



FIGURE 4.

Regions VII and VIII, in the subhumid belt, are most dissimilar. The first named is composed of the Black Prairie of Texas, the Rio Grande Plains of southern Texas, and the rolling plains of west central Texas and southwestern Oklahoma. Region VIII is the lower Rio Grande Valley and has, in comparatively recent years, become a rather highly specialized cotton-growing area. Irrigation is general here but the water supply, mostly from the Rio Grande, is generally not adequate to permit irrigation of all land in cotton.

The final two regions (Regions IX and X) encompass, respectively, most of the cotton production under semiarid and arid climatic conditions.

In Region IX, most of the cotton is grown in the High Plains of Texas area. This area was developed for crop farming relatively late, and its farms have always been characterized by relatively large areas of land and other resources per man. Supplemental irrigation from wells has become a very significant factor in the agriculture of the cotton-growing section of this region during the past 10 to 12 years.

In Region X, cotton is grown only under irrigation. Included in this region are the Trans-Pecos and upper Rio Grande cotton-producing areas of Texas, nearly all cotton-producing areas in New Mexico and Arizona, and the fabulous Central Valley of California.

The 30 subregions included in these 10 regions accounted, in the aggregate, for 94 percent of all cotton farms and for 97 percent of both the cotton acreage and production of cotton on such farms in 1954. During 1954, the 30 selected subregions accounted for about 95 to 98 percent of the national total of cotton farms and of cotton acreage and production on cotton farms for each economic class.

Thus, it seems reasonable to conclude that the cotton farms of the selected subregions are, in the aggregate, representative of all cotton farms in the United States. To a remarkable degree cotton growing is concentrated on farms that are classified as cotton farms. In 1954, for example, 61 percent of all farms reporting cotton, and 80 and 84 percent, respectively, of all cotton acreage and production were on these farms. So although most of the data in this report pertain specifically only to the cotton-farm type, it would seem that most of the aggregate conclusions indicated could be accepted as applying to the general industry of cotton production in the United States. This supposition is buttressed by several facts: (1) These subregions, in 1954, accounted for 68 percent of the number of commercial farms, other than cotton farms, that reported cotton, and for 80 percent of the cotton acreage and production found on these farms. (2) In that year approximately 90 percent of the noncommercial farms reporting cotton, and of the cotton acreage and production on these farms, were encompassed by the selected subregions.