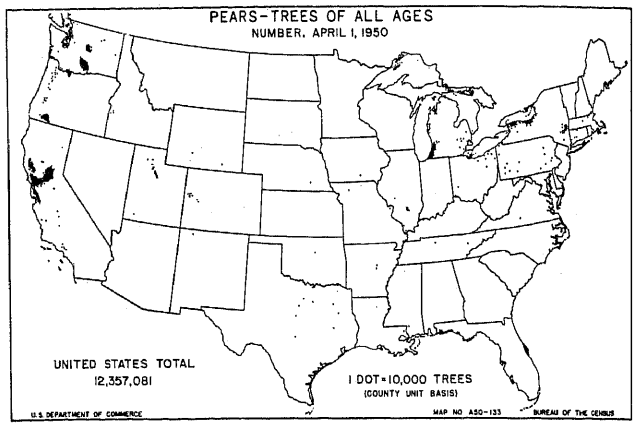
Apples.—Apple trees were concentrated mostly in the valleys and foothills of the Eastern States. New York was the leading State. Large numbers of trees were located in Pennsylvania, Virginia, Michigan, and the irrigated valleys of the West.



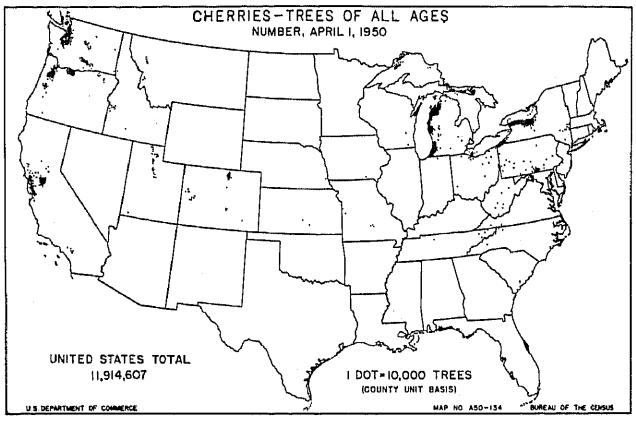
Peaches.—There were more peach trees in the South than in the North or the West. California was the leading State with 16.9 percent of the United States total. The next three most important States on the basis of the total number of trees were Georgia, South Carolina, and Michigan.



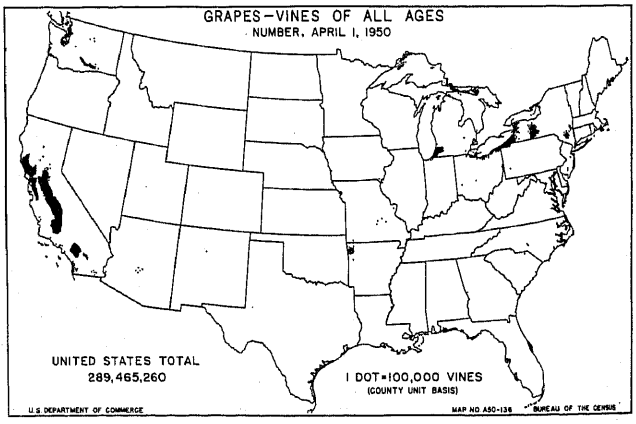
Plums and prunes.—Plums and prunes were confined largely to the three Pacific Coast States. On the basis of the number of trees, California ranked first, followed by Washington and Oregon. The two principal Eastern States were Michigan and New York.



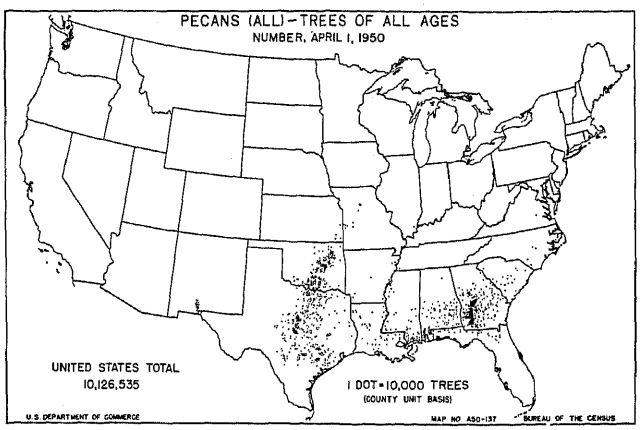
Pears.—Pears were an important fruit crop in only a few areas. The principal pear-producing areas were in central California; the Rogue River Valley in Oregon; the Yakima Valley in Washington; Allegan, Berrien, Mason, and Van Buren counties in Michigan; and Columbia, Wayne, Niagara, Orleans, and Oswego counties in New York.



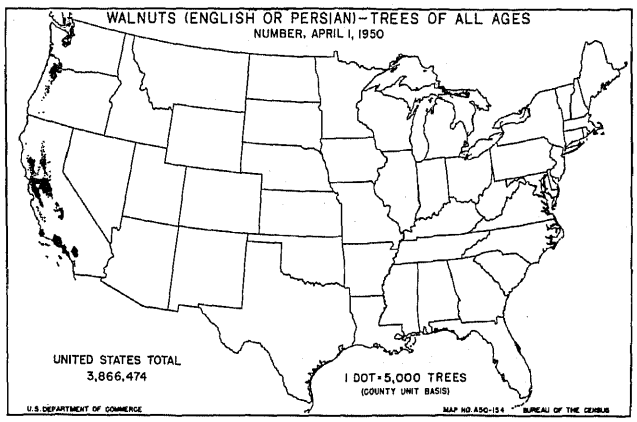
Cherries.—The largest concentrations of cherry trees were along the Great Lakes in New York, Michigan, and Wisconsin, and in Colorado, California, Washington, and Oregon. On the basis of the total number of trees, the four leading States were Michigan, New York, Wisconsin, and Oregon.



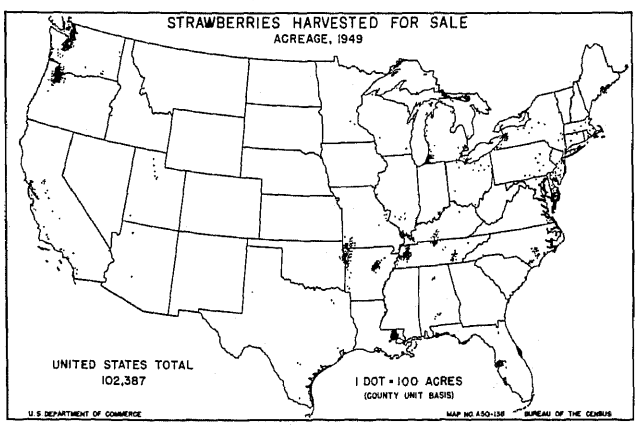
Grapes.—Grapes were concentrated in California and in the areas along the shores of the Great Lakes. California had four-fifths of all grape vines. New York ranked second with 7.5 percent of the United States total.



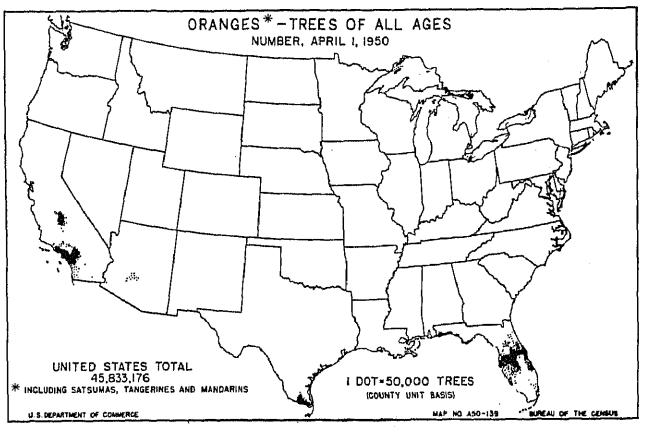
Pecans.—Pecans were limited largely to the South. Texas, Georgia, and Oklahoma had over two-thirds of the total number of trees. Most of the trees west of the Mississippi River were of wild or seedling stock, while most of those east of the Mississippi were of the improved varieties.

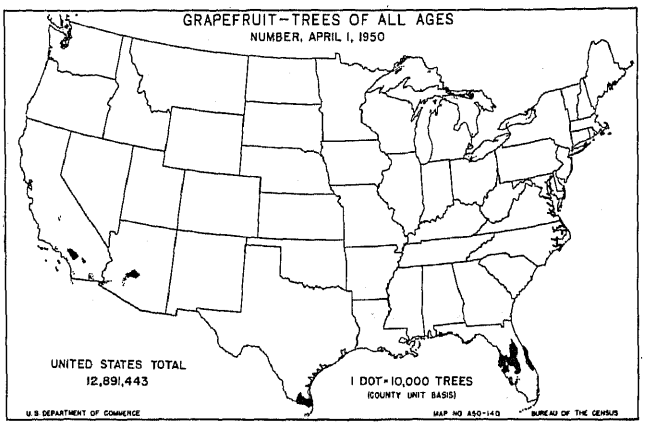


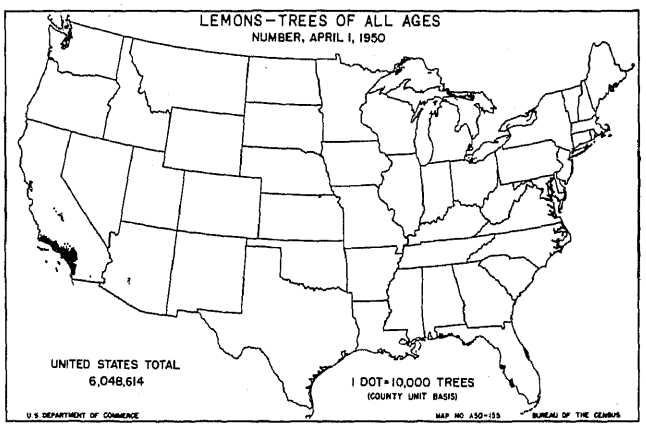
Walnuts.—English or Persian walnut trees were concentrated in California, in the Willamette Valley of Oregon, and in Washington.



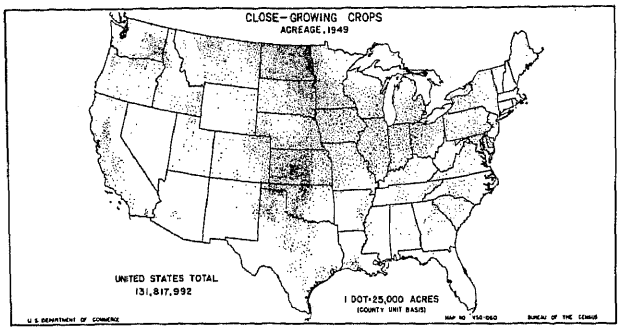
Strawberries.—The commercial production of strawberries was oncentrated in relatively few areas. The largest acreage was n Oregon. Other important areas were in Washington, Louisi-na, Missouri, Arkansas, Kentucky, Tennessee, Virginia, Mary-and, and Michigan.





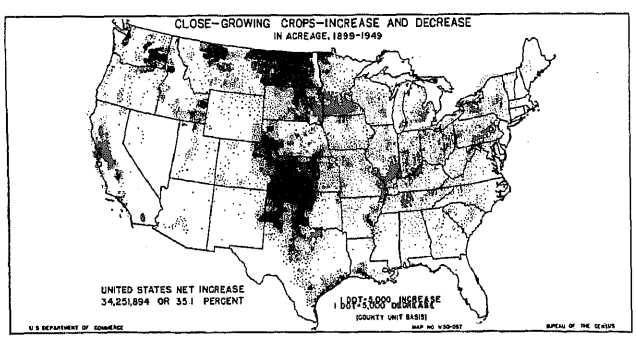


Citrus fruits.—Practically all the citrus fruit trees were in California, Florida, and Texas. California had about half the orange trees; Florida, 44 percent; and Texas, 9 percent. Florida had about half the grapefruit; Texas, a little over two-fifths; and California and Arizona, the remaining one-tenth. California had practically all the lemon trees.

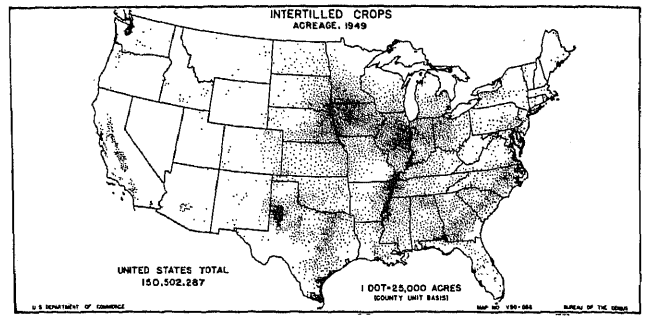


Close-growing crops.—Close-growing crops include wheat, oats, barley, rye, flax, and rice. These crops are more effective than intertilled crops in checking soil and moisture losses through erosion, but are not as effective as a good stand of perennial hay or a well-established pasture. A total of 131,817,992 acres, or 38.3 percent of all cropland harvested in 1949, was in close-growing crops.

Heaviest concentration of close-growing crops in 1949 coincided very closely with the major wheat-producing areas of the country—parts of the Great Plains and parts of the Pacific Northwest. This might be expected because wheat represented 54 percent of the total acreage used for these crops. The Corn Belt and the southern part of the Lake States also had large acreages, mostly wheat, oats, and other small grains grown in rotation with corn and hay.

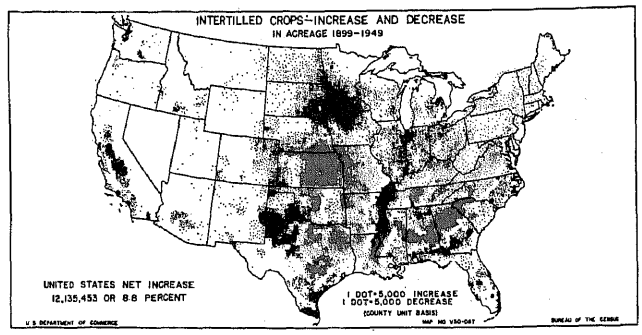


The increases in the acreage of close-growing crops occurred largely in the dry-farming areas west of the Mississippi, where large acreages of pasture and grazing lands were shifted to the production of wheat and other small grains. The decrease in the Eastern States was associated with the decline in the acreage of cropland harvested and the shift from small grains to corn in southern Minnesota, northern Iowa, and adjacent areas. The area of greatest decrease in the West was in California, where considerable acreages of wheat were replaced by cotton, vegetables, fruits, and alfalfa hay.



Intertilled crops.—Interest in soil and water conservation has led to a classification of crops based essentially upon relative effectiveness in limiting or preventing erosion. Intertilled crops are primarily those which are normally cultivated during the growing season and which supply, during most of the year, the poorest vegetative protection for the soil. They include corn, sorghums, cotton, tobacco, peanuts, soybeans, cowpeas, potatoes, vegetables, fruits, and other crops.

In 1949, a total of 150,502,287 acres, or 43.7 percent of the total acres of cropland harvested, was in intertilled crops. Of the total acreage in this group of crops, corn and cotton represented 73.0 percent. Areas with the largest acreage of intertilled crops were, as might be expected, in the Corn Belt and in the important cotton-producing areas of Texas and the Mississippi Delta. The total also includes considerable areas of vegetables, tobacco, peanuts, and cotton in the Atlantic Coastal Plain extending from New Jersey through Georgia.

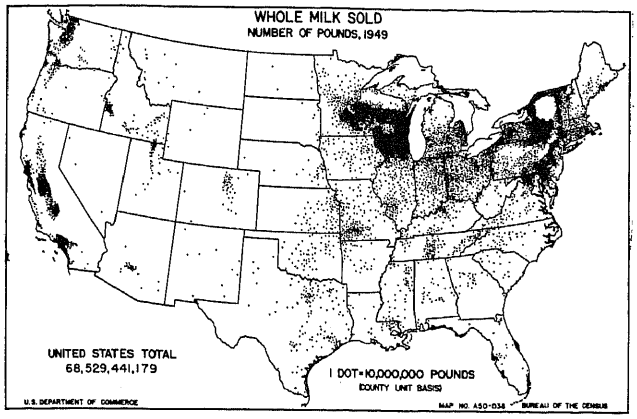


Changes in the acreage of intertilled crops during the last 50 years were associated with some of the major shifts in agriculture. The greatest increases occurred in connection with land development through drainage and irrigation and with the conversion of pasture land to cropland. Areas with large increases included the Mississippi Delta, the Rio Grande Valley of Texas, southwestern Minnesota, northern Iowa, eastern South Dakota, and California. Decreases occurred in areas in the eastern States where the acreage of cropland has declined; the southeastern States in which there was a decrease in the cotton acreage; and in Kansas, Missouri, and adjoining States where there has been a significant shift from corn to small grains.

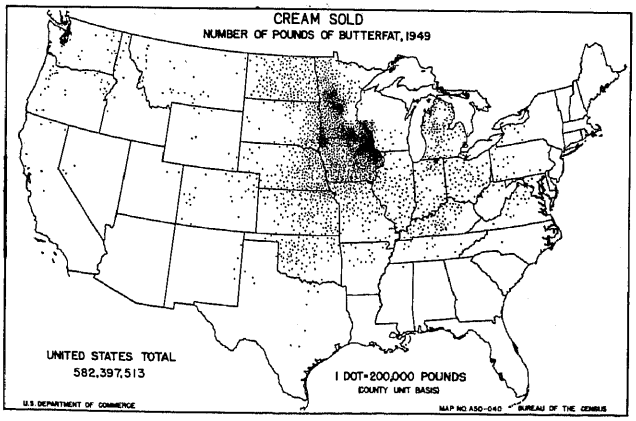
Livestock Production

The value of livestock and livestock products sold in 1949 was $12.1 billion and comprised 54.9 percent of the value of all farm products sold. More than one-fourth of the value of sales was in the Corn Belt States of Ohio, Indiana, Illinois, Iowa, and Missouri.

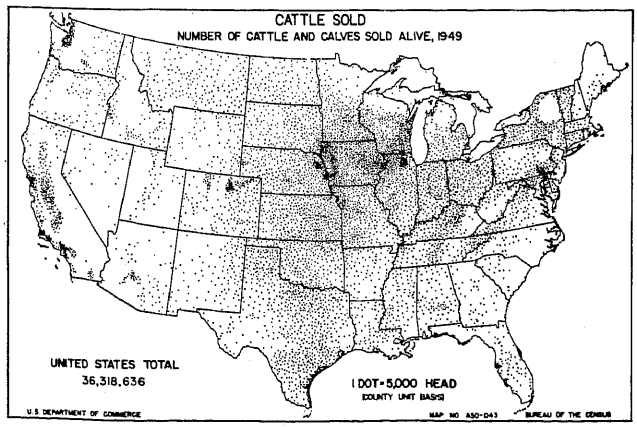
The leading sources of the value of livestock and livestock sales were: Dairy products $3.1 billion, or 25.4 percent of the total; hogs $2.4 billion, or 19.7 percent of the total; and cattle and calves



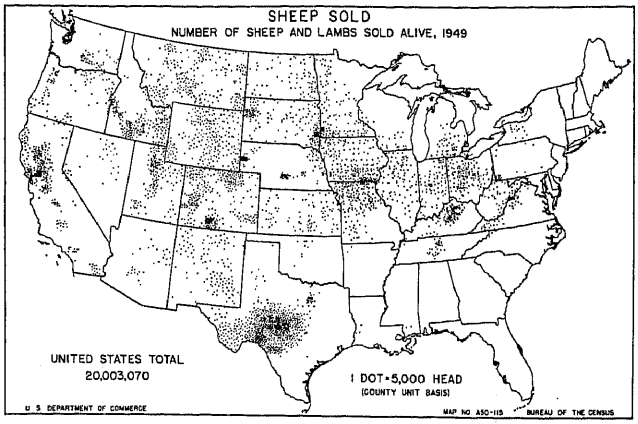
Whole milk sold.—Whole milk sold comprised more than four-fifths of the value of all dairy products sold in 1949. Three-fourths of the whole milk sold was in California, Minnesota, Wisconsin, Michigan, Iowa, Illinois, Indiana, Ohio, New York, Pennsylvania, and the New England States. Whole milk sales were largest in the milkshed areas adjacent to or surrounding large cities.



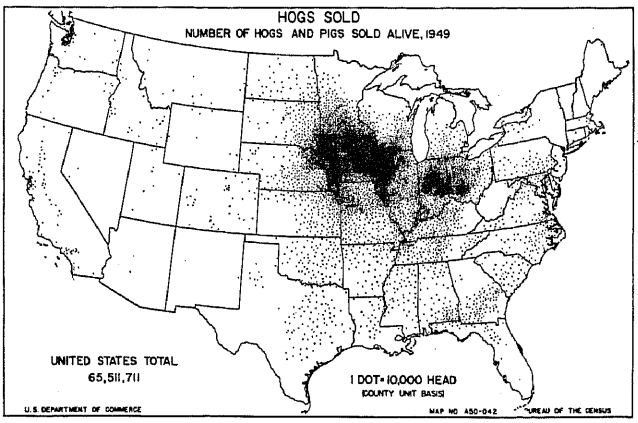
Cream sold.—About two-thirds of the cream sold as butterfat was sold in the West North Central States.



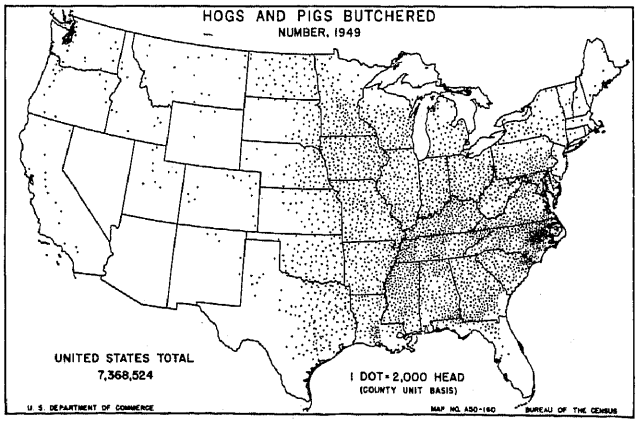
Cattle and calves sold.—Of the 36.3 million head of cattle and calves sold in 1949, 20.7 million were cattle and 15.6 million were calves. The area of largest sales was in the western Corn Belt States of Iowa, Illinois, Kansas, and Nebraska.



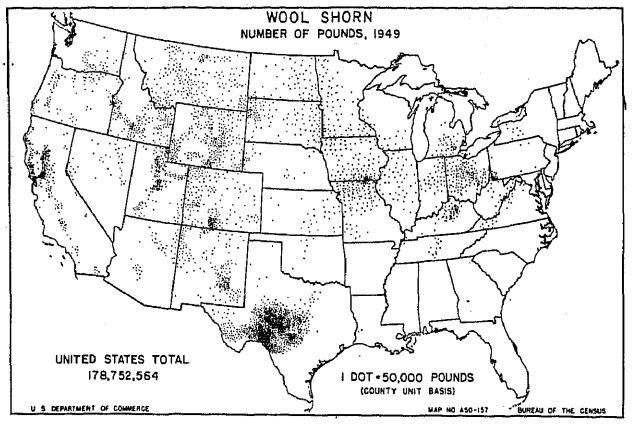
Sheep and lambs sold.—Sheep and lambs were sold chiefly from the western sheep States of Texas, Colorado, California, Montana, and Wyoming. Many of the lambs were shipped to feeding districts in irrigated areas of the West and to the Corn Belt for further growth and fattening. The six leading States on the basis of the number sold were Texas, Colorado, California, Montana, Wyoming, and Idaho.



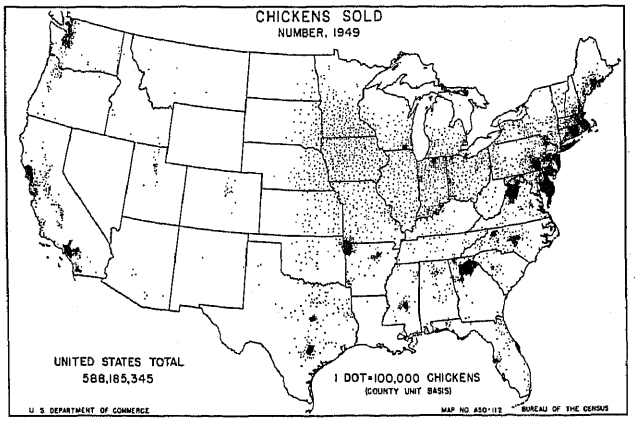
Hogs sold.—The sale of hogs was concentrated in the Corn Belt. The States of Iowa, Illinois, Ohio, and Indiana had 47.2 percent of the United States sales of hogs in 1949.



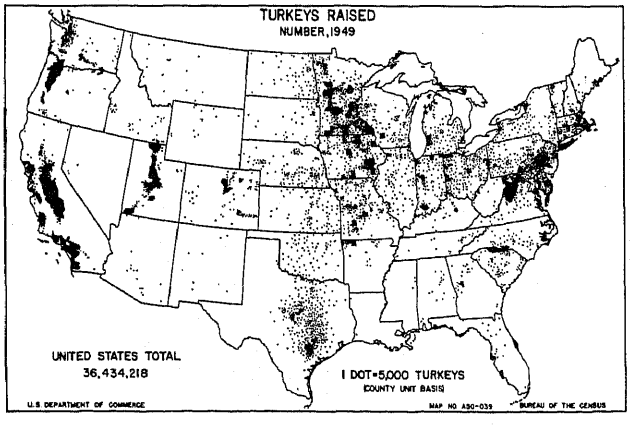
Hogs were butchered on farms mostly for home use. Approximately three out of five farms butchered hogs.



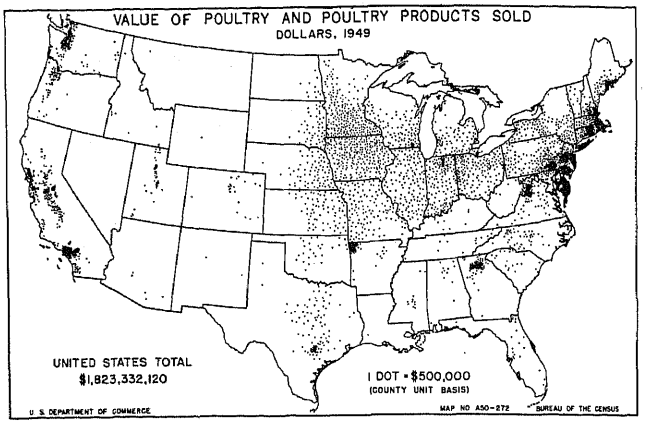
Wool.—Wool production was confined largely to the grazing areas of the West. Texas was the leading State, having more than one-fifth of the United States total. Other leading States on the basis of pounds of wool shorn were Wyoming, Montana, California, Colorado, New Mexico, Utah, and Idaho.



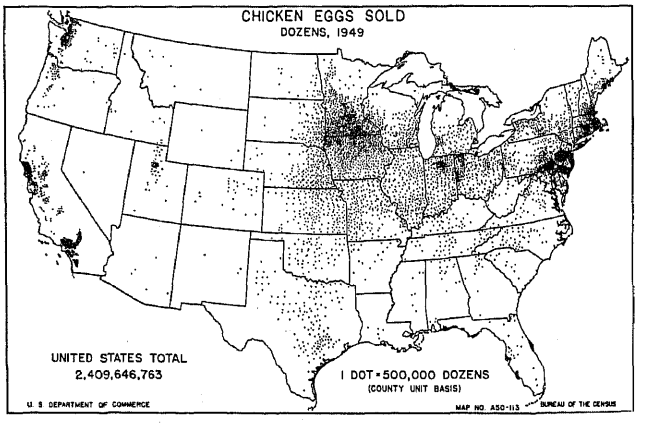
Chickens sold.—Chickens were sold from one out of three farms in 1949. The number of chickens sold was equivalent to 172 percent of the number of chickens on farms on April 1. The most prominent areas of chicken sales in Delaware, Maryland, Virginia, Pennsylvania, Georgia, Massachusetts, Arkansas, Missouri, and Texas were important areas of broiler production.



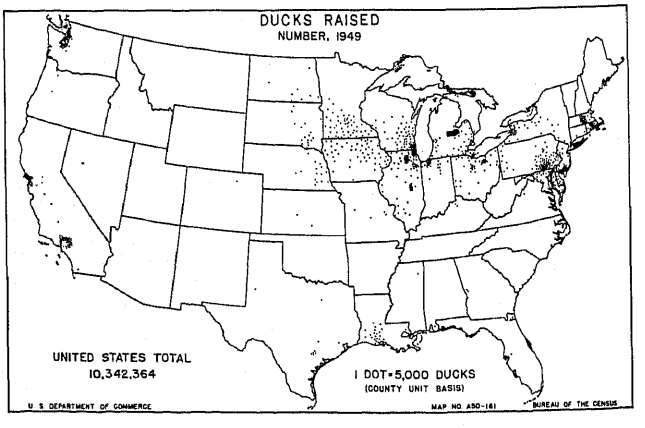
Turkeys raised.—More than 36 million turkeys were raised in 1949. The production was equivalent to one turkey for every four persons in the United States. Major areas were in the irrigated valleys of California and other Western States and in Virginia, Minnesota, Iowa, and Texas.



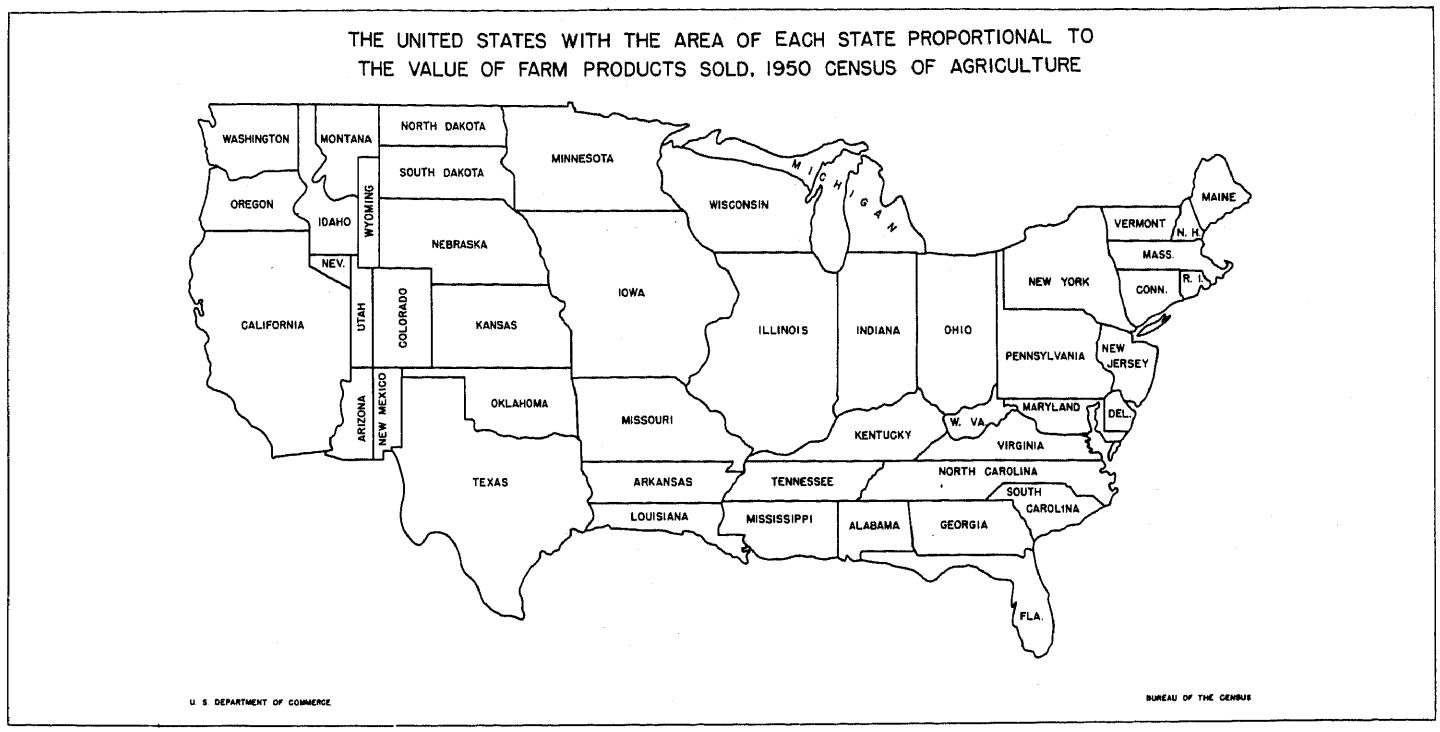
Poultry and poultry products sold.—Poultry and poultry products comprised about one-sixth of the value of all livestock and livestock products sold in 1949. Areas of greatest sales were near large cities in the Eastern States, in the Midwest, and in California. Concentrated areas of sales in Texas, Missouri, Georgia, and Virginia were those areas with large sales of broilers.



Eggs sold.—Egg sales were scattered throughout the United States, but were most concentrated in the Northern States and in California. The areas with highest density of sales were in New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Massachusetts, Minnesota, and Iowa.

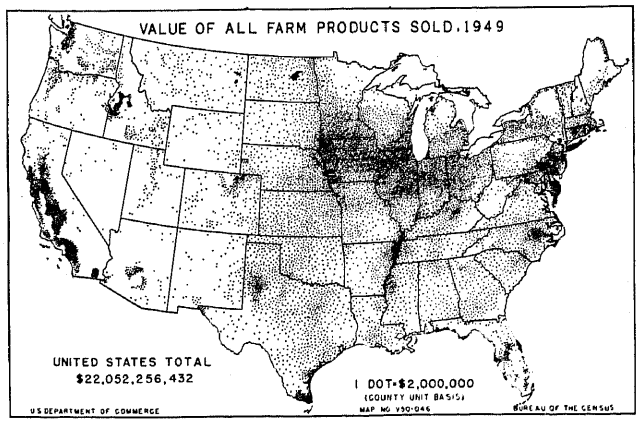


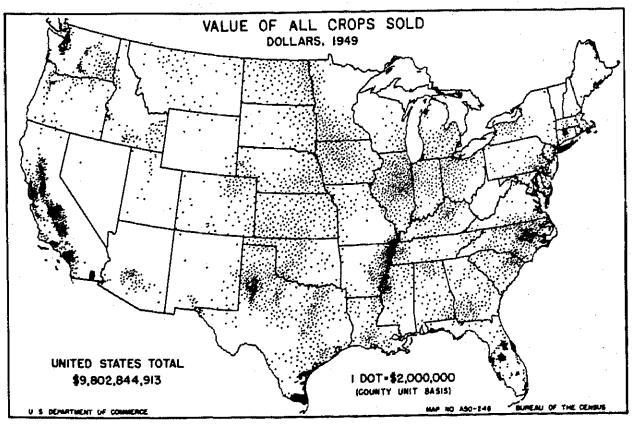
Ducks raised.—Nearly two-fifths of the ducks were raised on Long Island in New York. The four leading States were New York, Illinois, Michigan, and Massachusetts.

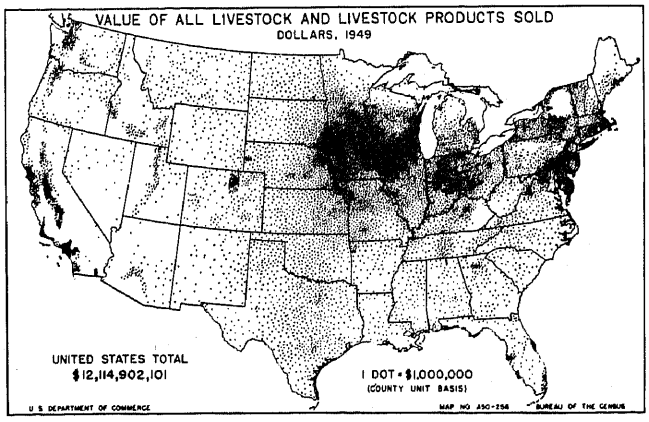


All Farm Products Sold

On this economic map of the United States, the size of each State has been made proportional to the value of farm products sold. Some States like California, Iowa, Illinois, etc., that provided a relatively large amount of farm products sold in proportion to their land area, became much larger than they appear on a map drawn on the basis of area.







Farm production regionally.—The value of farm products sold provides an over-all measure of total farm production. The highest agricultural production per square mile occurred in southern California and southeastern Pennsylvania. The Corn Belt States of Iowa, Illinois, and Indiana comprised the most extensive contiguous region of high production in relation to area.

The sale of crops in 1949 totaled almost 10 billion dollars and represented 44 percent of the sale of all farm products. The density of crop sales was greatest in the cotton-producing areas in the Mississippi Valley, the irrigated valleys producing cotton and fruits in the West, the tobacco- and cotton-producing areas of North Carolina and South Carolina, the citrus-producing areas of Florida and Texas, and the wheat-, corn-, and soybean-producing areas in the Midwest.

The sale of livestock and livestock products in 1949 amounted to more than 12 billion dollars or 55 percent of all farm products sold. The areas of greatest concentration included the Corn Belt, the dairy and poultry areas of eastern United States, and the irrigated valleys of California and other parts of the West.