



Although factory production of combines started around 1880, the number on farms as late as 1920 probably did not exceed 4,000 and most of these were in the Pacific Coast States. In 1930, the Pacific Coast, Mountain, Northern Plains, and Southern Plains States together had 96 percent of the 61,000 combines then on farms. By 1945 the number in the United States had increased to 375,000 and by November 1954 to 980,000. During this period of approximately 10 years, the number of combines increased by about 160 percent. A part of the increase reflected a further rapid spread of the combining method of harvesting small grains and soybeans in the central, eastern and southern areas, where increases in numbers of combines was about 200 percent. Since 1950, increases in numbers has continued relatively heavy in the Northern Plains, the Lake States, the Corn Belt, the Northeast and the Mississippi Delta States. In the other regions, the rate of increase has been less in recent years.

GRAIN COMBINES BY SIZE OF FARM

Although crops suitable for combining are widely produced throughout the United States, the major commercial areas are the important wheat growing areas of the Great Plains and Western States, and the small feed grains, bread grains, and soybean producing areas of the Central States. Smaller commercial producing areas of barley, dry beans, dry peas, sorghums, grass and legume seeds, and other crops suitable for combining are located with the limits of 1 or more of these 3 areas. As a group, the farmers in this area had 85 percent of all the combines on farms in November 1954. About three-fourths of the total

number were located in the Plains and Central States. In general, grain combines tend to be concentrated on farms in the larger size groups. This is especially true in the Great Plains and Western areas where grain farms are numerous and usually relatively large. The number of combines indicate only a part of the total picture of combine use, for these harvest machines vary greatly in size and harvesting capacity. Many of the combines in the Great Plains and Western regions where acreages per farm are large are more than 10 feet in size. In the irrigated areas, and in the humid areas east of the Great Plains, most combines are 5 and 6 feet in size.

