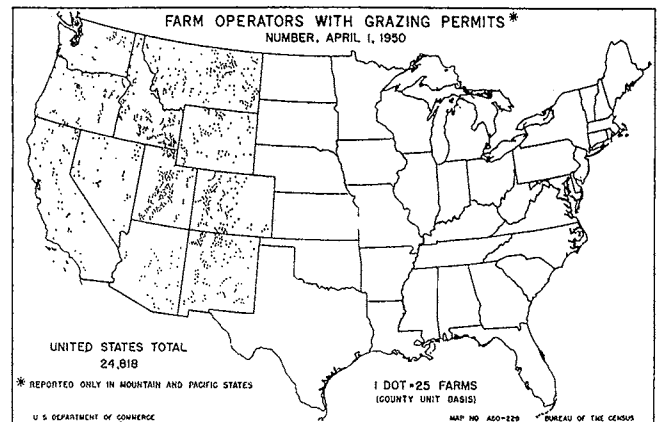
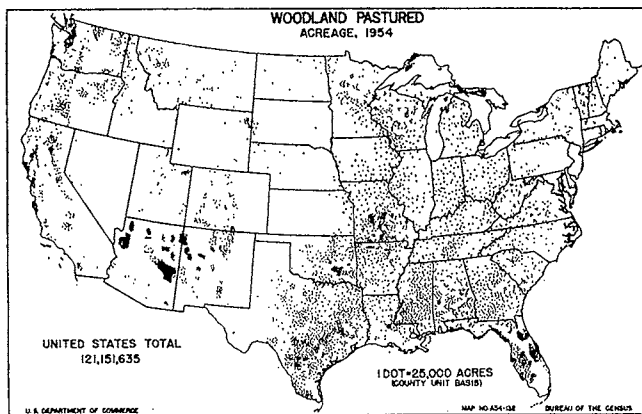


NOTE: * Includes nonforested grazing land, idle grassland in first decades, forest and arid woodland grazed, and shrub and brush grazing land in all years.
 ** Includes cropland used only for pasture in recent years and plowable pasture in earlier years.

54C-037



Pasture and grazing land, 1900-54.—The long-term trend in total pasture and grazing land has been slightly downward. More of the rangeland in the Western and Southern States has been included as land in farms. This partly accounts for the decrease in grazing land not in farms and the increase in farm pasture. Part of the decline in grazing land is explained by the plowing up of native grassland areas for cropland, particularly in the Great Plains. Woodland pastured in farms has changed comparatively little.

Several important changes in pasture and grazing land occurred between 1949 and 1954. Open grassland pasture in farms which was not cropland and not woodland increased by 44 million acres between 1949 and 1954. This gain is explained by several factors: (1) An actual gain in this type of pasture occurred with additions coming from seeding of idle and other cropland to pasture and the clearing of woodland, particularly in parts of the South. (2) The substantial gain in pasture in farms in the West was accompanied by a reduction of grazing land not in farms. (3) Pastureland in Texas and other parts of the Southwest which was reported as woodland pastured in 1949 was reported as nonwoodland pasture in 1954. This difficulty in enumeration is indicated by a comparison of acreages reported in these uses from 1945 to 1954. (4) Cropland which was reported as used for pasture in 1949 appears to have been

reported more frequently as permanent grassland pasture in 1954.

Woodland pastured.—The value of woodland areas for pasture depends a great deal on the size and density of the trees, which in turn vary with the age and type of forest. In the Northern States, cutover hardwood forests, abandoned fields reverting to forests, and brush grown areas are often pastured. In the Southern States, some of the forests have a low tree density which permits a good undergrowth of plants of value for grazing. This is particularly true of the open longleaf-slash pine belt of the Coastal Plain, the Ozarks, and semi-prairie areas in Florida and along the Gulf Coast. In the 17 Western States, the woodland pastured includes arid woodlands, brush and shrublands, mixed woodland and grassland areas, open forests, and some cutover areas which have grass and other forage growth.

Farm operators with grazing permits.—In the Western States, a large acreage of Federal- and State-owned land is used by farmers under permits granted by the administering agencies. The land used by permit is complementary to owned or leased land. Much of it is grazed during only a part of the year. The United States Forest Service grants permits for grazing parts of the forest land which it administers. The distribution of farm operators with grazing permits is shown by the accompanying map.