

TOBACCO AND PEANUT PRODUCERS AND PRODUCTION

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INTRODUCTION

Tobacco and peanut farms are highly important in several southern and eastern areas of the United States. Current interest in these types of farming is increased because of their prominence in farm policy discussions. Tabulations available from the 1954 Census of Agriculture now permit the analysis of production conditions prevalent on these farms in the major production areas.

While major attention is given to tobacco and peanut farms some information is given on the location of other types of field-crop farms such as Irish potatoes, sugarcane for sugar, and sugar beets. In general these crops are grown in rather distinct and restricted areas in the United States.

The classification of farms by type was made on the basis of the relation of the value of sales from a particular source or sources to the total value of all farm products sold from the farm. A farm was classified as of a particular type if sales or anticipated sales of a product or a group of products represented 50 percent or more of the total value of products sold. Other field-crop farms included the farms on which 50 percent or more of the total value of products sold was from tobacco, peanuts, Irish potatoes, sweetpotatoes, sugarcane, sugar beets for sugar, and other miscellaneous crops. In terms of the total number of commercial farms in the United States in 1955, these other field-crop farms comprised 7.7 percent of all farms and contained 2.9 percent of all land in farms, and 3.7 percent of all cropland harvested in 1954.

THE OTHER FIELD-CROP FARMS

Distribution.—Other field-crop farms included a number of minor field crops other than tobacco and peanuts. Many of these were grown in fairly restricted localities. (See Figure 1.) If thought of by areas, however, there is, necessarily, some overlapping in areas where two or more of these crops were grown.

Tobacco was the important cash crop on other field-crop farms in North Carolina, South Carolina, Kentucky, Tennessee, Virginia, Maryland, New York, Pennsylvania, Wisconsin, and Connecticut (see Figure 2). Tobacco was the important cash crop on many of the farms in southeastern Georgia, but there were also a number of specialized peanut farms in parts of this section.

Peanuts constituted the important cash crop on other field-crop farms in the northeastern corner of North Carolina, the southeastern corner of Virginia, and the southern parts of Alabama and Georgia (see Figure 3). They were also important on some farms in Oklahoma and Texas but broomcorn and sweetpotatoes were also main crops on some of the farms in about the same locations (see Figure 4). Sweetpotatoes formed the chief cash crop on some of the farms in Louisiana, but sugarcane for sugar was the prevailing cash crop on other crop farms in this State (see Figure 5).

The important cash crop on so-called other-crop farms in Maine, Minnesota, North Dakota, Colorado, and eastern Idaho, was Irish potatoes (see Figure 6). In most of the Western States sugar beets for sugar was the dominant crop (see Figure 7). More than 90 percent of all other field-crop farms were located in the South; on the majority of these farms tobacco was the largest source of income.

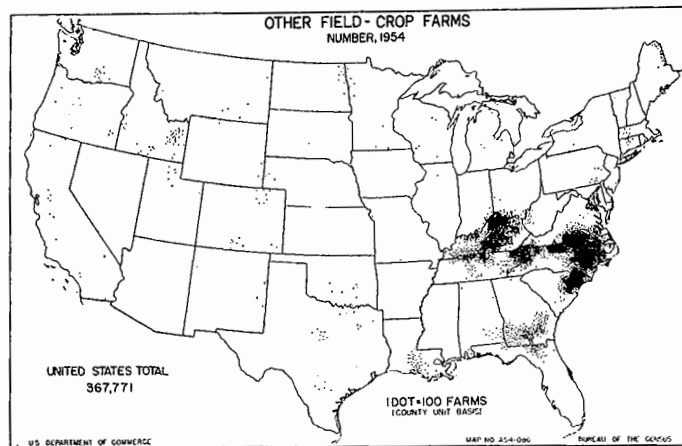


FIGURE 1

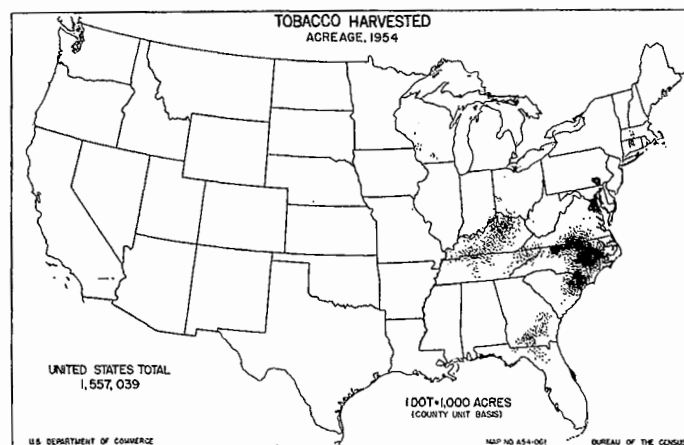


FIGURE 2

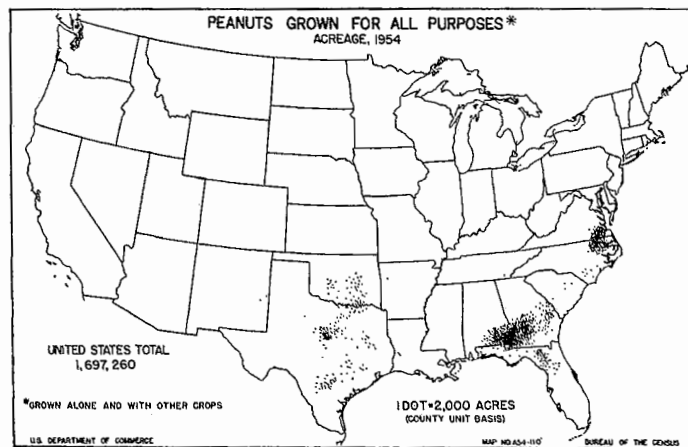


FIGURE 3