

relatively small supply of concentrates. Beef cattle grazing is therefore more important here than in the Central Corn Belt and there is less emphasis on cattle fattening and on hog production.

The average annual precipitation is about equal to that in the Eastern Corn Belt. The growing season in the southern part of the region is longer than in most of the rest of the Corn Belt.

TABLE 3.—PERCENT OF COMMERCIAL FARMS REPORTING SPECIFIED USES OF CROPLAND AND SPECIFIED CROPS HARVESTED, IN THE CORN BELT AND COMPONENT REGIONS: 1954

Item	Corn Belt, total	Eastern Corn Belt	Central Corn Belt	Northern Corn Belt	Western Corn Belt	Southern Corn Belt
	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>
Cropland harvested.....	95.8	93.9	96.9	97.9	96.5	94.8
Cropland used only for pasture.....	61.0	61.9	57.7	53.7	38.6	44.6
Cropland not harvested and not pastured.....	18.0	16.9	9.7	12.8	26.3	22.0
Corn for all purposes.....	91.0	89.6	94.8	95.1	91.3	85.2
Corn harvested for grain.....	87.6	89.0	94.3	94.2	89.2	72.6
Wheat threshed or combined.....	35.6	63.2	13.9	7.5	37.2	45.4
Oats threshed or combined.....	72.4	61.3	85.7	90.8	72.6	57.6
Barley threshed or combined.....	5.6	5.2	1.4	7.6	4.8	10.0
Rye threshed or combined.....	4.3	8.2	1.9	1.4	3.6	5.6
Soybeans for all purposes.....	42.3	51.4	56.2	40.2	16.1	49.9
Soybeans harvested for beans.....	41.2	50.1	55.8	39.8	15.7	46.8
Soybeans cut for hay.....	2.0	2.9	0.9	0.5	0.3	5.4
Red clover seed harvested.....	4.1	7.5	3.6	2.7	1.6	4.7

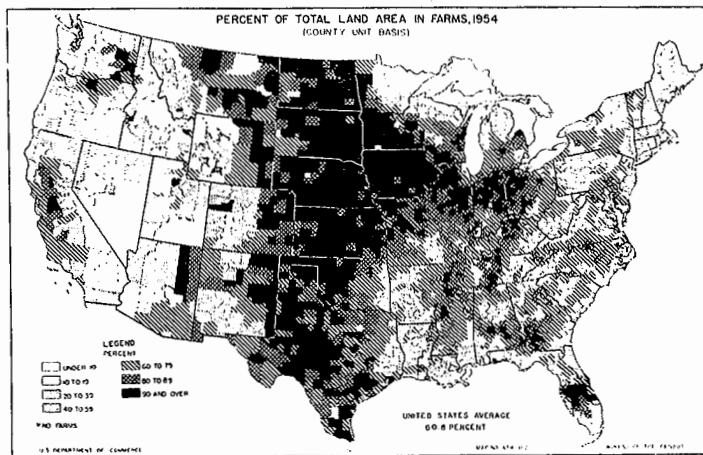


FIGURE 6.

Because of the quality of soil in much of the region, however, average yields of crops are relatively low. The principal grain crops are corn, soybeans, oats, and wheat.

A number of differences among the five regions within the Corn Belt are reflected by the data on percent of farmers reporting specified uses of cropland and specified crops harvested (table 3). There are rather significant differences, for example, in the proportion of farmers reporting cropland used only for pasture, cropland not harvested and not pastured, wheat threshed or combined, and soybeans harvested for beans.

In most of the Western and Northern Corn Belt, 90 percent or more of the total land area is in farms (fig. 6). In the Eastern and Southern Corn Belt there are many counties in which up to one-third of the land is in nonfarm uses.

TYPES OF FARMING

The differences in types of farming that occur from farm to farm as well as between localities in the Corn Belt are explained basically by differences in soils and topographic features. The kind and degree of livestock production is determined in large part by the production of forage on a farm. On farms with rich, black, level soils, relatively little of the cropland is used for growing forage. On such farms, where practically all of the land is plowable, where there is relatively little soil erosion, and where yield response to forages in crop rotations is not great, corn and soybeans make up the largest proportion of the crops grown. Such farms are generally either cash-grain farms, hog farms, or beef-fattening farms. Cattle for fattening on these farms are generally calves or young cattle bought from the western range region. On farms where more of the land is used for pasture or hay, beef breeding herds are kept, but where little or no forage is available on the farm, the cattle-feeding operation is generally based on the purchase of young cattle for fattening.

Farms having rolling land and soils that show benefit from forages in the rotation are likely to have some cattle production, such as pasturing of young feeder cattle for a few months on pasture and then fattening them for market. The beef enterprise is found frequently on farms along with hog production, as the two enterprises are complementary to some extent.

Farms with a considerable acreage of easily erodible land which is kept in pasture or hay meadow, are likely to keep roughage-consuming livestock such as beef breeding herds or dairy cattle. The farms with large and regular production of hay and pasture are generally dairy farms. Some also raise beef cattle or sheep.