

LAND IN FARMS AS A PERCENT OF TOTAL LAND AREA, FOR THE UNITED STATES AND REGIONS: 1880-1954

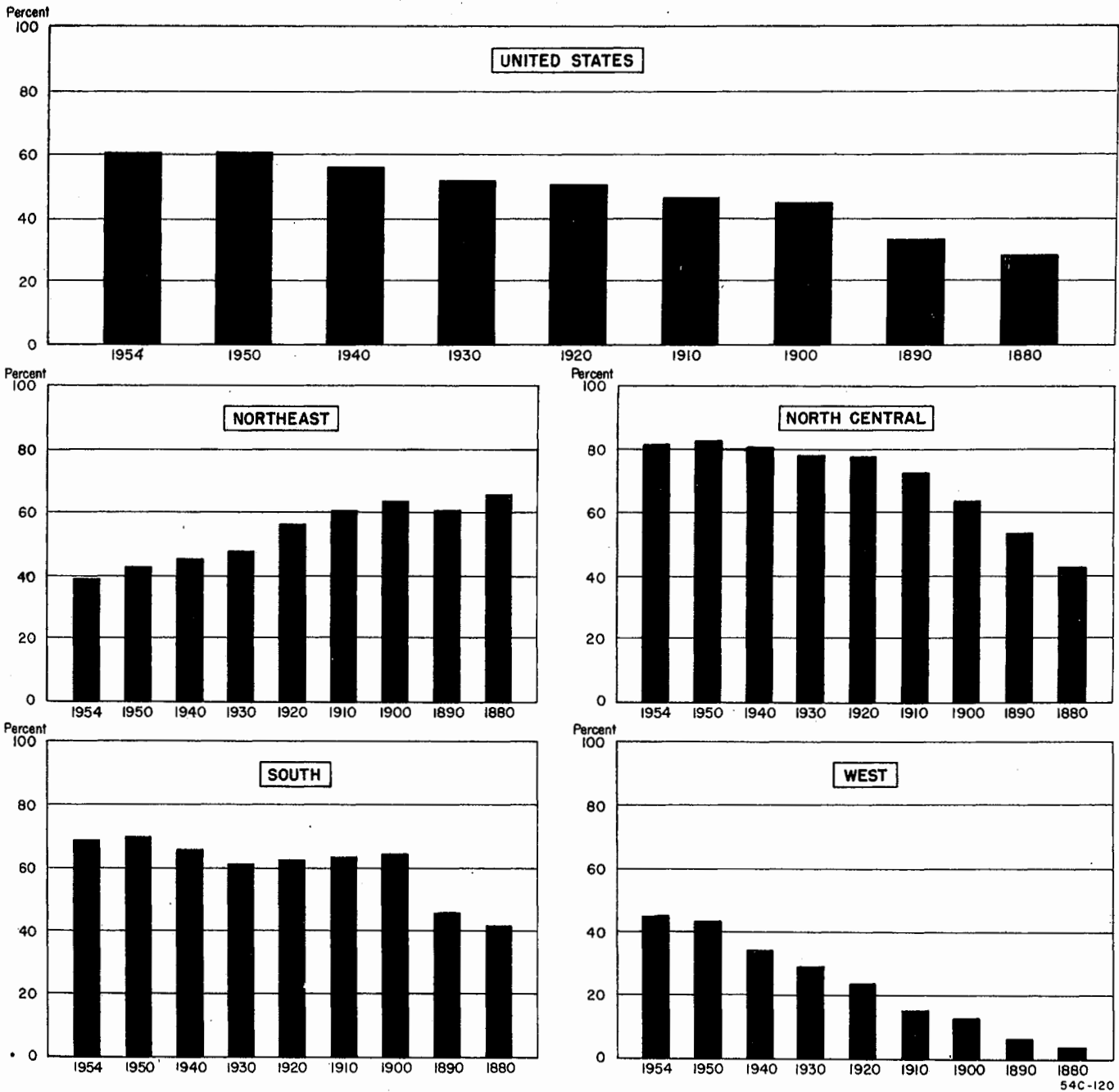


Figure 3.

made in 1850. This region, which comprises nearly two-fifths (39.6 percent) of the United States land area, had only 44.8 percent of its area in farms in 1954. The increase, in the 1950 to 1954 period, approximated 13 million acres or 4.0 percent. Most of the increase in land in farms came about through incorporation of grazing lands into farms.

Since about 1920, new lands used for agriculture represented only a small part of the enlargement of the farm area. Much of the grazing land of the West comprises public domain land grazed under the permit system. This permit land is excluded from enumeration of land in farms, largely because multiple users have access to much of the land. An increasing acreage of the public land has gone over to single users through a leasing arrangement. These leased lands are included in the

farmland area. About 17,300,000 acres of land were leased under the Taylor Grazing Act in 1954; this compares with 13 million acres in 1950 and 7,400,000 acres in 1940.

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TABLE 1.—LAND IN FARMS AS A PERCENT OF TOTAL LAND AREA, FOR THE UNITED STATES AND REGIONS: 1880 to 1954

Region	1954	1950	1940	1930	1920	1910	1900	1890	1880
United States.....	60.8	60.9	55.7	51.8	50.2	46.2	44.1	32.7	28.2
Northeast.....	39.2	42.4	44.9	47.6	55.5	60.7	63.1	60.5	65.6
North Central.....	81.4	82.0	80.2	77.8	77.4	72.4	65.6	53.0	42.8
South.....	68.7	69.9	65.7	61.0	62.3	63.1	64.4	45.6	41.8
West.....	44.8	43.1	33.9	28.9	23.0	14.7	12.4	6.3	3.5