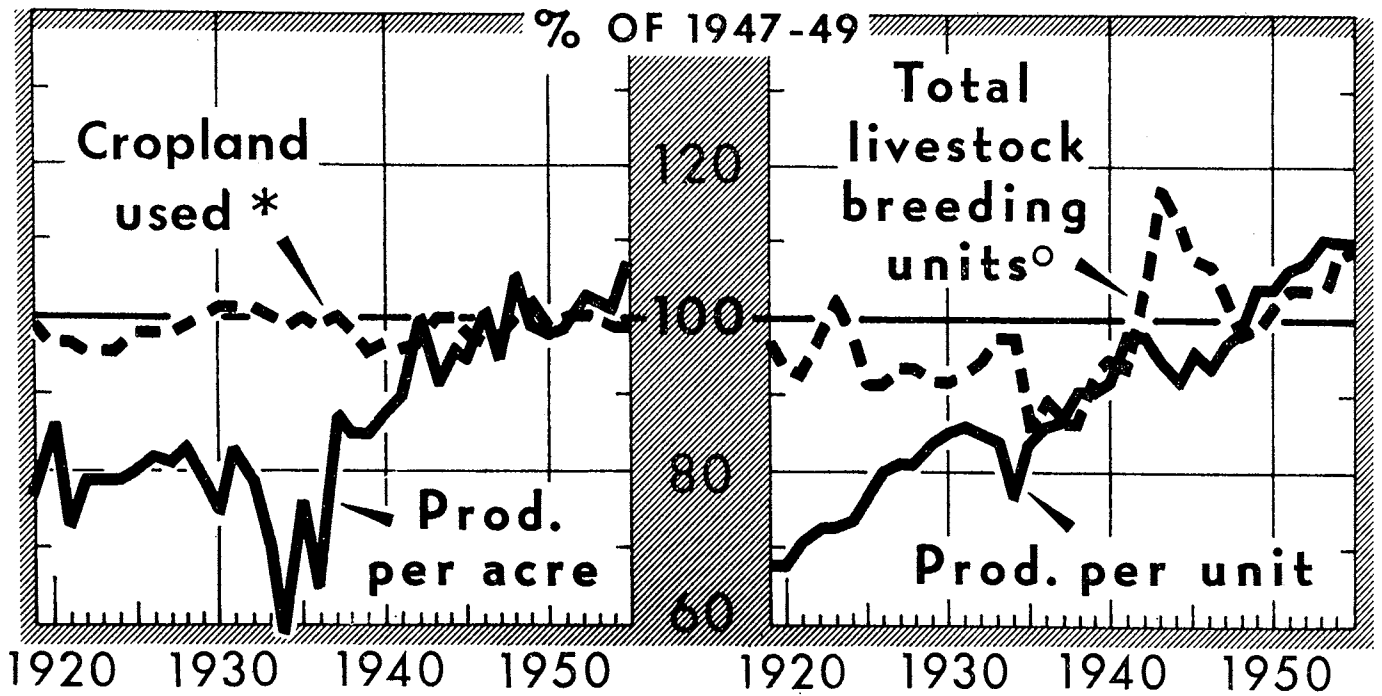


FARM PRODUCTION PER ACRE AND PER ANIMAL

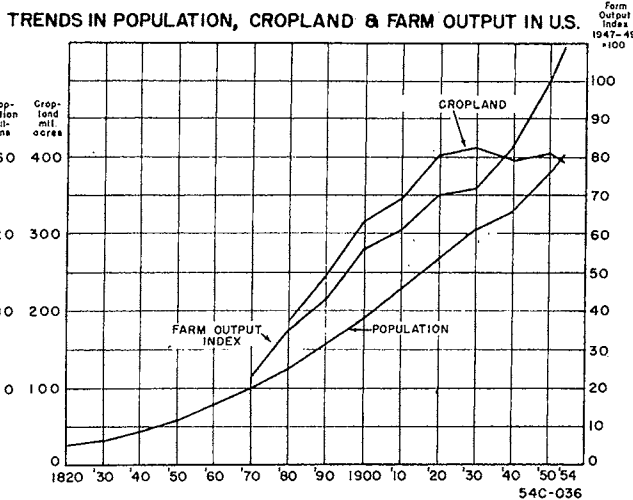


* ESTIMATED ACREAGE FROM WHICH ONE OR MORE CROPS WERE HARVESTED PLUS ACREAGE OF CROP FAILURE AND SUMMER FALLOW
 ° INCLUDES ALL BREEDING LIVESTOCK EXCEPT HORSES, AND ALL LIVESTOCK PRODUCTION EXCEPT FARM-PRODUCED POWER OF HORSES AND MULES

U. S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

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AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTION



Total farm output has nearly doubled during the last half century. A record farm output in 1955 was more than a third greater than the output of 1940. Population was only a fourth greater in 1955 than in 1940. The accompanying two charts indicate some of the changes that have occurred.

Farm production per acre and per animal.—Rising production per acre and per animal unit has characterized American farming,

particularly since the mid-thirties. Drought and depression in the early thirties interrupted a general upward trend since World War I. Since 1940, production per acre has increased by a fifth and production per breeding unit by nearly a fourth. This increase in productivity since 1940 means that the current high farm output has been reached with about the same acreage of cropland, 15 percent more breeding units of livestock, and 30 percent fewer man-hours of farm labor. Substitution of resources bought off the farm for land, labor, and workstock has been a significant economic change in American farming during recent years.

High crop production per acre during recent years has been associated with increased application of fertilizer, use of hybrid corn and other improved seed and plants, better control of insects, and good weather. Greater efficiency in livestock production has come about through more and better feed per animal unit, less loss through disease, and improvement in breeding stock.

Trends in population, cropland, and farm output in United States.—Population in the United States continues to increase. Since World War II this increase has been at an accelerated rate compared with the lower rates of increase for much of the decade of the thirties. In 1950, the total United States population was 151 million. By 1954 it had reached 162 million, increasing by about 3 million persons per year.

Until about 1920 the curves that represent cropland and the farm output index on the accompanying chart closely paralleled each other. Much of the increase in farm production necessary to