



PASTURELAND

Total land pastured.—Nearly every part of the United States has some pastureland. The total acreage of all pasture in farms reported by the 1954 Census of Agriculture was 647 million acres. If the 353 million acres of grazing land not in farms is added to the acreage of pastureland in farms, the total acreage of all pasture and grazing land is about 1 billion acres. If the distribution of the grazing land not in farms were added to the map of total land pastured in farms, many of the areas not occupied by dots would be filled in. This would be particularly true in the Western and Southern States where most of the grazing land not in farms is located.

Cropland used only for pasture.—On the whole, cropland used only for pasture constitutes the most productive part of the pastureland area. Generally, it is pasture that is being grown

in rotation with crops. As the accompanying map shows, this kind of pasture is especially concentrated in the Corn Belt, Delta, Southern Plains, and the western part of the Appalachian States. The major concentration in the Western States is located in the Central Valley of California.

Pasture other than cropland and woodland.—The pastureland included in this category differs widely in quality. Some of it has been improved by liming, fertilizing, and seeding. Extensive areas of the unimproved part of this open permanent pasture are parts of the native rangelands which are now included in the farmland acreage in the Western States. In the Eastern States, a considerable acreage of fairly open land that is gradually reverting to woodland is probably included. This kind of pastureland will eventually become woodland pasture.