

Miscellaneous farms.—This category includes relatively unimportant types as to number, such as forest-products farms, horse farms, nurseries, and greenhouses. Taken together, these farms accounted for only 1 percent of all commercial farms. The main purpose in classifying miscellaneous farms was to exclude them from the other types in order that the classification would be more meaningful.

Type-of-Farming Areas

Any attempt to outline type-of-farming areas in the United States must necessarily be very general. It is typical in some regions that a particular type of farm predominates, but other regions are characterized by a mixture of types, none of which predominate numerically.

The accompanying map shows the type of farm that accounted for 50 percent or more of the commercial farms in each county for 1954. (See map below.) Mixed-farming counties are those in which no single type comprised as much as half the commercial farms.

On this basis, several major type-of-farming areas stand out: The dairy areas of New England and the Lake States; the tobacco areas of North Carolina and Kentucky; the cotton area which covers most of the South as well as parts of Texas, New Mexico, Arizona, and California; the livestock areas which predominate

in the West and extend into the Midwest; the cash-grain areas of the Midwest, North Dakota, Kansas, and the Northwest; and the fruit-and-nut areas of central California and the Florida peninsula. In addition to these, there are many smaller areas in which certain types of farms predominate.

But the mixed areas cover a greater geographic extent than does any specific type. These usually border the more specialized areas. In some instances they are transitional areas in which two or more major types of farming merge. In this respect, it is interesting to observe the mixed nature of farming in the Midwest, long known for its corn, hogs, and cattle feeding. With the exception of livestock areas of Iowa and Missouri and the cash-grain areas of Illinois and Indiana, this region appears as predominantly a mixed-farming area. Production of feed grains and feeding of livestock are interrelated to the extent that neither enterprise predominates in most of this region.

In reviewing the type-of-farming area maps shown here, it must be recalled that they are based upon numbers of farms having a major source of income from a particular source. For this reason, type-of-farming areas may not represent the major source of income for the area. This would be true in cases in which relatively small numbers of farms with large sales volumes were of basically different types. In most situations a cash-grain or dairy area, for example, will approximate the area outlined by the major source of income.

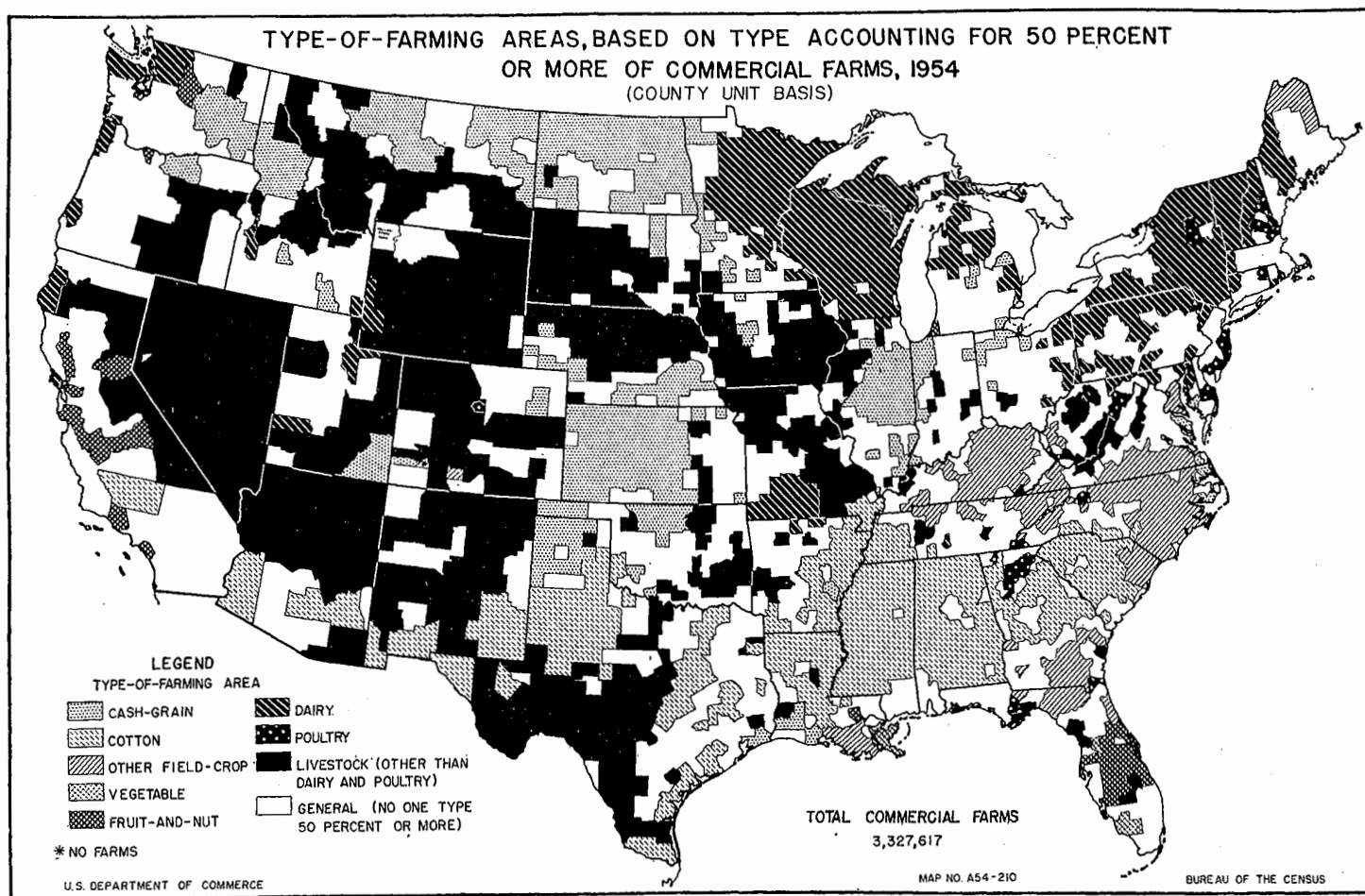


FIGURE 24.