

Barley and rye for grain each occupied less than 1 percent of the cropland on commercial farms in this belt in 1954. The largest proportion of cropland in barley was on cash-grain farms in the Northern Corn Belt (2.4 percent), while the largest proportion in rye (0.7 percent) was on commercial farms in the Eastern Corn Belt. The smallest percentages of cropland in either barley or rye were in the Central Corn Belt.

Red clover seed was harvested on only 0.4 percent of the cropland on these commercial farms in 1954. The acreage from which red clover seed was harvested ranged from about 1 percent of the cropland in the Eastern Corn Belt to 0.1 percent of the cropland in the Western Corn Belt.

Alfalfa is the most important hay crop in the Corn Belt. In 1954, a total of 8,265,755 acres of alfalfa and alfalfa mixtures were cut for hay on the commercial farms. This was 31.8 percent of the total acreage of alfalfa and alfalfa mixtures cut for hay on all farms in the United States. The distribution of acreage of alfalfa cut for hay in 1954 is shown in figure 27. Most of the acreage is in the northern and western States. The large areas of heaviest concentration of acreage are in the dairy region of the Lake States, in the Northern and Western Corn Belt, and in the Central Valley of California. In the Corn Belt, alfalfa cut for hay in 1954 occupied 6.8 percent of all the cropland on commercial farms. The areas with the largest percentages of cropland in alfalfa were in northwestern Illinois, southwestern Wisconsin, eastern Iowa, and southeastern Nebraska. Most of the alfalfa crop was grown on livestock farms, but a large proportion was grown on cash-grain farms, for example, in southeastern Nebraska.

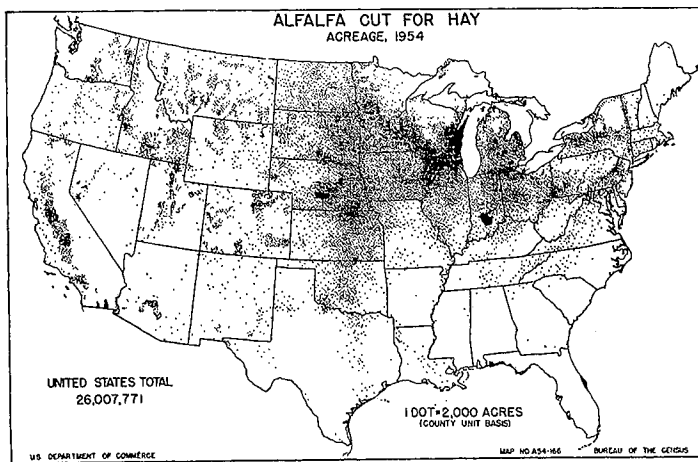


FIGURE 27.

Clover, timothy, and mixtures of clover and grasses constitute the second most important hay crop in the Corn Belt. A total of 5,368,928 acres of this hay crop was harvested on the commercial farms in the Corn Belt in 1954. This was 31.7 percent of the acreage on all farms in the United States. Most of the acreage of clover or timothy cut for hay in the country as a whole is in the North Central and Northeastern States (fig. 28). In the Corn Belt, clover, timothy, and mixtures of clover and grasses cut for hay occupied 4.4 percent of the cropland on commercial farms in that year. The smallest percentage of cropland in this hay crop was in the Western Corn Belt. The relatively heaviest areas of acreage concentration were on livestock farms in northeastern and southern Iowa and in the northeastern part of Missouri.

Averages per farm reporting for principal crops.—The percentage of farms reporting various crops in the Corn Belt has been discussed above. Data have been presented also on the acreage of cropland used for the different crops. From the standpoint of proportion of cropland utilized, as well as from the standpoint of

percentage of farms reporting, the leading crops are corn, oats, soybeans, and wheat, with soybeans ranking second to corn in total value of production.

In order to show more clearly the scale of crop production on individual farms in the different regions of the Corn Belt and in order to make comparisons between types and economic classes of farms, data for the four principal crops are given on a per-farm-reporting basis in the following tables.

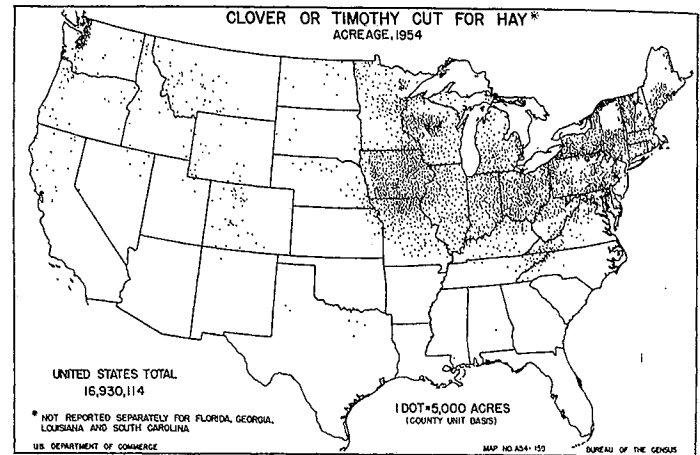


FIGURE 28.

The average acreage of corn harvested for grain per farm reporting in the Corn Belt in 1954 was 56 acres (table 54). On cash-grain farms the average was 65 acres, and on livestock farms 58 acres. In appraising these acreages it is helpful to keep in mind that cash-grain farms averaged larger than livestock farms in terms of acreage of cropland harvested (table 25). Cash-grain farms in the Western Corn Belt had the largest acreage of corn per farm reporting (83 acres), and livestock farms in the Southern Corn Belt had the smallest acreage (38 acres). In the Eastern Corn Belt the acreage of corn per farm reporting was almost as large on livestock farms as it was on cash-grain farms. However, corn was reported on a larger percentage of the cash-grain farms than of the livestock farms (see table 51).

TABLE 54.—AVERAGE ACREAGE OF PRINCIPAL CROPS PER FARM REPORTING, BY TYPE OF FARM, IN THE CORN BELT AND COMPONENT REGIONS: 1954

Region and type of farm	Corn harvested for grain	Soybeans harvested for beans	Wheat threshed or combined	Oats threshed or combined
	Acres	Acres	Acres	Acres
Total Corn Belt:				
All commercial farms.....	56	36	29	34
Cash-grain farms.....	65	45	36	34
Livestock farms ¹	58	27	25	36
Eastern Corn Belt:				
All commercial farms.....	43	32	21	18
Cash-grain farms.....	49	38	23	18
Livestock farms ¹	48	27	23	20
Central Corn Belt:				
All commercial farms.....	67	41	24	38
Cash-grain farms.....	75	50	27	39
Livestock farms ¹	64	28	19	30
Northern Corn Belt:				
All commercial farms.....	49	35	23	40
Cash-grain farms.....	59	44	30	46
Livestock farms ¹	51	26	20	40
Western Corn Belt:				
All commercial farms.....	74	29	48	45
Cash-grain farms.....	83	37	61	42
Livestock farms ¹	72	22	36	48
Southern Corn Belt:				
All commercial farms.....	40	38	25	21
Cash-grain farms.....	50	50	31	21
Livestock farms ¹	38	30	21	23

¹ Livestock other than dairy and poultry farms.