

PERCENT DISTRIBUTION OF ALL LAND IN FARMS ACCORDING TO MAJOR USES, BY TENURE OF OPERATOR, FOR THE UNITED STATES: 1945-1954

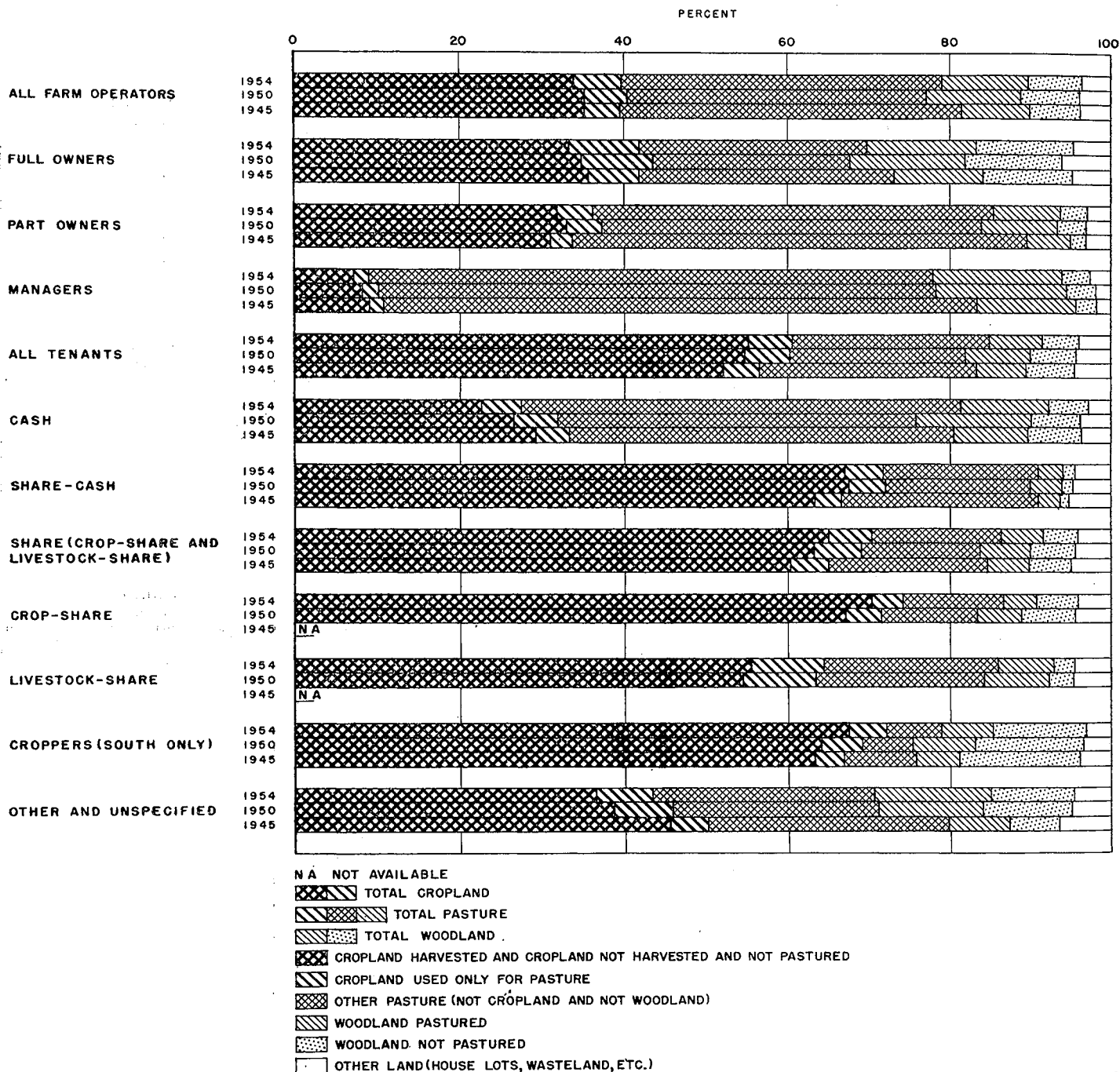


Figure 29.

LAND USE

Major land uses.—The total acreage of cropland in the United States declined from 479,371,116 acres in 1949 to 461,937,776 acres in 1954. The acreage of pastureland, however, increased from 619,691,813 in 1949 to 647,366,156 in 1954. Although total cropland declined, the cropland per farm increased from 94.8 acres in 1949 to 104.3 in 1954. Cropland in commercial farms averaged 122.5 acres in 1949 and 133.9 acres in 1954. The average acreage of cropland increased in all tenures, except for managers, but the average acreage of pasture showed even greater increases.

Since tenants tend toward crop production and managers toward livestock production, it is not surprising that in 1954 the

cropland in commercial tenant-operated farms represented a higher percentage of all land in their farms than for any other tenure, 61.8, and the cropland in commercial manager-operated farms represented the lowest percentage, 13.2.

Commercial farms operated by tenants under crop-share lease arrangements tend to have the highest proportion of cropland. In 1954, 74.8 percent of land in commercial crop-share farms was cropland, and 20.0 percent was pastureland. In contrast, cropland in commercial cash-rented farms was only 27.3 percent of the land in farms and pastureland was 70.9 percent. Cropper farms, of course, contain a very high proportion of cropland since they are associated almost exclusively with cash-crop enterprises, notably cotton and tobacco. In 1954, for commercial cropper