



Corn.—The total acreage of corn for all purposes was reduced by about 5 million acres between 1949 and 1954. The 12 North Central States continued to have about seven-tenths of the total acreage in the United States. Corn is more widely grown than wheat in the United States, although very little is raised in the 11 Western States, the western part of the Great Plains States, and the New England States. During the last 50 years, the acreage of corn declined by 20 to 25 million acres. Much of this decline has occurred in Kansas, Oklahoma, and Texas where sorghums have replaced corn as an important feed crop. During this period the acreage of corn in southeastern South Dakota and southwestern Minnesota has increased substantially. Hybrid varieties adapted to a shorter growing season have been a factor in this northward shift of corn production.

Sorghums.—Nearly all sorghums grown in the United States are grown to feed livestock, either as grain, forage, or fodder. The use of sorghums as a source of livestock feed in the Southern Plains helps account for the major concentration of acreage. As sorghums require less rainfall and withstand drought better than corn, this crop has become an important feed crop in Kansas, Oklahoma, and Texas. More than four-fifths of the total acreage of sorghums grown for all purposes except sirup is found in these three States. Three heavy concentrations are located in southwestern Kansas and adjacent Oklahoma and Texas, in the high plains of western Texas, and in the Corpus Christi area of Texas.

Sorghums are not grown for grain in the Northern Plains because of climatic limitations. For the varieties of grain sorghum now grown in the United States, a frost-free season of 140 days and a mean summer temperature of at least 70° F. is required. Annual rainfall should total 15 inches or more. Some sorghum is grown for forage north of the principal grain-producing areas.

Soybeans.—The acreage of soybeans grown for all purposes in 1954 totaled 18.2 million acres compared with 12.3 million acres grown in 1949. The diversion of acreage from crops included in the crop-allotment program is important in explaining this substantial increase. Nearly all of the increase occurred in the areas that were growing soybeans in 1949.

Three major and two secondary concentrations of soybean production are shown by the accompanying map. The leading area of soybean production is centered in the eastern part of the Corn Belt running from south-central Illinois to northwestern Ohio. The acreage of soybeans in Illinois, Indiana, and Ohio comprises two-fifths of the total United States acreage. Another major concentration is in the Mississippi Delta area stretching from southern Illinois to Louisiana. Northwestern Iowa and southwestern Minnesota is the third major area. The southwestern part of the Corn Belt in Missouri and eastern Kansas and the southeastern coastal plain are two secondary areas of soybean production.

Flax.—Most of the acreage of flax in the United States is concentrated in North Dakota, northern and eastern South Dakota, and western Minnesota. Two secondary areas of production are located in the Imperial Valley of California and north of Corpus Christi, Texas. The total acreage in flax in 1954 was greater than that for 1949. This may be attributed mainly to the wheat acreage-allotment program in effect in 1954. The acreage sown to flax has been subject to wide fluctuations from year to year. Nearly all flax in the United States is grown for the seed rather than for the fiber.

Peanuts.—The production of peanuts is almost entirely restricted to the southeastern coastal plain and to eastern Texas and Oklahoma. From the accompanying map, it may be noted that there are two principal concentrations in the southeastern