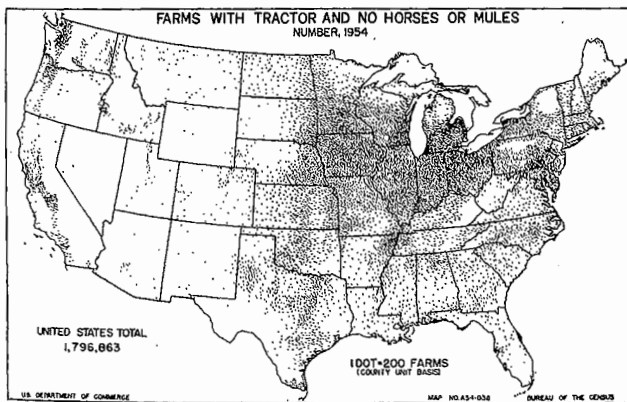
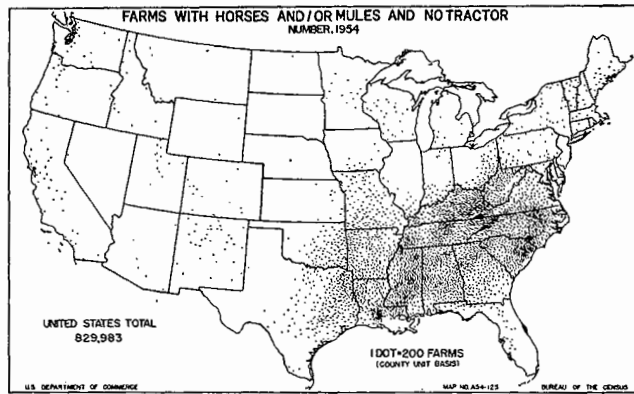
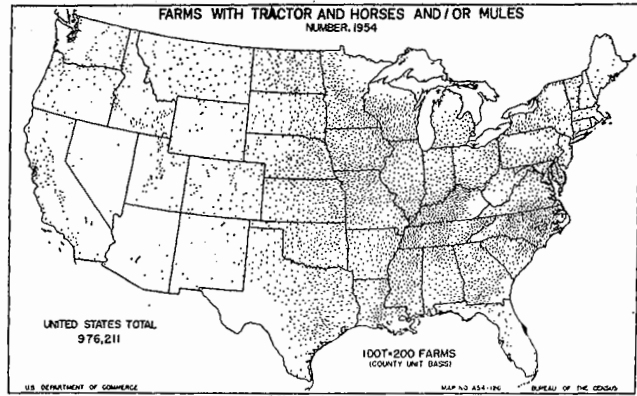


DISPLACEMENT OF WORK STOCK BY MOTOR VEHICLES

After the coming of the gas tractor, year after year more and more farmers gradually disposed of all work stock. Yet, as late as 1940, only 4 percent of all farmers reported tractors and no horses or mules. By November 1954, the number of farms reporting tractors only, had increased to 38 percent of all farms. Another large group of farmers having tractors still retained some horses or mules. This group constituted about one-fifth of all farms in both 1940 and 1954. Together, these 2 groups of what may be called tractor farms comprised 58 percent of all farms in 1954 compared with 23 percent in 1940. The remaining 42 percent were farms with horses or mules only, or farms without tractors, or horses or mules, as shown by the following data:

	1940	1954
Percentage of all farms reporting tractors and no horses and/or mules.....	4	38
Percentage of all farms reporting both tractors and horses and/or mules.....	19	20
Percentage of all farms reporting horses and/or mules but no tractors.....	53	17
Percentage of all farms reporting no tractors and no horses and/or mules.....	24	25

Farms with tractors and no work stock were most heavily concentrated in the better agricultural areas where much of the land is suited for crop production and where land values per farm are high. Such areas in the Western States predominate in the intensive dairy, fruit, and vegetable-producing areas. In the East, tractor farms with no horses or mules are most numerous in the Corn Belt and Lake States areas, and in western New York, southeastern Pennsylvania, and the New Jersey, Maryland, and Virginia vegetable-growing areas. Parts of the Mississippi Delta and eastern Great Plains areas reported large numbers of tractor farms with no horses or mules. Farms with



These farms are located very largely in the eastern half of the United States, and are most numerous in the Southeastern States. Farms without tractors or work animals were heavily concentrated in the Mississippi River Delta. Many of these are operated by sharecroppers who own none of the equipment with which the places are operated. Such farmers had use of tractor or animal power, or both, reported by the "home farm." Many other farmers in this class, because of size or type of farm, operated their places without owning either tractors or work animals. Those who needed such power undoubtedly hired their work performed. Operators of greenhouses and some commercial poultry enterprises who cultivate little or no land may not need to own tractors or work stock. Fruit farmers in some areas, and other farmers too, hire all of their field work done.

tractors and work stock in 1954 were well scattered throughout the agricultural areas, but the heaviest concentrations were in portions of the southeastern States, particularly in the tobacco and general farming areas. It is in such areas that animal power still is used to some extent for farmwork. Retention of horses or mules on many of the larger farms in this group is probably a matter of personal likes of the operators, and does not reflect a low degree of mechanization. More than three-quarters of a million farms reported horses or mules and no tractors in 1954. About 62 percent of these were in the 10 Appalachian and Southeastern States, where many of the farms are small commercial, residential, and part-time places. One of the unusual features of agricultural production is that about 1.2 million farms reported no tractors, horses, or mules in 1954.

