

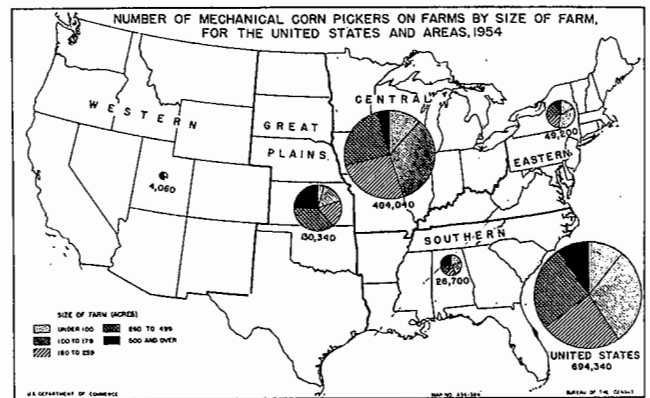
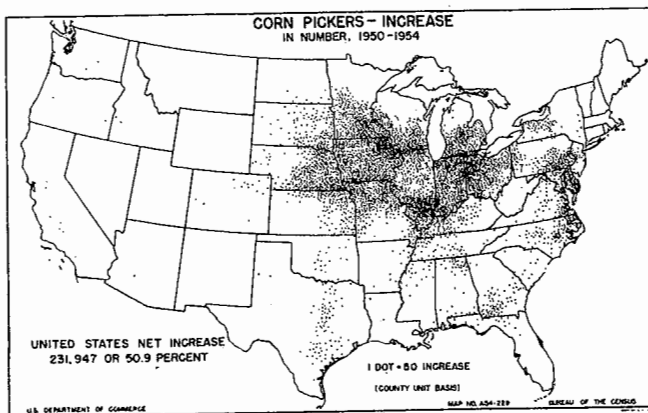
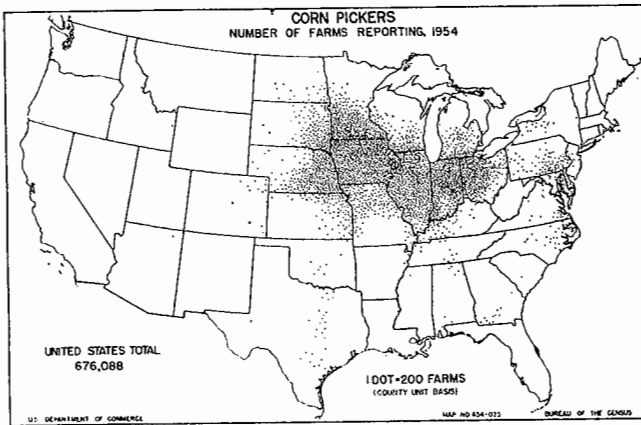
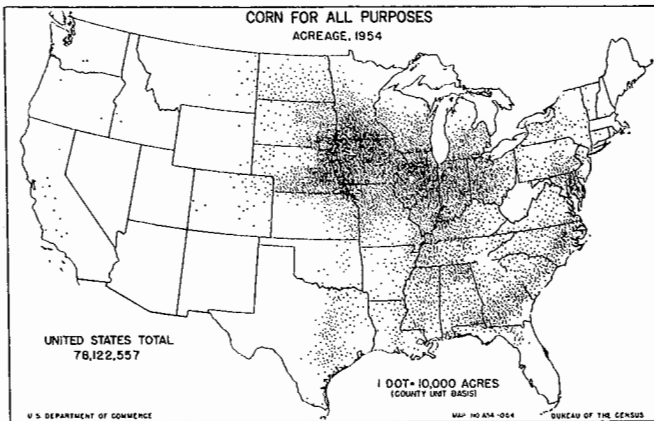
Much of the total corn acreage is in the Corn Belt, Lake States, and in eastern South Dakota and Nebraska, although some corn is grown in all areas where the climate is suitable.

As the number of corn pickers on farms increased by about 50 percent between 1950 and 1954, many of those reported in 1954

were of recent manufacture. Most (70 percent) of the corn pickers are concentrated in the important corn-producing area of the Corn Belt and Lake States. The use of pickers is spreading into other areas as the commercial corn acreage increases. In the Southeast area the number of pickers increased by 400 percent between 1950 and 1954, but the total number in that region in 1954 was less than 10,000.

NUMBER OF CORN PICKERS BY SIZE OF FARM

The Central States, with 70 percent of the corn pickers in 1954, completely dominate the general pattern of picker distribution. In this important corn-producing region, pickers were reported on many small and medium sizes of farms, but the outstanding size group contained farms ranging in size from 100 to 179 acres. In the eastern and southern areas, about half the corn pickers were on farms containing more than 100 acres of land. In the Great Plains and Western regions relatively large proportions of the corn pickers were reported on the larger farms, or those having more than 260 acres.



In 1954 more than two-thirds of all farms reporting corn pickers had from 25 to 99 acres of corn. Nearly all of these farms had only one corn picker. In fact, only 2 percent of all farms reporting corn pickers in 1954 had more than 1 picker. Corn harvest seasons vary in length, primarily because of variations in weather conditions. When corn was picked by hand the harvest season in central Illinois usually extended from about the middle of October to the middle of December. When the first killing frost was late, or fall rains were unusually heavy the season might be so delayed that the corn harvest was extended into January. As mechanical pickers came into use farmers in the Corn Belt were able to shorten the picking season and to complete the job before severe winter weather. Many of the pickers now on farms normally are used a short period on the home farm and then are used to harvest corn for other farmers, some of whom have more corn acreage than can be harvested by their picker during good weather. Under good harvest conditions a 1-row picker can harvest up to 200 acres, and a 2-row picker can harvest up to 400 or 450 acres per season. Many pickers actually are used to harvest only a fourth or a third of these acreages.