

FIGURE 31.

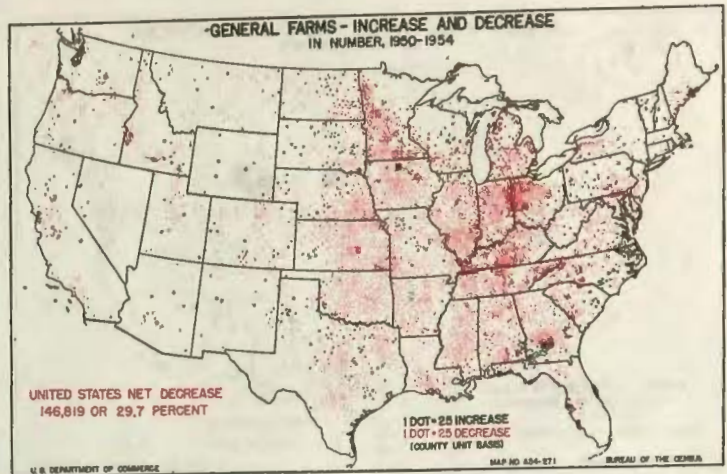


FIGURE 33.

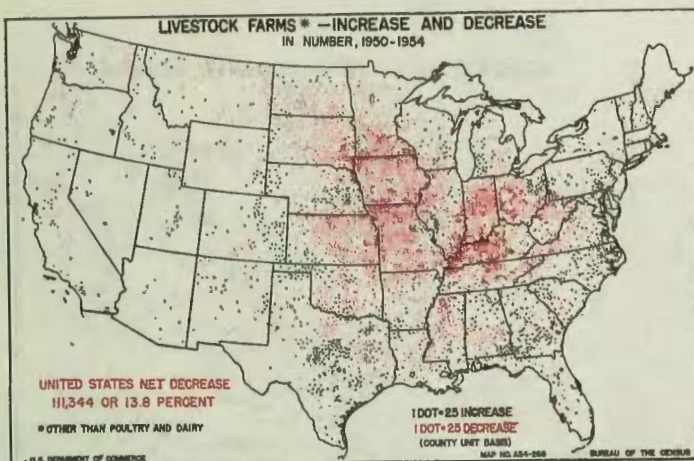


FIGURE 32.

Most of the fruit-and-nut farms are located on the Pacific Coast and the Florida peninsula. The significant change in the number of these farms was the decrease in the Los Angeles area of Southern California and the increase in central Florida. The decrease in the number of fruit-and-nut farms in Southern California was probably due to the combining of farms into larger production units. The acreage in fruit and nut trees, as well as the production, remained about the same, but was distributed among fewer farmers. In central Florida the land in fruit orchards, groves, vineyards, and planted nut trees, increased by more than a third. This is one of the few areas in which the total number of farms increased between 1950 and 1954.

The number of vegetable farms decreased by nearly a third between 1950 and 1954. This decrease was fairly general in most areas. Because of the small number of vegetable farms and their geographic dispersion, no attempt is made here to indicate the relation of these decreases to changes in other types of farms. The number of vegetable farms decreased in each economic class except Class I.

Along with changes in types of farms there were notable changes in the geographic distribution of the economic classes of farms. As mentioned, there was an increase in the number of Class I farms for each type of farm. These increases in Class I farms

were mostly confined to specific areas. The area of greatest increase was in northern Iowa, Illinois, and Indiana. Here they are associated closely with the increase in cash-grain farms. From the areas shown on the map it is apparent that most of the increases in Class I cash-grain farms were among those with a major source of income from sales of corn and soybeans rather than of wheat. In the wheat areas, increases in Class I farms were confined mainly to the spring-wheat area of Montana and the white-wheat area of Washington.

There was an increase in Class I cotton farms in the Mississippi Delta and the High Plains of Texas. In the Mississippi Delta the increase was due largely to a reduction in the number of cropper farms. Part of the increase represents cotton farms, formerly operated as multiple units, which decreased the number of croppers and reorganized production to use hired labor in mechanized operations.

Increases in the High Plains of Texas resulted from increased production from irrigated acreages. The irrigated land in cotton farms nearly doubled between 1950 and 1954. Despite a sharp decrease in the acreage, the production increased by nearly a third. The number of cotton farms did not change appreciably but more of them were classified in the larger economic classes.

Increases in Class I farms in other areas are associated with poultry farms, fruit-and-nut farms, and a mixture of types in the Pacific Coast States; fruit-and-nut farms in central Florida; and cash-grain (rice) farms in southern Louisiana.

Decreases in the number of Class I farms were distributed fairly generally over the United States. These were more noticeable, however, among cash-grain and general farms in the Plains area extending from Texas to Nebraska.

Changes in the geographic distribution of farms in Economic Classes II through VI are not discussed separately except as mentioned previously in relation to changes in types of farms. In general, most areas that show an increase in the larger economic classes show a corresponding decrease in the smaller economic classes. These changes are related to the combinations of small farms into larger units and to continued increases in production that have resulted from application of better farming practices. Increases in the number of farms in the smaller economic classes in specific localities are probably due largely to abnormalities in production in 1954. Sales may have been below normal because of poor yields in that particular year.