

TABLE 65.—USE OF COMMERCIAL FERTILIZER AND FERTILIZING MATERIAL ON COMMERCIAL FARMS, BY TYPE AND ECONOMIC CLASS OF FARM, IN THE CORN BELT: 1954

Type and economic class of farm	Total acres fertilized as a percentage of total cropland	Acres of corn fertilized as a percentage of total acres fertilized	Acres of corn fertilized as a percentage of corn acreage for all purposes	Fertilizer used on corn as a percentage of total tons of fertilizer used	Quantity of fertilizer used per acre (pounds)	
					Average for total acres fertilized	Average for corn fertilized
All commercial farms.....	30.2	59.1	51.1	56.3	220	208
Cash-grain farms:						
Total.....	30.5	59.7	51.1	57.9	220	214
Class I.....	43.3	60.3	69.6	61.7	286	272
II.....	34.3	60.7	57.3	58.7	230	222
III.....	27.3	59.1	45.9	56.4	202	200
IV.....	25.2	57.6	41.7	55.2	200	192
V.....	27.1	59.1	46.3	56.5	206	200
VI.....	21.5	65.1	39.4	61.7	208	196
Livestock farms: ¹						
Total.....	29.4	60.9	49.8	58.3	218	208
Class I.....	39.7	62.3	62.9	61.3	246	242
II.....	33.0	61.2	54.1	58.7	214	206
III.....	25.8	60.4	43.9	56.7	204	192
IV.....	21.5	59.4	38.8	55.2	208	192
V.....	20.4	57.8	39.2	53.3	216	198
VI.....	18.2	62.8	42.5	57.8	204	186

¹ Livestock other than dairy and poultry farms.

LIME

Much of the land in the Corn Belt requires liming to correct soil acidity and to furnish available calcium for growing crops. Lime applied to acid soil also improves the physical condition of the soil, steps up the efficiency of fertilizers and manures applied, and increases the availability of phosphorus in the soil (11). Liming is particularly necessary on some soils for successful production of legume crops such as alfalfa, red clover, and sweet-clover. The quantity of lime used in the Corn Belt in 1954 was more than double the quantity used in 1939.

Lime and liming materials in the 1954 Census enumeration were to include ground limestone, hydrated and burnt lime, marl, oyster shells, and other forms of lime. All lime and liming materials purchased or to be purchased during the calendar year 1954 for use on the farm were to be included whether paid for by the operator, or by the landlord, or jointly. Lime used under the Agricultural Conservation Program was to be included. All lime used for sprays or for sanitation purposes was to be excluded. Gypsum was not included or counted as a liming material.

The proportion of farms reporting expenditures for lime and liming material in 1954 is shown on a county-unit basis for the United States in figure 31. In the western half of the country, lime was used on relatively few farms. In the eastern half, the percentage of farms reporting expenditures for lime ranged from less than 5 percent in many counties to 40 percent or more in some

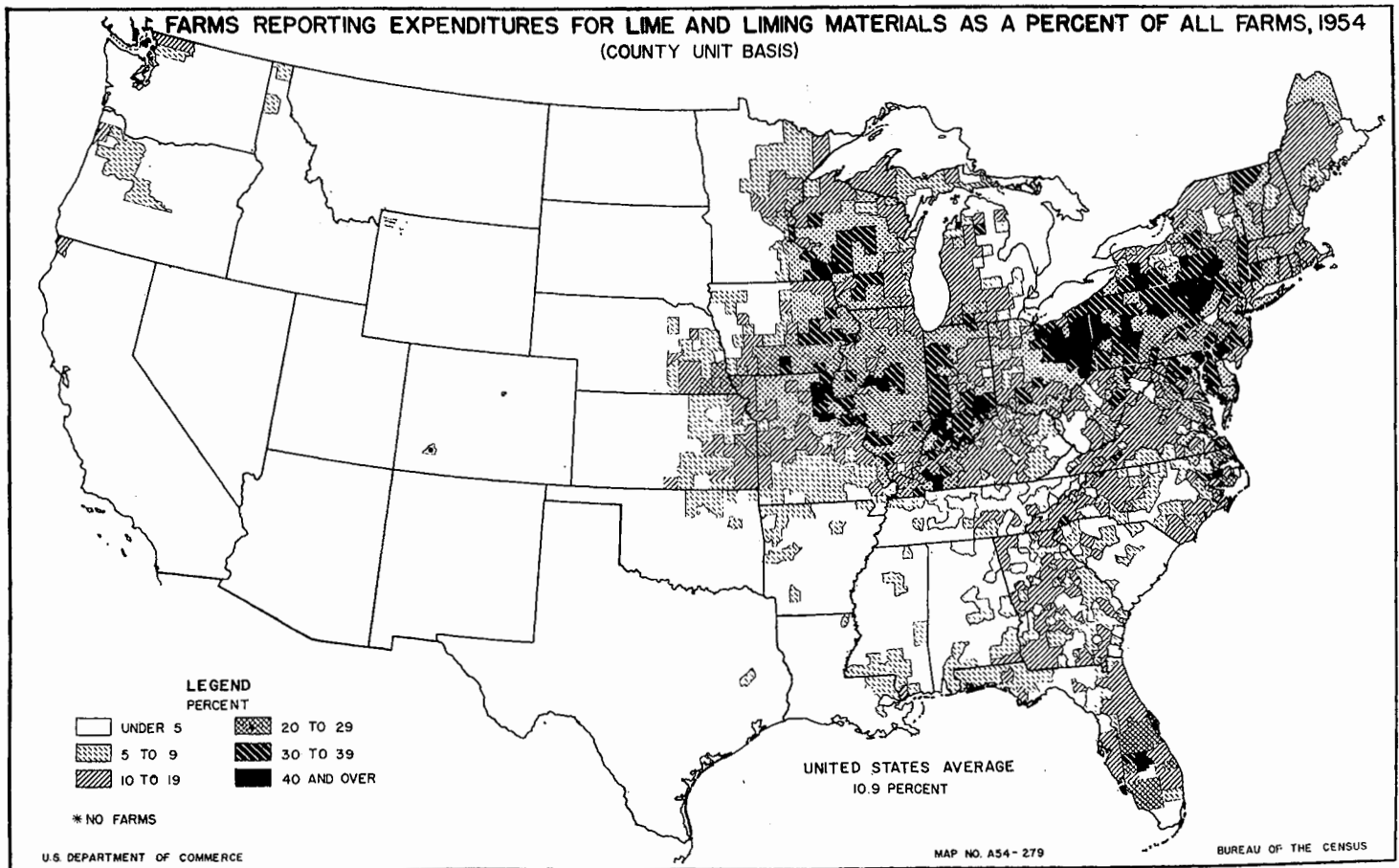


FIGURE 31.