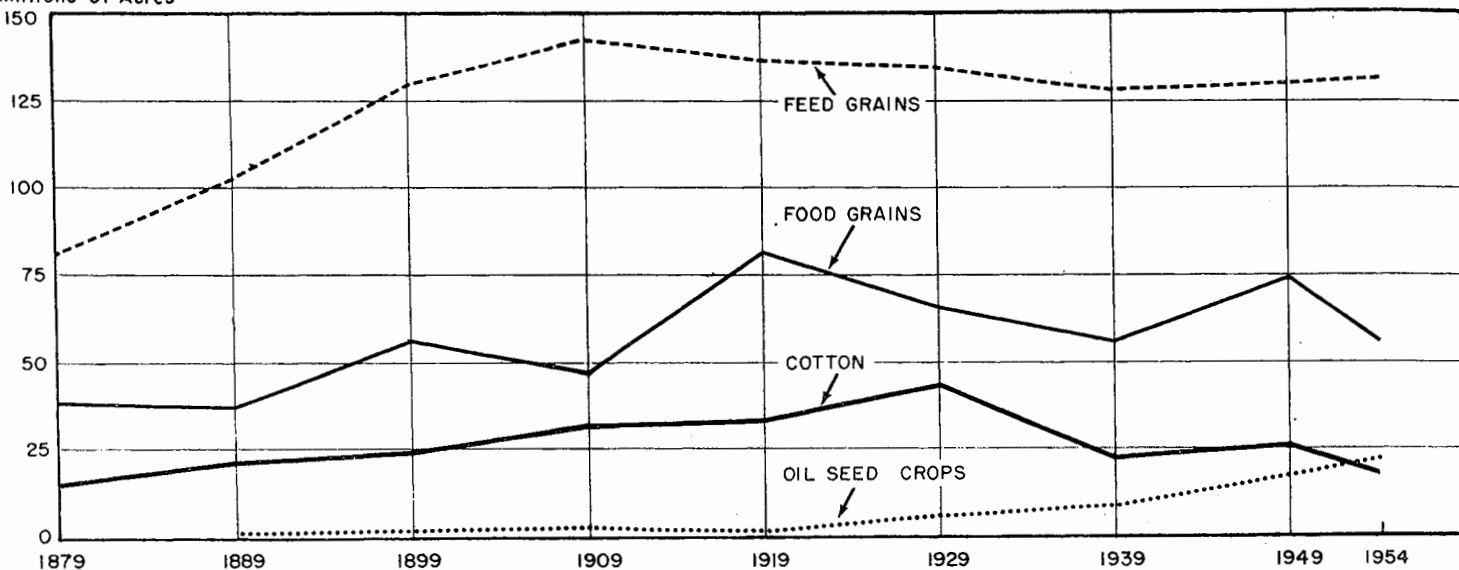


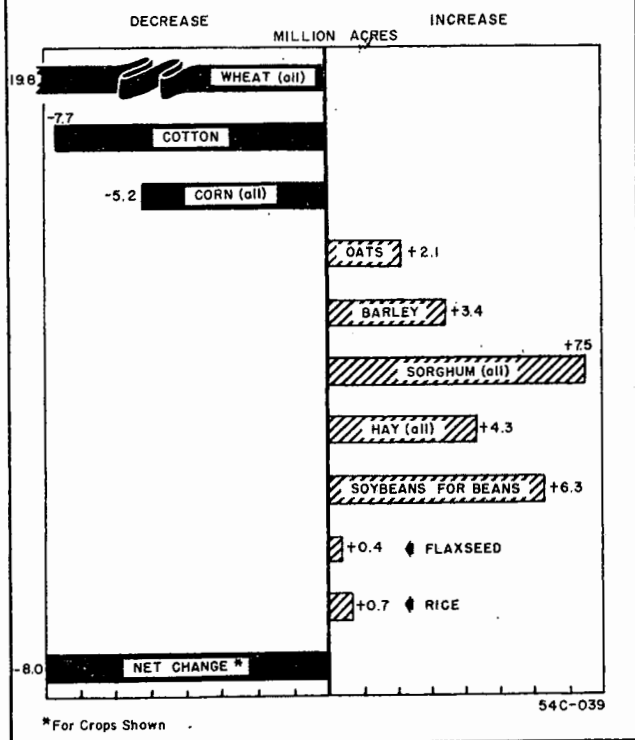
ACREAGES IN FOOD GRAINS, FEED GRAINS, OIL SEED CROPS, AND COTTON
FOR THE UNITED STATES: 1879 - 1954

Millions of Acres



54C-042

CHANGES IN HARVESTED ACRES OF PRINCIPAL CROPS,
1949 - 54



54C-039

thirds of the total value of all livestock and livestock products sold is from the Northern States. Forest products sold from farms, which totaled \$130 million in 1954, are concentrated principally in the Northeast, Southeast, and the Pacific Northwest.

Specified crops harvested—acreage and value of production.—Corn is the leading crop in the United States both from the standpoint of acreage harvested and value of production. All hay crops (excluding sorghum hay and specified annual legumes) occupy the next largest acreage but cotton and cottonseed rank second in value of production. Corn, cotton, wheat, hay, and oats account for about three-fourths of the total acreage of

specified crops harvested and about two-thirds of the farm value of all crops produced in 1954.

Acreages in food grains, feed grains, oilseed crops, and cotton: 1879-1954.—The long-run changes in the acreage used for the production of these different categories of crops are shown in the accompanying chart. Considerable fluctuation in acreage used for the production of food grains has been characteristic. The acreage used for these food grains—wheat, rice, rye, and buckwheat—dropped by more than 19 million acres between 1949 and 1954. This sharp decline is closely related to the existence of acreage controls on the production of wheat in 1954 and the absence of such controls in 1949. The total acreage of feed grains—corn, oats, barley, grain sorghum, and mixed small grains—occupied about the same acreage in 1954 as in 1949; but some important shifts occurred within this group of crops. Corn harvested for grain declined while the acreage of sorghum harvested for grain increased markedly. Acreages of barley and oats also increased. The acreage of cotton declined sharply during this period and the acreage used for oilseed crops continued to increase. The acreage used for oilseed crops has increased in nearly every decade covered by the accompanying chart. The principal oilseed crops other than cotton are soybeans, flax, and peanuts.

Expanding use of vegetable oils for food and industrial purposes has contributed greatly to the long-run increase in the production of these crops. Between 1949 and 1954 most of the increase in acreage used for oilseed crops was in soybeans, which increased from 10.1 to 16.4 million acres. Diversion of acreage from allotment crops to soybeans is a significant reason for this substantial increase in soybean acreage. Acreage in peanuts was reduced sharply, mainly because of the allotment program.

Changes in harvested acres of principal crops, 1949-54.—Major shifts in the acreage used for different crops occurred between 1949 and 1954 mainly because of acreage allotment programs. The acreage of wheat and cotton was reduced by about 28 million acres. Much of the acreage taken out of these crops is used to produce feed grains, soybeans, and hay. The acreage of oats, barley, all sorghums, all hay, and soybeans increased by nearly 24 million acres. Cultivated summer fallow also increased. As acreage allotments for wheat were lowered, many farmers decided to grow a higher proportion of their wheat crop on cropland that had been fallowed in order to increase yields.