

## ESTIMATING NUMBER OF TOBACCO AND PEANUT FARMS

Data for other field-crop farms do not show the number of farms of each of the specialty type included in the total for the group. One way to obtain data for farms of a given type is to select subregions in which the crop is of major importance. This procedure was followed in this report. Figure 8 shows the subregions selected for studying tobacco and peanut farms. Subregions for tobacco were subgrouped in order to compare tobacco farms by types of tobacco.

The grouping of subregions according to areas where tobacco or peanuts are of major importance makes it possible only to approximate the number of farms in each group. This is true because of the overlapping of production areas. For example, subregion 21 was designated as a peanut area, but tobacco is important in counties in North Carolina that are a part of the North Carolina tobacco area. Subregion 38 was summarized with the flue-cured tobacco subregions but peanuts are a main crop on a number of farms in parts of this area. In many cases the farms will produce both tobacco and peanuts. Some subregions were not included because several crops included in the other field-crop group were grown there. Some tobacco or peanut farms were not included because data for the subregions where there were comparatively few of these farms were not summarized.

In presenting data in this report, the number of farms in the subregions included were assumed to be a rough approximation of the number of specialized tobacco or peanut farms in the United States in 1954. In each case, the number of farms growing tobacco or peanuts is less than the total number of other field-crop farms because of the overlapping of crops included in the other field-crop classification.

When considering the data in this report, it is necessary to keep in mind the Census definition of a farm. If a landlord has croppers or other tenants, the land assigned each cropper or tenant is enumerated as a separate farm even though the landlord may operate the entire holding essentially as one farm with respect to supervision, equipment, rotation practices, purchase of supplies, or sale of products. Croppers are very numerous in both tobacco and peanut areas (see Figure 9). For some items the amount reported for the landlord's part of the farm may have applied to cropper and tenant farms comprising part of the landholding.

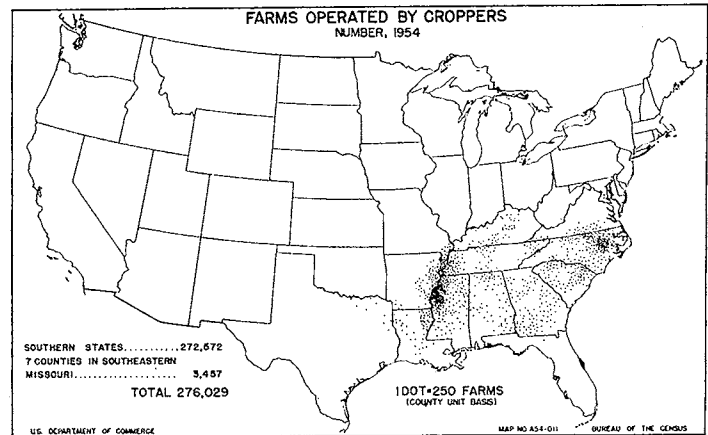


FIGURE 9

## TOBACCO FARMS

Tobacco is a native American crop. It was being grown in this country by the Indians when Columbus discovered America. It was introduced to the white race who rapidly spread its growth to many distant lands. Tobacco was a prized export crop between the Colonies and the mother country and became a valuable article of trade between the Colonies and the Indians.

The history of the early struggles in the production of tobacco in this country with recurring periods of surpluses, low prices, and attempted restrictions on production, and the slow evolution of marketing methods, are among the most interesting chapters of the agricultural history of America.

Contrary to popular opinion, the tobacco in common use today is not that which the settlers found growing in the Indian villages in the Tidewater part of Virginia. The tobacco grown by the Indians was coarse and strong; it belonged to the species *Nicotiana rustica* L. believed to have originated in Mexico. The English colonists brought in and adopted the milder more aromatic varieties of *N. tabacum* then grown in tropical countries, which is believed to have originated in Brazil. Seed of both species seems to have been introduced into Europe by early Spanish explorers.<sup>1</sup>

The production of tobacco is highly localized, primarily because of the influence of climate and soil on the properties of the leaf. States with the largest acreage are North Carolina, Kentucky, Tennessee, Virginia, South Carolina, and Georgia (see Figure 2). Other States with important sections in tobacco are Maryland, Pennsylvania, Ohio, Connecticut, Wisconsin, and Florida. The percentage of cropland in tobacco, harvested in 1954, is shown in Figure 10.

## CLASSES AND TYPES OF AMERICAN-GROWN TOBACCO

Tobacco grown in one area possesses characteristics that distinguishes it from tobacco grown in another area. These characteristics result from the combination of soil and climatic conditions, variety of seed, methods of cultivation and fertilization, and methods of harvesting and curing. In recognition of distinct differences in tobacco which affect demand and uses, tobacco in the several producing areas has been grouped into classes and types as follows:

- I. Cigarette, smoking, and chewing types.
  - A. Class 1, Flue-cured types.
    1. Type 11-a, Old Belt flue-cured.
    2. Type 11-b, Middle Belt flue-cured.
    3. Type 12, Eastern North Carolina flue-cured.
    4. Type 13, South Carolina flue-cured.
    5. Type 14, Georgia flue-cured.
  - B. Class 2, Fire-cured types.
    1. Type 21, Virginia fire-cured.
    2. Type 22, Eastern fire-cured. (Clarksville and Hopkinsville).
    3. Type 23, Western fire-cured. (Paducah and Mayfield).
  - C. Class 3-A, Light air-cured types.
    1. Type 31, Burley.
    2. Type 32, Southern Maryland.
  - D. Class 3-B, Dark air-cured types.
    1. Type 35, One-Sucker.
    2. Type 36, Green River.
    3. Type 37, Virginia sun-cured.

<sup>1</sup> For a more detailed description of classes and types of tobacco and production areas, see United States Department of Agriculture Circular 240, American Tobacco Types, Uses and Markets, by Charles E. Gage, June 1942.