

The average volume of production of principal crops on different economic classes of farms provides a comparison of the relative sizes of these farms that is even more vivid than the average acreage comparisons made above. The average quantity of corn produced per farm reporting was 11,617 bushels on Class I cash-grain farms (table 57). This was more than 20 times as large as the average crop of corn on Class VI cash-grain farms that harvested

corn for grain. The volume of corn produced per farm reporting on Class II cash-grain farms was more than 3 times as great as that on Class IV cash-grain farms. The volume of each of the 4 principal crops produced per farm declines consistently as we go from Class I farms to Class VI farms, for livestock farms as well as for cash-grain farms. It can readily be seen, for example, that feed-grain production on Classes IV, V, and VI livestock farms provides a relatively small base for feeding operations compared with the scale of production on the Classes I, II, and III farms.

TABLE 57.—QUANTITY PRODUCED PER FARM REPORTING FOR PRINCIPAL CROPS, BY ECONOMIC CLASS OF FARM IN THE CORN BELT: 1954

Type and economic class of farm	Corn	Soybeans	Wheat	Oats
	<i>Bushels</i>	<i>Bushels</i>	<i>Bushels</i>	<i>Bushels</i>
All commercial farms.....	2,624	793	737	1,216
Cash-grain farms:				
Total.....	2,995	1,006	898	1,190
Class I.....	11,617	3,737	2,724	2,988
II.....	5,162	1,597	1,377	1,708
III.....	2,753	842	873	1,142
IV.....	1,660	490	562	751
V.....	890	291	367	602
VI.....	523	169	258	387
Livestock farms: <sup>1</sup>				
Total.....	2,729	604	648	1,344
Class I.....	7,077	1,460	1,682	2,714
II.....	3,852	762	847	1,722
III.....	2,298	435	532	1,198
IV.....	1,307	266	352	822
V.....	806	161	250	535
VI.....	490	116	194	377

<sup>1</sup> Livestock other than dairy and poultry farms.

YIELDS PER ACRE

Average yields of corn per acre in the United States in 1954, on a county unit basis, are shown in figure 29. The largest area of yields averaging 60 bushels and over is in the North Central States. Most of this area is within the Corn Belt. It extends to the north of the Corn Belt in southern Wisconsin. Other areas of corn yields of 60 bushels and over are mainly in the irrigated sections of the West. In a large portion of the Northeast region to the east of the Corn Belt, yields of corn averaged from 40 to 59 bushels. Yields in the Southern and Western Corn Belt are significantly lower than those in the Central, Eastern, and Northern Corn Belt. The highest yields in the Corn Belt were obtained in the areas that had the most favorable combinations of fertile soil, adequate moisture, and warm summer temperature. Yields were considerably below average in the southern and southwestern parts of the Corn Belt in 1954 because of damage to the crop in those areas by severe drought. The average yield of corn per acre in the United States was 39.1 bushels.

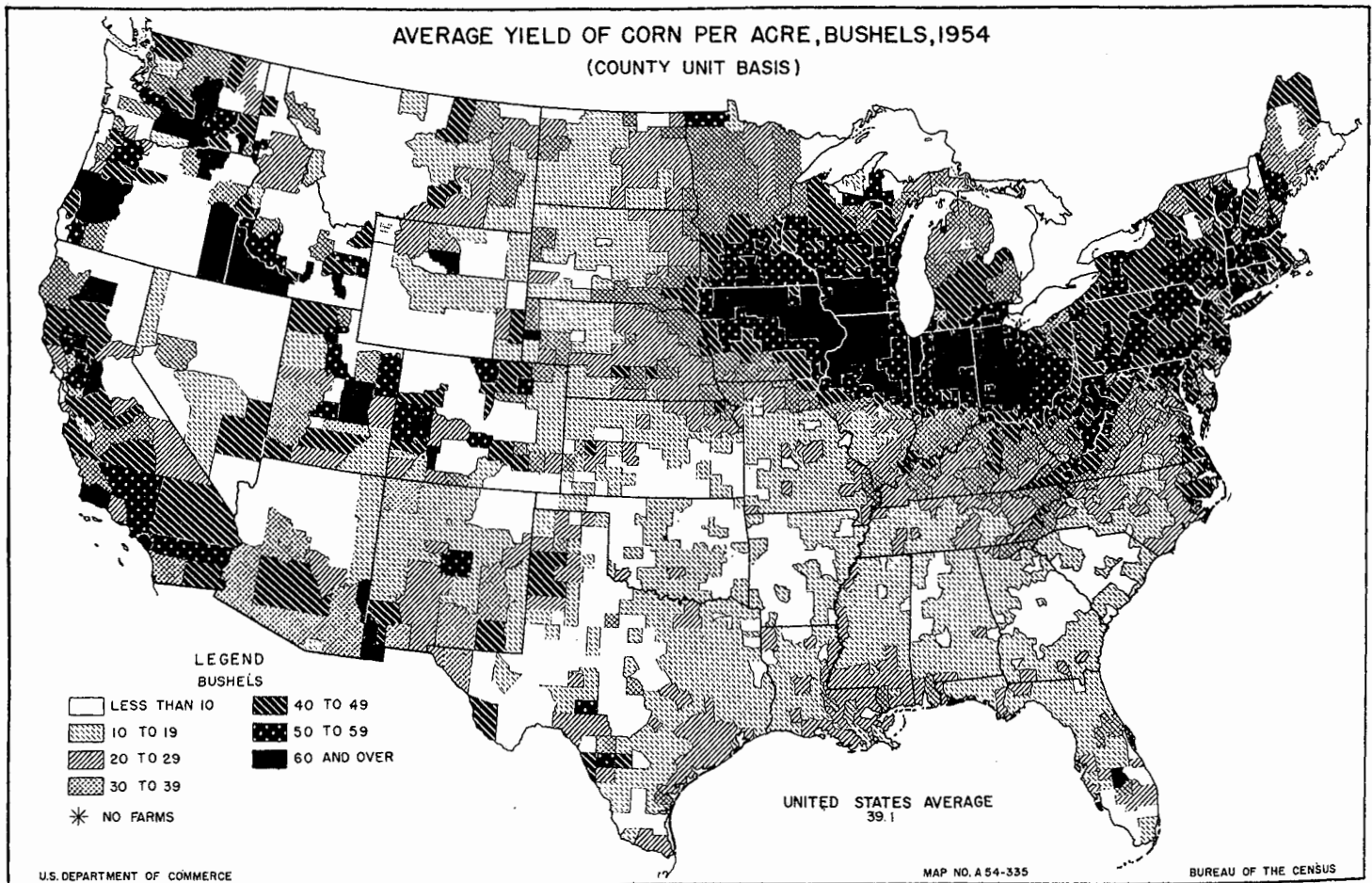


FIGURE 29.