



Figure 9.

Concentration of leased land.—The reduction in tenancy since 1935 can be seen in a general way by noting the increase in counties in which less than half of the land in farms is under lease. By 1910 the United States contained all its present States with the exception of Arizona and New Mexico, and yet commercial agriculture in many parts of the country was still maturing. In that year, 403 counties had over half their farmland under lease. As a benchmark, the year 1910 helps to indicate the increase of land under lease to a peak of 471 million acres in 1935 at which time 1,107 counties had at least half of their farmland under lease. Since 1935, the number of counties with over half the land under lease declined to 1,017 in 1940, 592 in 1945, and 510 in 1950. In

1954 there was 482 counties with one-half or more of their land under lease. Certain areas—notably the Mid-Plains, Corn Belt, and Arkansas-Mississippi Delta—continue to have a relatively heavy concentration of land under lease.

Since 1950, some slight shifts may be noted in the concentration of leased land. Most of the decrease in the number of counties with 50 percent or more of farmland under lease was in the South. Otherwise, the pattern of leased land concentration remained about the same in 1954 as in 1950, with slight changes accounted for by minor changes in the proportion of land which would move a county from the "less than half" to the "half or greater" category or vice versa.