



FARMS AND FARMLAND

Number of farms.—In 1954, there were 4,782,416 farms reported by the Census of Agriculture. The highest densities of farms per square mile are found in parts of the South.

Very low densities are found principally in the areas of eastern United States where much land has never been used for agriculture and in the Western States where a large acreage per farm or ranch is needed for the raising of livestock and in dry farming operations.

Commercial farms.—A commercial farm is any farm on which the value of farm products sold is \$250 or more provided the farm operator works off the farm less than 100 days, or provided the income the farm operator and members of his family receive from nonfarm sources is less than the value of all farm products sold.

The number of commercial farms declined by 378,795 farms between 1950 and 1954. The number of large commercial farms increased but a pronounced drop in small commercial farms occurred. The relationship between the number of commercial farms and all farms remained practically the same between 1950 and 1954.

Other farms.—The three classes of other farms are part-time, residential, and abnormal. Two-fifths of the 1,455,404 other farms reported in 1954 were classified as part-time farms. On these farms, the value of farm products sold ranged from \$250 to \$1,199 and the operator either reported 100 days or more of off-farm work or reported other income received by himself or members of his family exceeding the value of agricultural products sold. Residential farms, which had less than \$250 worth of farm products sold, accounted for practically all of the remaining other farms.