



Biological factors that affect the type of farming include weeds, plant and animal diseases, insect pests, and development of new varieties and strains of crops. The introduction of hybrid corn, for example, has brought about a significant enlargement of the Corn Belt, particularly on the drier and colder margins. The boll weevil has had a striking effect on the area of cotton production.

Several economic forces operate to influence types of farming. The relative ease with which technological improvements can be adapted to regional patterns of farming is an important determinant of the type of farming. Distance of potential producing areas from markets may lead to adjustments in farming. Numerous changes in the technology of producing and marketing farm products have led to shifts in type of farming among regions. The westward migration of wheat production is an outstanding example of a major regional shift in American agriculture brought about to a marked degree by an improvement in production technology.

Institutional influences such as tariffs, freight rate zones, and local sanitary regulations also play a part in the regionalization of farming. Sanitary regulations on the sale of fresh milk have an influence on milkshed boundaries.

**Major types of farming.**—The accompanying map is based on the more detailed type-of-farming map which shows 165 generalized type-of-farming areas which in turn are grouped into 61 subregions. These 61 subregions have been summarized in the accompanying map in terms of 8 major types of farming. A

ninth category shown on the map represents areas in which little or no farming exists. The fruit, truck, and special crops type is the most widely scattered of the major types of farming. Areas of this type are found in nearly every part of the United States. Tobacco and general farming is the most restricted type in terms of area. The feed grains and livestock or Corn Belt type is the most compact area. The cotton and dairy types are found mainly in extensive east-west trending belts in the Eastern States, although these types have their respective western counterparts in California and the Pacific Northwest. The biggest area of general farming is a transitional belt between the Cotton and Corn Belt types. The range livestock type is restricted to the 17 Western States, with most of the area in the 11 Western States and the western parts of Texas, South Dakota, and Nebraska.

**Type-of-farming areas.**—The distribution of type-of-farming areas in 1954 is shown on a county-unit basis, in the accompanying map. This map is based on type accounting for 50 percent or more of commercial farms. When this map is compared with the map showing major types of farming, which was compiled differently, it may be observed that the overall pattern remains essentially unchanged. The Corn Belt does not appear on this map as a large unbroken type-of-farming area, partly because the type classification has been changed somewhat. Cash grain has been substituted for wheat and small grains so that the cash corn area of Illinois and Indiana becomes a separate area. The increased emphasis on soybean production in the eastern part of the Corn Belt is another significant reason why the Corn Belt is not shown as a separate area.