

CHAPTER I
FARMS AND LAND IN FARMS

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CHAPTER I.—FARMS AND LAND IN FARMS

Introduction.—This chapter presents statistics on the number of farms, land in farms, and value of farm land and buildings. The land in farms is classified according to major uses. The chapter provides information on significant changes in farms and in the utilization of our land resources through the years. The data reflect the tremendous impact on agriculture of the increasing demand for manpower by cities and industry on the one hand, and increasing farm mechanization on the other.

Sources of data.—The data presented are from the 1954 Census of Agriculture with comparative data for earlier Censuses. The figures for numbers of farms, all land in farms, and the land classified according to use represent summations of the information entered on questionnaires filled for each farm in the complete enumeration canvass. The figures for value of farm land and buildings for 1954 and 1950 are based on reports for only a sample of farms.

A facsimile of the questionnaire used in the 1954 Census is shown in the Appendix. For a description of the procedures used in the enumeration and processing of the statistics and of the sampling technique, and for tables giving the reliability of estimates based on the sample, see the Introduction to this volume.

The information obtained from the Censuses of Agriculture is supplemented with data on population from the Censuses of Population and on the uses of nonfarm land from estimates of the United States Department of Agriculture.

Presentation of statistics.—Statistics are presented as totals for the United States, for major geographic areas, and for each of the 48 States. The major geographic areas include nine groups of States, called geographic divisions, and a further grouping showing totals for three regions—the North, the South, and the West. An outline map showing the States, geographic divisions, and regions appears in the Introduction.

Averages, percentages, and other derived data are provided as aids in using and analyzing the statistics. Graphic presentation of the data through the use of charts and maps supplements the tabular presentation.

In presenting totals for the United States, data for most items are shown for all earlier Census years for which comparable data are available. In presenting statistics by regions, divisions, and States, data for most items are limited to the three most recent Censuses, viz, 1954, 1950, and 1945. Exceptions are data on number of farms, all land in farms, cropland harvested, and value of farm land and buildings. For these items, data are shown by regions, divisions, and States for each Census year for which available.

Other published data.—Data by counties and by State economic areas¹ on number of farms, land in farms, land use, and value of farm land and buildings may be found in Volume I, Parts 1 to 33. Data for these items for farms classified by size of farm appear in Chapter V of this volume, by color and tenure of operator in Chapter X, by economic class of farm in Chapter XI, and by type of farm in Chapter XII. Some of the data by these classifications are also shown by counties and by State economic areas in Volume I.

The number of farms by age of operator, by residence of operator, by years on the farm operated, and by work off the farm is presented in Chapter II, and farms by class of work power, in Chapter III.

Some of the figures for number of farms, land in farms, and land use shown in other chapters of this volume and in Volume I are based on reports for only a sample of farms. Since estimates based on a sample are subject to sampling errors, the estimated totals are not in exact agreement with the totals obtained by tabulating the data for all farms. Therefore, the totals shown elsewhere for these items, when based on the sample, will differ somewhat from those shown here. Headnotes in the tables call attention to data based on only a sample of farms.

The figures for average values of farm land and buildings per farm and per acre shown in this chapter are not in exact agreement with those shown for this item in other chapters of this volume and in Volume I. Although all 1954 and 1950 data on value of farm land and buildings are based on a sample of farms, the figures in this chapter are estimated totals for all farms. Those shown elsewhere represent averages for only those farms in the sample for which the value was reported. The reasons for these two sets of figures and an explanation of the methods used for their determination are described under "Value of land and buildings."

History of Census inquiries on farms, land in farms, land use, and farm values.—Data on number of farms, land in farms, and value of farm land and buildings were obtained for the first time in 1850. The first Census of Agriculture in 1840 was restricted to specified agricultural products and various classes of farm animals. Data on land use providing classifications somewhat comparable with those for 1954 were first obtained in 1925.

Comparability of statistics.—Differences in the inquiries included in the various Censuses, modifications in the wording of specific inquiries, and changes in the instructions or definitions, or in the procedures followed in collecting and compiling the data affect their comparability. In presenting statistics for earlier Census years, headnotes, footnotes, or the wording of the stub or column headings indicate any significant lack of comparability of the data. The text covering the specific item gives further information in regard to comparability of data relating to that item.

DEFINITIONS AND EXPLANATIONS

The descriptive terms and explanations refer principally to the 1954 Census of Agriculture, although, in general, they are applicable to earlier Censuses. The definitions consist primarily of a résumé of the questionnaire wording, occasionally supplemented by the more essential parts of instructions and procedures for enumerating and processing the questionnaires. For the exact phrasing of the inquiries, reference should be made to the facsimile of the 1954 Agriculture Questionnaire shown in the Appendix.

Definitions having a general application, such as those for "farms," "farm operators," "farms reporting," and "operators reporting," and factors influencing the data for numerous items are discussed in the Introduction to this volume and are not discussed in this chapter, unless of particular significance in respect to the subject under consideration.

¹ State economic areas are groups of counties within the State having similar agricultural, demographic, climatic, physiographic, and cultural characteristics.

A farm.—All the land under the control of one person or partnership was included as one farm. Control may have been through ownership, or through lease, rental, or cropping arrangement.

For the 1954 Census of Agriculture, places of 3 or more acres were counted as farms if the annual value of agricultural products, exclusive of home-garden products, amounted to \$150 or more. The agricultural products could have been either for home use or for sale. Places of less than 3 acres were counted as farms only if the annual value of sales of agricultural products amounted to \$150 or more. Places for which the value of agricultural products for 1954 was less than these minima because of crop failure or other unusual conditions, and places operated at the time of the Census for the first time, were counted as farms if normally they could be expected to produce these minimum quantities of agricultural products.

If a person had croppers or other tenants, the land assigned each cropper or other tenant was considered a separate farm, even though the landlord handled the entire holding as one operating unit in respect to supervision, equipment, rotation practice, purchase of supplies, or sale of products. Land retained by the landlord and worked by him with the help of his family and/or hired labor was likewise considered a farm.

In the enumeration of Indian reservations, the enumerator was instructed to obtain a questionnaire for each individual Indian operating allotted or owned land in accordance with instructions for any persons having agricultural operations. He was also instructed to obtain a questionnaire for the land held jointly, or used cooperatively. Such cooperative groups included grazing associations, grazing districts, tribal farms, Indian schools, experimental or demonstration farms, and other administrative units.

If land under the control of one person or partnership was located in two or more counties, the entire holding was enumerated as one farm and in only one county.

Farms as defined for earlier Censuses.—For the 1950 Census of Agriculture, the definition of a farm was the same as for 1954. For the 1945 and earlier Censuses of Agriculture, the definition of a farm was somewhat more inclusive. From 1925 to 1945, farms, for Census purposes, included places of 3 or more acres on which there were agricultural operations, and places of less than 3 acres if the agricultural products for home use or for sale were valued at \$250 or more. For places of 3 or more acres, no minimum quantity of agricultural production was required for purposes of enumeration; for places of under 3 acres all the agricultural prod-

ucts valued at \$250 or more may have been for home use and not for sale. The only reports excluded from the tabulations were those taken in error and those with very limited agricultural production, such as only a small home garden, a few fruit trees, a very small flock of chickens, etc. In 1945, reports for places of 3 acres or more with limited agricultural operations were retained if there were 3 or more acres of cropland and pasture, or if the value of products in 1944 amounted to \$150 or more when there were less than 3 acres of cropland and pasture.

The definition of a farm in the 1920 and 1910 Censuses was similar to that used from 1925 to 1940 but was somewhat more inclusive. In those years farms of less than 3 acres with products valued at less than \$250 were to be included provided they required the continuous services of at least one person.

In the definition for 1900, there were no acreage or value of production limits. Market, truck, and fruit gardens, orchards, nurseries, cranberry marshes, greenhouses, and city dairies were to be included provided the entire time of at least one person was devoted to their care. For 1890, 1880, and 1870, no tract of less than 3 acres was to be reported as a farm unless \$500 worth of produce was actually sold from it during the year. For 1860, no definition was given the enumerators. In the Census of 1850, no acreage qualification was given in the definition, but there was a lower limit of \$100 for value of products.

Land in farms.—For 1954, the land in each farm, that is the land under the control of each farm operator or partnership, was determined by asking the number of acres owned, the acres rented from others or worked on shares for others, and the acres rented to others or worked on shares by others. The acres in the farm were obtained by adding the acres owned and acres rented from others or worked on shares for others, and subtracting the acres rented to others or worked on shares by others. In case of a managed farm, the person in charge was asked the total acreage managed for his employer. The acreage that was rented to others or cropped by others was subtracted from the total managed acreage.

The acreage designated "land in farms" includes considerable areas of land not actually under cultivation and some land not used for pasture or grazing. All woodland and wasteland owned by farm operators, or included in tracts rented from others, is included as land in farms unless such land was held for other than agricultural purposes, or unless the acreage of such land held by a farm operator was unusually large. If a place had 1,000 or more

TABLE 1.—NUMBER OF FARMS, ALL LAND IN FARMS, AND VALUE OF FARMS, FOR THE UNITED STATES: 1850 TO 1954

[Data for value of farms for 1954 and 1950 are based on reports for only a sample of farms. See text. Figures for regions, divisions, and States in Tables 9 and 20]

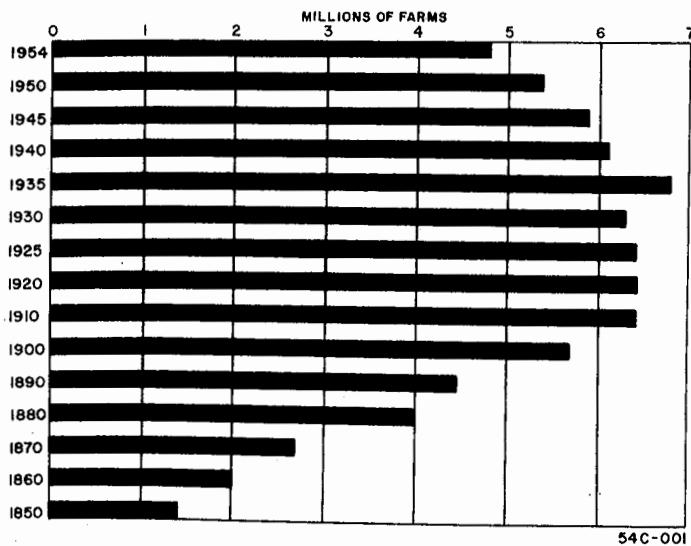
Year	Number of farms				All land in farms				Value of farms (land and buildings)				Approximate land area	
	Total	Increase or decrease (-) from preceding Census		Acres	Increase or decrease (-) from preceding Census		Total (dollars)	Increase or decrease (-) from preceding Census (percent)	Average per farm (dollars)	Average per acre (dollars)	Acres ¹	Percent in farms		
		Number	Percent		Acres	Percent								
1954.....	4,782,416	-599,746	-11.1	1,158,191,511	-374,341	(Z)	97,582,918,000	29.7	20,405	84.25	1,903,824,640	60.8		
1950.....	5,382,162	-477,007	-8.1	1,158,565,862	16,950,488	1.5	76,260,606,000	62.2	13,983	64.96	1,903,824,640	60.9		
1945.....	5,859,169	-237,630	-3.9	1,141,615,364	80,762,990	7.6	46,388,925,560	37.9	7,917	40.63	1,905,361,920	59.9		
1940.....	6,096,799	-715,551	-10.5	1,060,852,374	6,337,263	0.6	33,641,738,726	2.4	5,518	31.71	1,905,361,920	55.7		
1935.....	6,812,350	523,702	8.3	1,054,515,111	67,744,095	6.9	32,858,844,012	-31.4	4,823	31.16	1,903,216,640	55.4		
1930.....	6,288,648	-82,992	-1.3	986,771,016	62,451,664	6.8	47,879,838,358	-3.2	7,614	48.52	1,903,216,640	51.8		
1925.....	6,371,640	-76,703	-1.2	924,319,352	-31,564,363	-3.3	49,467,647,287	-25.4	7,764	53.52	1,903,216,640	48.6		
1920.....	6,448,343	86,841	1.4	955,883,715	77,085,390	8.8	66,316,002,602	90.6	10,284	69.38	1,903,215,360	50.2		
1910.....	6,361,502	624,130	10.9	878,798,325	40,206,551	4.8	34,801,125,697	109.5	5,471	39.60	1,903,289,600	46.2		
1900.....	5,737,372	1,172,731	25.7	838,591,774	215,373,155	34.6	16,614,647,412	25.1	2,896	19.81	1,903,461,760	44.1		
1890.....	4,564,641	555,734	13.9	623,218,619	87,136,784	16.3	13,279,252,649	30.2	2,909	21.31	1,903,337,600	32.7		
1880.....	4,008,907	1,348,922	50.7	536,081,835	128,346,794	31.5	10,197,096,776	37.0	2,544	19.02	1,903,337,600	28.2		
1870.....	2,659,985	615,908	30.1	407,735,041	522,503	0.1	2,444,054,462	12.0	2,799	18.26	1,903,337,600	21.4		
1860.....	2,044,077	595,004	41.1	407,212,538	113,651,924	38.7	6,645,045,007	103.1	3,251	16.32	1,903,337,600	21.4		
1850.....	1,449,073			283,560,614			3,271,575,426		2,258	11.14	1,884,375,680	15.6		

Z 0.05 percent or less.

¹ Changes in land area represent changes in boundaries, changes due to the construction of reservoirs, to drainage of lakes and swamps, etc., except for 1940 when a complete re-measurement of the United States was made.

² Value of gold—approximately $\frac{1}{8}$ less than reported currency values published in the 1870 report.

NUMBER OF FARMS IN THE UNITED STATES: 1850-1954



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acres of land not being used for agricultural purposes, and less than 10 percent of the total acreage in the place was used for agricultural purposes, the nonagricultural land in excess of the number of acres used for agricultural purposes was excluded from the farm area. In applying this rule, land used for crops, for pasture or grazing, and land rented to others was considered to be land used for agricultural purposes. On the other hand, in these large tracts, land was considered to be nonagricultural when it was woodland not pastured or wasteland.

Except for open range and grazing land used under Government permit, all grazing land was to be included as land in farms. Land used rent free was to be included as land rented from others. Grazing lands operated by grazing associations were to be reported in the name of the manager in charge.

All land in Indian reservations used for growing crops, or for grazing livestock, was to be included as farm land. Land in Indian reservations, not reported by individual Indians or not rented to non-Indians, was to be reported in the name of the cooperative group using the land. Thus, in some instances, the entire reservation was reported as one farm.

Land in farms for earlier Censuses.—For earlier Censuses, the land included in each farm should have been, in accordance with the instructions, nearly identical to that included in the 1954 Census. The procedure followed in the 1950 Census for obtaining the land in farms was closely parallel to that followed in 1954. In 1950, adjustments were made in places of 1,000 acres or more (5,000 acres or more in the 17 Western States), if less than 10 percent of the total acreage was used for agricultural purposes. For Censuses prior to 1950, the land included in each farm was essentially the same as that included for the 1954 and 1950 Censuses. The plan for exclusion of nonagricultural lands was not spelled out in quite the same detail as for 1954 and 1950.

In Censuses prior to 1950, the inquiries to determine the land in each farm were of this nature: "How many acres in this farm do you own?" and "How many acres in this farm do you rent from others?" The assumption was that the enumerator would instruct the respondent as to what land should be included in his farm. With these two inquiries, space was provided for the enumerator to record the number of acres in the farm.

Value of land and buildings.—The value to be reported was the approximate amount for which the land and the buildings on it would sell. For 1954, this item was obtained for only a sample of the farms; however, the value was not reported for all the farms comprising the sample. (See the Introduction to this volume for a description of the sample.)

¹ See Introduction to this volume for definition of "Specified farms."

The respondent was asked to report separately the value for land owned, land rented from others (or land managed in the case of managed farms), and land rented to others. For each category, he could report either the value per acre or the total value. In the office processing all average values, without a corresponding total value, were converted to a total. For institutional farms and for places on which there were both farming and nonfarm activities, the value of the institutional buildings and other non-farm structures was not to be included. Examples specifically mentioned in the instructions to enumerators for exclusion were hospitals, dormitories, administrative offices, filling stations, stores, restaurants, tourist cabins, mills, and factories. The value of processing plants used primarily for the disposal of raw materials produced on the farm where the plant was located, or for putting the raw materials into a marketable form was to be included.

Many problems, not encountered in enumerating most agricultural items, are involved in obtaining farm real-estate values. Most enumerated items require the respondent to make a statement based upon fact, such as upon actual transactions or existing conditions. But the estimation of the value of land and buildings is based largely upon opinion. In the event a farm had been recently purchased, answers could be based upon that experience. But many farms have not changed hands for many years, nor are they currently for sale. In such cases, farm operators may have no accurate basis for estimating the value. In many cases, a farm operator who would not sell his place under any circumstances may be inclined to give a "market value" that is unreasonably high. Some operators who had purchased their real estate during periods of relatively low prices may give an estimate that is unduly influenced by that experience. Furthermore, the extent of variation known to exist in real-estate values makes it difficult to establish checking procedures that will disclose inaccurate estimates.

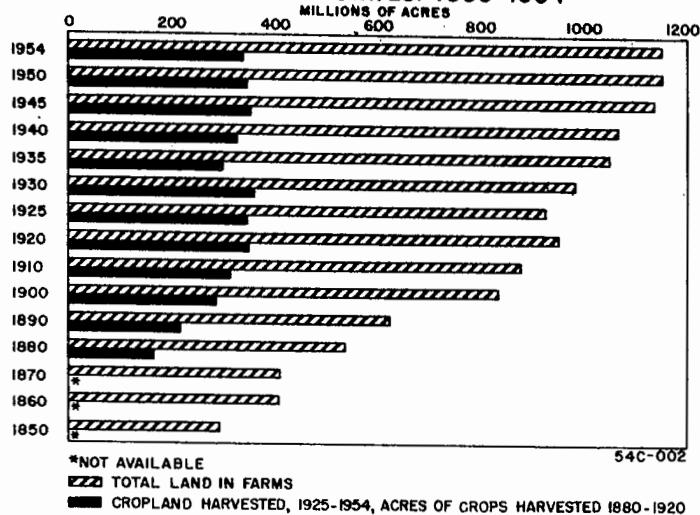
The value of land and buildings was not reported for all farms in the sample and the farms for which values were reported were not fully representative of all farms. The sample farms for which values were reported comprised only 81 percent of the farms and 78 percent of land in the farms included in the sample.

The values of land and buildings at the county level and for farms classified by tenure, class, and type were shown only as average values per farm and per acre. These averages were calculated on the basis of those farms in the sample for which values were reported. Estimates of a total value of land and buildings for each county, or for each tenure, class, and type within economic areas, have not been published.

The need for total values of farm lands and buildings has been recognized. Therefore, in this chapter such totals are given for the United States and for each State.

To obtain the total value of farm land and buildings for each State, values were first estimated for each county. For each county, total values were estimated separately for "specified farms"¹ and for all other farms. Specified farms were intended to include all farms of 1,000 acres or more, and for some States, those meeting certain additional criteria. To estimate the value of the specified farms, the average value per acre, for those for which value was reported, was multiplied by the total land in all specified farms in the county. The value of the other farms in each county was obtained by multiplying the average value per acre for those farms in the sample for which value was reported by the total land in all farms in the county which were not segregated as specified farms. This procedure for calculation of total value of farm lands and buildings was essentially a stratification of the sample into two strata on the basis of size, viz, farms under 1,000 acres and those of 1,000 or more acres. This stratification helped to reduce biases introduced by the failure to obtain reports of value for all farms in the sample. The estimation by counties provided a geographic stratification which helped further in reducing biases. Thus, the figures for total value of land and buildings shown in this chapter

ALL LAND IN FARMS AND CROPLAND HARVESTED,
FOR THE UNITED STATES: 1850-1954



represent an estimate for all farms. The figures for average value per farm and average value per acre for the United States, each region, division, and State were then calculated by dividing this estimated total value of land and buildings for all farms by the total number of farms and by the acres of all land in farms.

The estimating procedures take into account that the farms reporting value were not fully representative of all farms. Consequently, at the State and United States level, the per farm and per acre averages based on these estimated totals for all farms are somewhat more accurate than averages determined from totals for only those farms for which the value was reported.

In this chapter the average value estimated for all farms in the United States was \$20,405 per farm and \$84.25 per acre. The averages shown in other chapters of this volume are \$19,761 per farm and \$84.82 per acre.

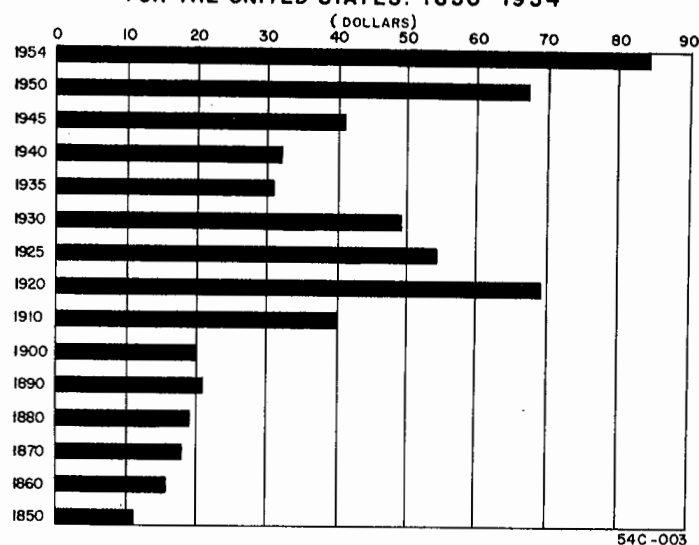
Value of land and buildings for earlier Censuses.—The 1950 figures for value of land and buildings were also based on a sample of farms. The procedure for estimating the total value of land and buildings, however, differed somewhat from that used for 1954. For 1950, the estimates were on a State level; the total value for each of 37 States was obtained by multiplying all land in farms by the average value per acre obtained for the farms in the sample reporting value. For the 11 Mountain and Pacific States, the estimate was obtained by calculating separately the value for each size-of-farm group. For a more detailed description of the procedure followed for 1950, see Chapter I of Volume II, General Report, 1950 Census of Agriculture.

The value-of-farm figures shown for 1945 and earlier Censuses were obtained by tabulating the data for all farms.

The value of land and buildings has been obtained for each Census, beginning with 1850. The value figures shown for each Census presumably represent the market value on the Census date, although specific instructions for evaluating the property for the amount for which it would sell first appeared for the 1900 Census. Prior to that time, the inquiries asked for "cash value" or merely "value," without further qualification. Except for 1870, the values presented in this chapter for each Census are the same as are shown in the reports for that Census. The 1870 figures are the same as those carried in the reports for 1880 and subsequent Censuses and represent an adjustment of the original figures to a gold basis. These figures were approximately one-fifth less than the figures reported in 1870.

Approximate land area.—Approximate land area includes all land in farms, cities, forests, etc. It includes dry land and land temporarily or partially covered by water, such as marshland, swamps, and river flood plains; streams, sloughs, estuaries, and

AVERAGE VALUE OF LAND AND BUILDINGS PER ACRE,
FOR THE UNITED STATES: 1850-1954



canals less than one-eighth of a mile in width; and lakes, reservoirs, and ponds having less than 40 acres of area.

The approximate total land area reported for 1954 for States and counties is, in general, the same as that reported for the 1950, 1945, and 1940 Censuses. Changes since 1940 represent changes in boundary, actual changes in land area due to the construction of reservoirs, etc. The figures for 1940 represent a complete re-measurement of the United States and, therefore, may differ from the figures shown for earlier Censuses.

Major uses of land.—The total land area of the United States and of the several States has been classified by major use, on the basis of Census data on land in farms supplemented by estimates of the Production Economics Research Branch, Agricultural Research Service, United States Department of Agriculture, for land not in farms.

Land not in farms was obtained by subtracting the area of land in farms from the approximate land area. The estimates of "Grazing land not in farms" include Federally-owned lands administered under the Taylor Grazing Act and grazed under permit, grazing lands included in national forests and grazed under permit, also any other public and privately owned grazing lands which were not included on farms. The livestock-carrying capacity of much of the rangeland not in farms is low and a large proportion of this rangeland provides only seasonal grazing.

"Woodland not grazed" represents only a part of the commercial forest area not in farms, as a part of the forest area is grazed and is included in the total for grazing land not in farms. "Other land not in farms" includes land occupied by cities and towns, highways and other roads, railways, airports, parks, reservoirs of less than 40 acres, wildlife refuges, military lands, and other special-use areas, also ungrazed desert, open swamp, rock, sand, and some other lands of low surface value.

ACREAGE OF LAND IN FARMS AND NOT IN FARMS,
FOR THE UNITED STATES: 1850-1954

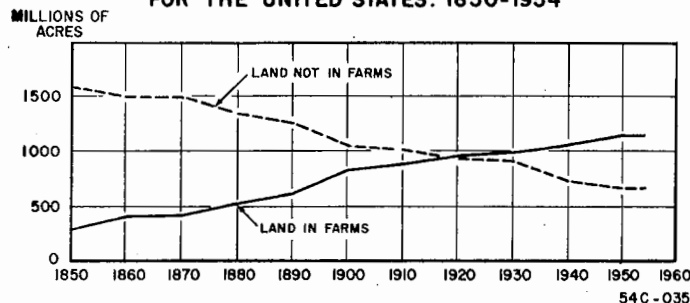


TABLE 2.—MAJOR USES OF LAND IN THE UNITED STATES: 1880 TO 1954

[Data for total land in farms and land not in farms are for the Census year; data for land by use for the 1954 Census are for the calendar year; for prior Censuses data for land by use are for the preceding calendar year. Figures for regions, divisions, and States in Table 23]

Item	1954	1950	1945	1940	1930	1920	1910	1900	1890	1880
Approximate land area ¹acres	1,903,824,640	1,903,824,640	1,905,361,920	1,905,361,920	1,903,216,640	1,903,215,360	1,903,289,600	1,903,461,760	1,903,337,600	1,903,337,600
Land in farms.....acres	1,158,191,511	1,158,565,852	1,141,615,384	1,080,852,374	986,771,016	955,883,715	878,798,325	838,591,774	623,218,619	538,081,835
Land not in farms.....acres	745,633,129	745,258,788	763,746,536	844,509,546	916,445,624	947,331,645	1,024,491,275	1,064,869,986	1,280,118,981	1,367,255,765
Proportion of total land area.....percent	39.2	39.1	40.1	44.3	48.2	49.8	53.8	55.9	67.3	71.8
Grazing land ²acres	352,639,000	400,164,000	428,129,000	504,000,000	578,000,000	661,000,000	739,000,000	768,000,000	(NA)	(NA)
Woodland and forest land not grazed ²acres	238,310,000	201,287,000	185,733,000	219,000,000	208,000,000	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)
Other land ²acres	154,684,000	143,808,000	149,885,000	121,000,000	132,000,000	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)
Land used for agriculture, total ³acres	1,516,830,511	1,558,730,000	1,569,744,000	1,565,000,000	1,565,000,000	1,617,000,000	1,618,000,000	1,607,000,000	(NA)	(NA)
Proportion of total land area.....percent	79.4	81.9	82.4	82.1	82.2	85.0	85.0	84.4	(NA)	(NA)
Cropland other than that used only for pasture.....acres	393,579,123	408,506,094	403,245,042	398,751,103	415,334,931	402,000,000	347,000,000	319,000,000	248,000,000	188,000,000
Proportion of total land area.....percent	20.7	21.5	21.2	20.9	21.8	21.1	18.2	16.8	13.0	9.9
Land used for pasture and grazing.....acres	999,740,000	1,019,860,000	1,051,670,000	1,065,000,000	1,042,000,000	1,066,000,000	1,121,000,000	1,131,000,000	(NA)	(NA)
Proportion of total land area.....percent	52.5	53.6	55.2	55.9	54.7	56.0	58.9	59.4	(NA)	(NA)
Land used for agriculture and forestry ⁴acres	1,749,140,511	1,759,806,000	1,755,477,000	1,768,000,000	1,773,000,000	1,777,000,000	1,780,000,000	1,782,000,000	(NA)	(NA)
Proportion of total land area.....percent	91.9	92.4	92.1	92.8	93.2	93.4	93.5	93.6	(NA)	(NA)

NA Not available.

¹ Changes in land area represent changes in boundaries, actual changes due to the construction of reservoirs, to drainage of lakes and swamps, etc., except for 1940, when a complete remeasurement of the United States was made.

² Estimates of production Economic Research Branch, U. S. Department of Agriculture. Grazing land not in farms consists of land used chiefly for grazing and includes open or nonforested grazing land, idle grassland in first decades, forest and woodland and shrub and brush grazing land in all years.

³ Includes some public and private land usable for grazing which is not necessarily grazed every year, but excludes areas of grass and other forage of value for grazing in

military reservations, national parks, natural wild life areas, etc., for which permits were not issued for grazing livestock.

⁴ In addition to the estimated nonfarm acreage grazed, there probably were 15 to 20 million acres of nonfarm land having some forage value not used for grazing for various reasons.

⁵ Includes areas containing forage suitable for grazing (not legally closed to grazing), whether actually grazed or not in 1944.

⁶ Land in farms and grazing land not in farms.

⁷ Land in farms; grazing land not in farms; and woodland and forests not in farms.

Land in farms according to use.—Land in farms was classified according to the use made of it in 1954. The classes of land are mutually exclusive, i. e., each acre of land was included only once even though it may have had more than one use during the year.

The classes are as follows:

Cropland harvested.—This includes land from which crops were harvested; land from which hay (including wild hay) was cut; and land in small fruits, orchards, vineyards, nurseries, and greenhouses. Land from which two or more crops were reported as harvested was to be counted only once.

The enumerator was instructed to check the figure for cropland harvested for each farm by adding the acreages of the individual crops reported and subtracting the acres of land from which two crops were harvested. This procedure was repeated during the central-office editing process for farms with 100 or more acres of cropland harvested.

If the harvested cropland was used for other purposes, either before or after the harvest of a crop, the enumerator was specifically instructed to report the acreage only under cropland harvested.

Cropland used only for pasture.—The enumerator's instructions stated that rotation pasture and all other cropland that was used only for pasture were to be included under this class. No further definition of cropland pastured was given the farm operator or enumerator.

Cropland not harvested and not pastured.—This class includes idle cropland, land in soil-improvement crops only, land on which all crops failed, land seeded to crops for harvest after 1954, and cultivated summer fallow.

This class of land was obtained by two inquiries. In the 17 Western States these two inquiries were as follows:

Cultivated summer fallow.—This item includes cropland that was plowed and cultivated but left unseeded for several months to control weeds and conserve moisture. No land from which crops were harvested in 1954 was to be included. The acreage of cultivated summer fallow is negligible in those States where the inquiry was not included on the questionnaire.

Other cropland.—The inquiry for this item called for the acreage of cropland not already accounted for under the inquiries for cropland harvested, cropland used only for pasture, and cultivated summer fallow. Instructions on the questionnaire asked for the inclusion of idle land, land in soil-improvement crops only, and land on which all crops failed. In these 17 Western States, this other cropland represents largely land on which crops failed.

In the remaining 31 States, the two inquiries comprising *cropland not harvested and not pastured* were for—

Cropland used only for crops not harvested and not pastured.—This class, included in 1954 for the first time, was to include land on which all crops failed and land in soil-improvement crops only. In these 31 States, the incidence of crop failure is usually low. It was expected that the acreage figure for this item would reflect the acreage in soil-improvement crops. However, the 1954 crop year was one of low rainfall in many Eastern and Southern States and, therefore, in these areas the acreage of cropland not harvested and not pastured includes more land on which all crops failed than would usually be the case.

Idle cropland.—The inquiry was for cropland lying idle (not used for crops or pasture).

Woodland pastured.—This includes all woodland that was used for pasture or grazing. The questionnaire contained the following instruction: "Include as woodland all woodlots and timber tracts and cutover land with young trees which have or will have value as wood or timber." No further definition of woodland pasture was given the enumerator or respondent.

TABLE 3.—FARMS BY NUMBER OF ACRES OF CROPLAND HARVESTED, FOR THE UNITED STATES: 1954, 1949, AND 1944

[Data for 1949 for the 3 groups comprising 200 or more acres are based on reports for only a sample of farms. Figures for regions, divisions, and States in Table 13]

Item	Number of farms			Percent of all farms		
	1954	1949	1944	1954	1949	1944
All farms.....	4,782,416	5,382,162	5,859,169	100.0	100.0	100.0
Farms reporting cropland harvested, total.....	4,104,241	4,734,398	5,363,490	85.8	88.0	91.5
1 to 9 acres.....	805,717	886,381	1,072,945	16.8	16.5	18.3
10 to 19 acres.....	620,555	788,318	852,015	13.0	14.3	14.5
20 to 29 acres.....	429,497	574,335	680,203	9.0	10.7	11.6
30 to 49 acres.....	531,274	687,956	824,712	11.1	12.8	14.1
50 to 99 acres.....	710,143	811,181	920,295	14.8	15.1	15.7
100 to 199 acres.....	602,632	621,248	646,136	12.6	11.5	11.0
200 to 499 acres.....	335,137	321,440	310,545	7.0	6.0	5.3
500 to 999 acres.....	56,209	51,460	46,772	1.2	1.0	0.8
1,000 or more acres.....	13,077	12,079	9,867	0.3	0.2	0.2
1 to 19 acres.....	1,426,272	1,654,699	1,924,960	29.8	30.7	32.9
20 to 49 acres.....	960,771	1,262,291	1,504,915	20.1	23.5	25.7
50 to 99 acres.....	710,143	811,181	920,295	14.8	15.1	15.7
100 to 199 acres.....	602,632	621,248	646,136	12.6	11.5	11.0
200 or more acres.....	404,423	384,979	367,184	8.5	7.2	6.3
No cropland harvested.....	678,175	647,764	495,679	14.2	12.0	8.5

GENERAL REPORT

TABLE 4.—ALL LAND IN FARMS AND SPECIFIED USES OF LAND, FOR THE UNITED STATES: CENSUSES OF 1850 TO 1954

[Figures for regions, divisions, and States in Tables 9 to 22]

Item and year	Farms reporting				Acres				Average		
	Number	Percent of all farms	Increase or decrease (-) from preceding Census		Total	Percent of all land in farms	Increase or decrease (-) from preceding Census		Per farm (based on all farms)	Per farm reporting	
			Number	Percent			Number	Percent			
All land in farms.....	1954..	4,782,416	100.0	-599,746	-11.1	1,158,191,511	100.0	-374,341	(Z)	242.2	242.2
	1950..	5,382,162	100.0	-477,007	-8.1	1,158,565,852	100.0	16,950,488	1.5	215.3	215.3
	1945..	5,859,169	100.0	-237,630	-3.9	1,141,615,364	100.0	80,762,990	7.6	194.8	194.8
	1940..	6,096,799	100.0	-715,551	-10.5	1,060,852,374	100.0	6,337,263	0.6	174.0	174.0
	1935..	6,812,350	100.0	523,702	8.3	1,054,515,111	100.0	67,744,095	6.9	154.8	154.8
	1930..	6,288,648	100.0	-82,992	-1.3	980,771,016	100.0	62,451,664	6.8	156.9	156.9
	1925..	6,371,640	100.0	-76,703	-1.2	924,319,352	100.0	-31,564,363	-3.3	145.1	145.1
	1920..	6,448,343	100.0	86,841	1.4	955,883,715	100.0	77,085,390	8.8	148.2	148.2
	1910..	6,361,502	100.0	624,130	10.9	878,798,325	100.0	40,206,551	4.8	138.1	138.1
	1900..	5,737,372	100.0	1,172,731	25.7	838,591,774	100.0	215,373,155	34.6	146.2	146.2
	1890..	4,564,641	100.0	555,734	13.9	623,218,619	100.0	87,136,784	16.3	136.5	136.5
	1880..	4,008,907	100.0	1,348,922	50.7	536,081,835	100.0	128,346,794	31.5	133.7	133.7
	1870..	2,659,985	100.0	615,908	30.1	407,735,041	100.0	522,503	0.1	153.3	153.3
	1860..	2,044,077	100.0	595,004	41.1	407,212,538	100.0	113,651,924	38.7	199.2	199.2
	1850..	1,449,073	100.0			293,560,614	100.0			202.6	202.6
Cropland harvested ¹	1954..	4,104,241	85.8	-630,157	-13.3	332,870,479	28.7	-11,528,101	-3.3	69.6	81.1
	1949..	4,734,398	88.0	-629,092	-11.7	344,398,550	29.7	-8,467,215	-2.4	64.0	72.7
	1944..	5,363,490	91.5	-349,765	-6.1	352,865,765	30.9	31,623,335	9.8	60.2	65.8
	1939..	5,713,255	93.7	-655,933	-10.3	321,242,430	30.3	25,618,254	8.7	52.7	56.2
	1934..	6,369,188	93.5	407,496	6.8	295,624,176	28.0	-63,617,915	-17.7	43.4	46.4
	1929..	5,981,692	94.8	(NA)	(NA)	359,242,091	36.4	14,692,824	4.3	57.1	60.3
	1924..	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	344,549,267	37.3	-3,999,282	-1.1	54.1	(NA)
	1919..	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	348,603,729	36.5	37,310,347	12.0	54.1	(NA)
	1909..	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	311,293,382	35.4	28,075,102	9.9	48.0	(NA)
	1899..	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	283,218,280	33.8	63,512,716	28.0	49.4	(NA)
	1889..	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	219,705,564	35.3	53,518,980	32.2	48.1	(NA)
	1879..	(NA)	(NA)			166,186,584	31.0			41.5	(NA)
Cropland pastured:											
Cropland used only for pasture.....	1954..	1,842,661	38.5	-272,339	-12.9	66,069,838	5.7	-3,262,006	-4.7	13.8	35.9
	1949..	2,115,000	39.3	² 470,465	² 28.6	69,331,844	6.0	² 21,882,660	² 46.1	12.9	32.8
Cropland used only for pasture plowed within 7 years.....	1944..	1,644,535	28.1	² -1,646,052	² -50.0	47,449,184	4.2	² -83,930,756	² -63.9	8.1	28.9
Plowable pasture.....	1939..	3,290,587	54.0	425,793	14.9	131,379,940	12.4	32,800,962	33.3	21.5	39.9
	1934..	2,864,794	42.1	159,818	5.9	98,579,038	9.3	-10,580,876	-9.7	14.5	34.4
	1929..	2,704,976	43.0	140,457	5.5	109,159,914	11.1	-4,407,584	-3.9	17.4	40.4
	1924..	2,564,519	40.2			113,567,498	12.3			17.8	44.3
Cropland not harvested and not pastured.....	1954..	1,289,674	27.0	-262,538	-16.9	60,708,644	5.2	-3,398,900	-5.3	12.7	47.1
	1949..	1,552,212	28.8	(NA)	(NA)	64,107,544	5.5	13,728,267	27.2	11.9	41.3
	1944..	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	50,379,277	4.4	-27,129,396	-35.0	8.6	(NA)
	1939..	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	77,508,673	7.3	-42,202,082	-35.3	12.7	(NA)
	1934..	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	119,710,755	11.4	65,716,956	121.7	17.6	(NA)
	1929..	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	53,993,799	5.5	7,083,164	15.1	8.6	(NA)
	1924..	(NA)	(NA)			46,910,635	5.1			7.4	(NA)
Cultivated summer fallow ³	1954..	214,411	18.2	7,370	3.6	28,631,403	4.1	3,016,860	11.8	24.3	133.5
	1949..	207,041	15.9	(NA)	(NA)	25,614,543	3.7	(NA)	(NA)	19.6	123.7
With no cropland harvested ³	1954..	6,049	0.5	631	11.6	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)
	1949..	5,418	0.4	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)
Other cropland not harvested and not pastured.....	1954..	1,140,171	23.8	-269,646	-19.1	32,770,241	2.8	-5,722,760	-14.9	6.9	28.7
	1949..	1,409,817	26.2	(NA)	(NA)	38,493,001	3.3	(NA)	(NA)	7.2	27.3
Total for 31 States ⁴	1954..	902,370	25.0	-232,148	-20.5	18,411,700	4.0	-6,101,255	-24.9	5.1	20.4
	1949..	1,134,518	27.8	(NA)	(NA)	24,512,955	5.2	(NA)	(NA)	6.0	21.6
Land used only for crops not harvested and not pastured (soil-improvement crops, new seedings, and crop failure) ⁴	1954..	305,850	8.5	(NA)	(NA)	4,953,061	1.1	(NA)	(NA)	1.4	16.2
With no cropland harvested ⁴	1954..	19,991	0.6	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)
Idle cropland ⁴	1954..	696,498	19.3	(NA)	(NA)	13,458,639	3.0	(NA)	(NA)	3.7	19.3
Crop failure.....	1944..	385,727	6.6	-218,677	-36.2	10,297,172	0.9	-10,282,845	-50.0	1.8	26.7
	1939..	604,404	9.9	-644,848	-51.6	20,580,017	1.9	-43,101,760	-67.7	3.4	34.1
	1934..	1,249,252	18.3	697,930	126.0	63,681,777	6.0	50,975,194	401.2	9.3	51.0
	1929..	551,322	8.8	(NA)	(NA)	12,706,583	1.3	-311,366	-2.4	2.0	23.0
	1924..	(NA)	(NA)			13,017,949	1.4			2.0	(NA)
Cropland, idle or fallow.....	1944..	1,107,224	18.9	-544,995	-33.0	40,082,105	3.5	-16,846,551	-29.6	6.8	36.2
	1939..	1,652,219	27.1	-379,747	-18.7	56,928,656	5.4	899,678	1.6	9.3	34.5
	1934..	2,031,966	29.8	647,374	46.8	56,028,978	5.3	14,741,762	35.7	8.2	27.6
	1929..	1,384,592	22.0	(NA)	(NA)	41,287,216	4.2	7,394,530	21.8	6.6	29.8
	1924..	(NA)	(NA)			33,892,686	3.7			5.3	(NA)
Woodland pastured.....	1954..	1,500,401	31.4	-196,041	-11.6	121,151,635	10.5	-13,563,340	-10.1	25.3	80.7
	1949..	1,696,442	31.5	179,612	11.8	134,714,975	11.0	39,639,729	41.7	25.0	79.4
	1944..	1,516,830	25.9	(NA)	(NA)	95,075,246	8.3	(NA)	(NA)	16.2	62.7
	1934..	2,186,106	32.1	254,738	13.2	108,095,711	10.3	22,773,811	26.7	15.9	49.4
	1929..	1,931,368	30.7	153,484	8.6	85,321,900	8.0	8,617,954	11.2	13.6	44.2
	1924..	1,777,884	27.9			76,703,946	8.3			12.0	43.1
Woodland not pastured.....	1954..	1,377,651	28.8	-272,213	-16.5	75,820,772	6.5	-9,278,663	-10.9	15.9	55.0
	1949..	1,649,864	30.7	-39,328	-2.3	85,099,435	7.3	13,538,252	19.4	15.8	51.6
	1944..	1,689,192	28.8	(NA)	(NA)	71,261,183	6.2	(NA)	(NA)	12.2	42.2
	1934..	1,909,067	28.0	297,869	18.5	77,379,254	7.3	12,755,429	19.7	11.4	40.5
	1929..	1,611,198	25.6	-25,442	-1.6	64,623,825	6.5	-2,443,390	-3.6	10.3	40.1
	1924..	1,636,640	25.7			67,067,215	7.3			10.5	41.0

See footnotes at end of table.

FARMS AND LAND IN FARMS

TABLE 4.—ALL LAND IN FARMS AND SPECIFIED USES OF LAND, FOR THE UNITED STATES: CENSUSES OF 1850 TO 1954—Continued

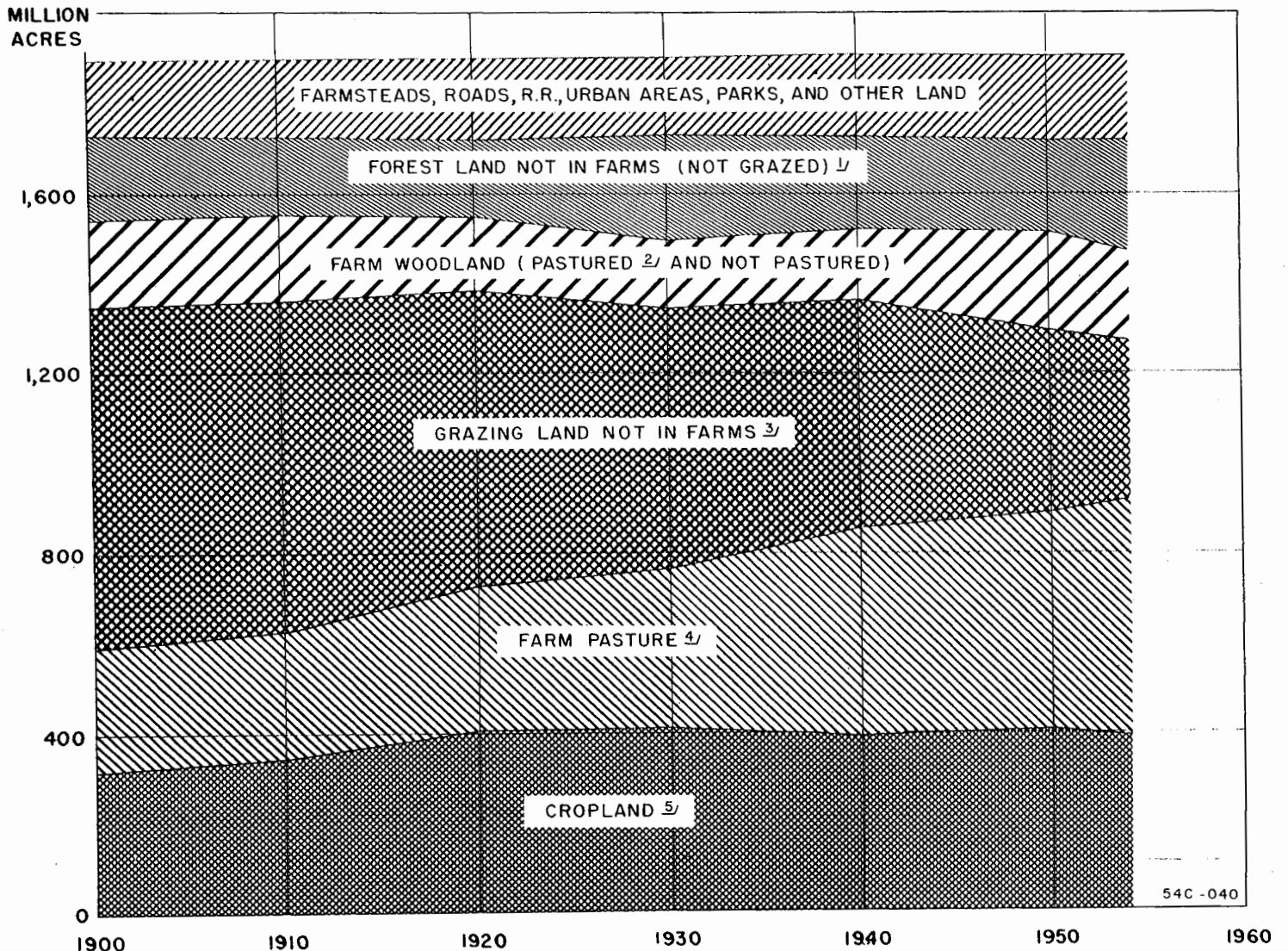
[Figures for regions, divisions, and States in Tables 9 to 22]

Item and year	Farms reporting				Acres						
	Number	Percent of all farms	Increase or decrease (-) from preceding Census		Total	Percent of all land in farms	Increase or decrease (-) from preceding Census		Average		
			Number	Percent			Number	Percent	Per farm (based on all farms)	Per farm reporting	
Other pasture:											
Not cropland and not woodland.....	1954.....	1,996,849	41.8	-65,594	-3.2	459,878,925	39.7	44,229,405	10.6	96.2	230.3
	1949.....	2,062,443	38.3	-865,370	-29.6	415,649,520	35.9	-65,367,148	-13.6	77.2	201.5
	1954.....	388,191	8.1			17,335,277	1.5			(Z)	44.7
Improved other pasture											
Not cropland plowed within 7 years and not woodland.....	1944.....	2,927,813	50.0	(NA)	(NA)	481,016,668	42.1	(NA)	(NA)	82.1	164.3
	1934.....	2,019,431	29.6	254,428	14.4	311,225,652	29.5	41,552,942	15.4	45.7	154.1
	1929.....	1,765,003	28.1	153,078	9.5	269,672,710	27.3	51,985,565	23.9	42.9	152.8
	1924.....	1,611,925	25.3			217,687,145	23.6			34.2	135.0
Other land:											
House lots, roads, wasteland, etc.....	1954.....	4,276,159	89.4	-415,429	-8.9	41,691,218	3.6	-3,572,766	-7.9	8.7	9.7
	1949.....	4,691,588	87.2	-599,185	-11.3	45,263,984	3.9	1,695,943	3.9	8.4	9.6
	1944.....	5,290,773	90.3	(NA)	(NA)	43,508,041	3.8	(NA)	(NA)	7.4	8.2
	1934.....	6,003,964	88.1	1,252,653	26.4	43,900,525	4.2	-856,252	-1.9	6.4	7.3
	1929.....	4,751,311	75.6	(NA)	(NA)	44,756,777	4.5	-13,076,869	-22.6	7.1	9.4
	1924.....	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	57,833,646	6.3			9.1	(NA)
House lots, roads, wasteland, etc., and pasture other than plowable and woodland ⁶	1939.....	5,222,744	85.7			393,543,673	37.1	38,417,496	10.8	64.5	75.4
Cropland:											
Total ⁷	1954.....	4,418,915	92.4	-627,748	-12.4	459,648,961	39.7	-18,188,977	-3.8	96.1	104.0
	1949.....	5,046,663	93.8	-521,155	-9.4	477,837,938	41.2	27,143,712	6.0	88.8	94.7
Cropland other than cropland pasture not plowed within 7 years ⁸	1944.....	5,567,818	95.0	-423,485	-7.1	450,694,226	39.5	-79,436,817	-15.0	76.9	80.9
Land available for crops ⁹	1939.....	5,991,303	98.3	(NA)	(NA)	530,131,043	50.0	16,217,074	3.2	87.0	88.5
	1934.....	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	513,913,969	48.7	-8,481,835	-1.6	75.4	(NA)
	1929.....	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	522,395,804	52.9	17,368,404	3.4	53.1	(NA)
	1924.....	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	505,027,400	54.6			79.3	(NA)
Land pastured, total.....	1954.....	3,596,951	75.2	-448,973	-11.1	647,100,398	55.9	27,404,059	4.4	135.3	179.9
	1949.....	4,045,924	75.2	-388,962	-8.8	619,696,339	53.5	-3,844,759	-0.6	115.1	153.2
	1944.....	4,434,886	75.7	(NA)	(NA)	623,541,098	54.6	(NA)	(NA)	106.4	140.6
	1934.....	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	517,900,401	49.1	53,745,877	11.6	70.0	(NA)
	1929.....	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	464,154,524	47.0	56,195,935	13.8	73.8	(NA)
	1924.....	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	407,958,589	44.1			64.0	(NA)
Woodland, total.....	1954.....	2,388,256	49.9	-347,505	-12.7	196,072,407	17.0	-22,842,003	-10.4	41.2	82.5
	1949.....	2,735,761	50.8	56,018	2.1	219,814,410	19.0	53,477,981	32.2	40.8	80.3
	1944.....	2,679,743	45.7	-222,413	-7.7	166,336,429	14.6	29,158,771	21.3	28.4	62.1
	1939.....	2,902,156	47.6	(NA)	(NA)	137,177,658	12.9	-48,297,307	-26.0	22.5	47.3
	1934.....	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	185,474,965	17.6	35,529,240	23.7	27.2	(NA)
	1929.....	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	149,945,725	15.2	6,174,504	4.3	23.8	(NA)
	1924.....	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	143,771,161	15.6	-23,959,633	-14.3	22.6	(NA)
	1919.....	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	167,730,794	17.5	-23,134,759	-12.1	26.0	(NA)
	1909.....	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	190,865,553	21.7	(NA)	(NA)	30.0	(NA)
	1879.....	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	190,255,744	35.5	30,945,567	19.4	33.2	(NA)
	1869.....	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	159,310,177	39.1			34.9	(NA)
Improved land ¹⁰	1920.....	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	503,073,007	52.6	24,621,257	5.1	78.0	(NA)
	1910.....	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	478,451,750	54.4	63,953,263	15.4	75.2	(NA)
	1900.....	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	414,451,487	49.4	56,881,732	15.9	72.2	(NA)
	1890.....	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	357,616,755	57.4	72,845,713	25.6	78.3	(NA)
	1880.....	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	284,771,042	53.1	95,849,943	50.7	71.0	(NA)
	1870.....	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	188,921,099	46.3	25,810,379	15.8	71.0	(NA)
	1860.....	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	163,110,720	40.1	50,078,106	44.3	79.8	(NA)
	1850.....	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	113,032,614	38.5			78.0	(NA)
Irrigated land in farms ¹¹	1954.....	320,236	6.7	15,175	5.0	29,552,155	2.6	3,764,713	14.6	6.2	92.3
	1949.....	305,061	5.7	16,866	5.9	25,787,455	2.2	5,247,985	25.6	4.8	84.5
	1944.....	288,195	4.9	-11,409	-3.8	20,539,470	1.8	2,566,640	14.2	3.5	71.3
	1939.....	299,604	4.9	-7,043	-2.4	17,982,830	1.7	4,948,656	12.3	2.9	60.0
	1934.....	296,189	4.3	24,632	9.3	13,034,174	1.2	-1,599,078	-10.9	1.9	44.0
	1929.....	265,147	4.2	42,358	19.0	14,633,252	1.5	(NA)	(NA)	2.3	55.2
	1919.....	222,789	3.5	60,066	36.9	(14)	(14)	(NA)	(NA)	(14)	(NA)
	1909.....	162,723	2.6	48,874	43.0	(14)	(14)	(NA)	(NA)	(14)	(NA)
	1899.....	113,849	2.0	59,713	110.3	7,744,492	0.9	4,028,547	108.4	1.4	68.0
	1889.....	54,136	1.2			3,715,945	0.6			0.8	68.6
Cover crops turned under and land planted to another crop ¹²	1954.....	488,240	12.8	(NA)	(NA)	9,278,572	1.8	(NA)	(NA)	2.4	19.0
Land in row or closely seeded crops grown in strips for wind erosion control ¹³	1954.....	26,972	3.2	(NA)	(NA)	5,218,112	0.9	(NA)	(NA)	6.1	193.5
Cropland used for row or grain crops farmed on contour ¹⁷	1954.....	434,899	9.2	(NA)	(NA)	22,434,812	2.0	(NA)	(NA)	4.7	51.6

Z 0.05 percent or less. NA Not available.
¹ Prior to 1924, the total acreage of crops for which figures are available, except for 1919 when 14,502,932 acres of corn cut for forage were excluded as most of this was probably duplicated in the acreage of corn harvested as grain.
² Much of the change from 1944 to 1949 and from 1939 to 1944 due to change in definition. See text.
³ Data are for 17 States for which a separate inquiry was included on the questionnaire. Cultivated summer fallow is negligible in other States. See Table 18 for States included.
⁴ Data are for 31 States for which separate inquiry was carried for land used only for crops not harvested and not pastured. See Table 17 for States included.
⁵ Much of the change from 1944 to 1949 due to change in definition. See text.
⁶ Includes pasture other than plowable and woodland; also wasteland, house yards, barnyards, feed lots, lanes, roads, etc.
⁷ Cropland harvested, cropland used only for pasture, and cropland not harvested and not pastured.
⁸ Cropland harvested, cropland used only for pasture plowed within 7 years, and cropland not harvested and not pastured.

⁹ Cropland harvested; crop failure; cropland, idle or fallow; and plowable pasture.
¹⁰ Nominally includes all land regularly tilled or mowed; land in pasture that has been cleared or tilled; land lying fallow; land in gardens, orchards, vineyards, and nurseries; and all land occupied by buildings, yards, barnyards, etc. See text.
¹¹ Data not strictly comparable. See text.
¹² Increase or decrease 1934 to 1939 based on farms reporting and acreage of irrigated cropland harvested only.
¹³ Increase or decrease 1930 to 1935 based on reports for 19 States only.
¹⁴ The total acreage of irrigated crops harvested for 1919 was 9,831,368 (includes some duplication and excludes land in orchards and vineyards), and for 1909 was 7,241,561. The reports for crops grown under irrigation for these years, however, were not considered complete.
¹⁵ Data are for 31 States and East Texas for which this inquiry was carried. See Table 19 for States included.
¹⁶ Data are for 14 States and West Texas for which this inquiry was carried. See Table 19 for States included.
¹⁷ Data are for all States except Florida. Land farmed on contour is negligible in Florida.

THE TREND IN LAND UTILIZATION



CONTINENTAL UNITED STATES EXCLUSIVE OF ALASKA.

- 1 EXCLUDES FORESTED AREAS RESERVED FOR PARKS AND RELATED USES AND ARID WOODLAND, BRUSHLAND, AND FOREST LAND USED FOR GRAZING.
 - 2 121 MILLION ACRES WERE REPORTED PASTURED IN 1954.
 - 3 INCLUDES GRASSLAND, ARID WOODLAND, BRUSHLAND, AND FOREST LAND GRAZED
 - 4 OPEN PASTURE IN FARMS, INCLUDING CROPLAND USED ONLY FOR PASTURE AND OTHER PLOWABLE PASTURE.
 - 5 INCLUDES SOIL IMPROVEMENT CROPS, SUMMER FALLOW, AND LAND SEED TO CROPS FOR HARVEST THE SUCCEEDING YEAR
- CROPLAND ACREAGES ARE FOR THE YEAR PRECEDING THE DATE OF THE CENSUS EXCEPT FOR 1954.

Woodland not pastured.—This includes all woodland that was not used for pasture or grazing. Unusually large tracts of timberland reported as woodland not pastured were excluded from the tabulations of land in farms when it was evident that such land was held primarily for nonagricultural purposes. (See "Land in farms" for procedure followed for excluding large acreages of nonagricultural woodland.) The definition for woodland, as given above, was also applicable to woodland not pastured.

Other pasture (not cropland and not woodland).—This includes rough and brush land pastured and any other land pastured that the respondent did not consider as either woodland or cropland.

Improved pasture.—This item includes land in "other pasture" on which one or more of the following practices had been used: Liming, fertilizing, seeding to grasses or legumes, irrigating, draining, or controlling weeds and brush. The question on improved pasture was included in 1954 for the first time.

Other land (house lots, roads, wasteland, etc.).—This item includes house lots, barn lots, lanes, roads, ditches, and wasteland. It includes all land that does not belong under any of the other land-use classes. Unusually large tracts of other land were excluded from the tabulations of land in farms in a manner similar to that followed for unusually large acreages of woodland not pastured.

In addition to the complete classification of land in farms according to use, the tables also present data for three summary classes as follows:

Cropland, total.—This includes cropland harvested, cropland used only for pasture, and cropland not harvested and not pastured.

Land pastured, total.—This includes cropland used only for pasture, woodland pastured, and other pasture (not cropland and not woodland).

Woodland, total.—This includes woodland pastured and woodland not pastured.

In reporting land in his farm according to the use made of it in 1954, the respondent was asked to distinguish between some classes of land for which the line of demarcation was not always clear and could not always be determined on a uniform basis. Although the wording of the questions, the definitions given, and the instructions were aimed toward clarifying the intent of the inquiries, much was left to the judgment of the respondent and enumerator. For example, permanent open pasture was sometimes reported as cropland pasture and sometimes as other pasture (not cropland and not woodland), depending on whether or not the respondent, or enumerator, considered such land to be cropland. Similarly, pastureland with scattered trees, or pastureland covered with brush or small woody growth, was sometimes classed as woodland pasture and sometimes as other pasture. Changes between Censuses, particularly on a county level, in the acreages of cropland pasture, other pasture, and woodland pasture may be the result of how these items were reported rather than to actual change.

In general, land-use items were accepted as reported during the office processing. Changes were made only when it was obvious that the land had been reported in error, such as very large acreages of woodland pasture in areas where there is very little or no woodland, or extremely large acreages of cropland pasture in areas where cropland acreages are small and nonplowable grazing lands predominate.

Land-use classification, 1925 to 1950.—Land-use classes similar to those of 1954 have been used at each Census from 1925. The principal modifications have been in the classes relating to cropland pasture and in the subclassifications of cropland not harvested and not pastured. The modifications of the classification relating to cropland pasture also affect the summary classification relating to total cropland and the class "other pasture." In 1940, all woodland was grouped into one class and pasture other than woodland and plowable pasture were included with "all other land."

In presenting classifications for earlier Censuses, the wording for classes not fully comparable with corresponding classes in 1954 calls attention to significant differences.

The following wordings are used to designate the classifications relating to cropland pasture:

Cropland used only for pasture, 1954 and 1949.

Cropland used only for pasture plowed within 7 years, 1944. The inquiry was for "land used only for pasture or grazing in 1944 that was plowed within past 7 years."

Plowable pasture, 1924 to 1949. This item was defined as land used only for pasture or grazing which could have been used for crops without additional clearing, draining, or irrigating.

The wordings used for the summary classifications for total cropland are—

Cropland, total, 1954 and 1949.

Cropland, other than cropland pasture not plowed within 7 years, 1944. This summary item was obtained by adding cropland harvested, cropland used only for pasture plowed within 7 years, and cropland not harvested and not pastured.

Land available for crops, 1929 to 1939. This item is the sum of cropland harvested, plowable pasture, and cropland not harvested and not pastured.

The modifications from Census to Census in the inquiry relating to cropland pasture results in the following variations in the wordings for the item "other pasture":

Other pasture, not cropland and not woodland, 1954 and 1949.

Other pasture, not cropland plowed within 7 years and not woodland, 1944.

Other pasture, not plowable and not woodland, 1924 to 1934.

The effect of changes in the inquiries relating to cropland pasture on the comparability of land-use data from 1924 to 1954 is shown in Table 5.

The subclasses of cropland not harvested and not pastured for the various Censuses are as follows:

Cultivated summer fallow, 1954 and 1949, for 17 Western States.

Other cropland (not harvested, not pastured, and not cultivated summer fallow), 1954 and 1949, for 17 Western States.

TABLE 5.—ITEMS NEEDED TO OBTAIN COMPARABILITY OF DATA FOR EARLIER CENSUS YEARS WITH THOSE FOR 1954, FOR TOTAL CROPLAND, CROPLAND PASTURED, AND OTHER PASTURE (NOT CROPLAND AND NOT WOODLAND)

Census year	Most nearly comparable item, each Census (as shown in Table 4)		To obtain more complete comparability with 1954 the following adjustments would be needed	
	Item as shown in this report	United States total (acres)	Add ¹	Subtract ¹
CROPLAND, TOTAL				
1954	Cropland, total	459,648,961		
1949	Cropland, total	477,837,938		
1944	Cropland, other than cropland pasture not plowed within 7 years	450,694,226	Cropland used only for pasture not plowed within 7 years	
1939	Land available for crops	530,131,042		Plowable pasture other than cropland pastured.
1934	Land available for crops	513,913,969		Plowable pasture other than cropland pastured.
1929	Land available for crops	522,395,804		Plowable pasture other than cropland pastured.
1924	Land available for crops	505,027,400		Plowable pasture other than cropland pastured.
CROPLAND PASTURED				
1954	Cropland used only for pasture	66,069,838		
1949	Cropland used only for pasture	69,331,844		
1944	Cropland used only for pasture plowed within 7 years	47,449,184	Cropland used only for pasture not plowed within 7 years	
1939	Plowable pasture	131,379,940		Plowable pasture other than cropland pastured.
1934	Plowable pasture	98,579,038		Plowable pasture other than cropland pastured.
1929	Plowable pasture	109,159,914		Plowable pasture other than cropland pastured.
1924	Plowable pasture	113,567,498		Plowable pasture other than cropland pastured.
OTHER PASTURE (NOT CROPLAND AND NOT WOODLAND)				
1954	Other pasture, not cropland and not woodland	459,878,925		
1949	Other pasture, not cropland and not woodland	415,649,520		
1944	Other pasture, not cropland plowed within 7 years and not woodland	481,016,668		Cropland used only for pasture not plowed within 7 years.
1939	Other land; house lots, roads, wasteland, etc., and pasture other than plowable and woodland	393,543,673	Plowable pasture other than cropland pastured	House lots, roads, wasteland, etc.
1934	Other pasture, not plowable and not woodland	311,225,652	Plowable pasture other than cropland pastured	
1929	Other pasture, not plowable and not woodland	269,672,710	Plowable pasture other than cropland pastured	
1924	Other pasture, not plowable and not woodland	217,687,145	Plowable pasture other than cropland pastured	

¹ No Census data available for these items.

Cropland used only for crops not harvested and not pastured, 1954, for 31 non-Western States.

Idle cropland, 1954, for 31 non-Western States.

Crop failure, 1924 to 1944. This item was defined as land from which no crop was harvested because of destruction by wind, hail, drought, floods, insects, diseases, or from any cause, or from failure to harvest because of low prices or lack of labor.

Cropland idle or fallow, 1924 to 1944. This item was more inclusive than the 1954 item "Idle cropland." This class included land lying idle; land in cultivated summer fallow; and land on which crops were planted for soil improvement or the prevention of erosion, and which was not pastured and from which no crop was harvested.

Land-use classification, 1850 to 1920.—From 1850 to 1920 all land in farms was classified as "improved" and "unimproved."

Improved land for 1850 to 1920, in general, included land regularly tilled or mowed; land in pasture that had been cleared or tilled; land lying fallow; land in gardens, orchards, vineyards, and nurseries; and land occupied by buildings, yards, barnyards, etc. Improved land, as reported for 1850 to 1920 is not comparable with any classes of land in 1954, but is most nearly comparable with "cropland, total."

Woodland in farms appears as a subclass of unimproved land in the 1870, 1880, 1910, and 1920 Censuses.

Cropland harvested for 1879 to 1919 was obtained by adding the acreages of the individual crops reported in these Censuses. No acreage data for crops are available for any Census prior to 1880.

Irrigation.—Irrigated land was defined as land to which water was applied by artificial means for agricultural purposes. Water applied by subirrigation was included as well as that applied to the surface of the land. Irrigated land included land irrigated by a sprinkler system. Land flooded during high-water periods was to be considered as irrigated land only if water was purposely applied for agricultural purposes by means of dams, canals, or other works. Regulation of the "water table" by drainage works was not to be included as irrigation.

There were two groups of irrigation inquiries used for the 1954 Census. One group was used in the 17 Western States (Arizona, California, Colorado, Idaho, Kansas, Montana, Nebraska, Nevada, New Mexico, North Dakota, Oklahoma, Oregon, South Dakota, Texas, Utah, Washington, and Wyoming) and in Arkansas, Florida, and Louisiana. The other group was used in the remaining 28 States. In the 17 Western States and Arkansas, Florida, and Louisiana, the Agriculture Questionnaire contained several inquiries regarding irrigation. These inquiries related to the area of irrigated land from which crops were harvested and the names of the crops for which the entire acreage harvested was irrigated in 1954. In all of these States except Arkansas and Louisiana, the area of irrigated pasture was also obtained. In the remaining States, except for 30 counties in Southeastern Missouri, the Agriculture Questionnaire called for only the total acres irrigated in 1954. This irrigated acreage may have been used for

harvested crops, newly-seeded crops, soil-improvement crops, or for pasture. For Southeastern Missouri the Census Questionnaire was the same as that used in Arkansas. (See map in Introduction showing areas for which separate Agriculture Questionnaires were used, Census of 1954.)

For the 17 Western States and Arkansas, Florida, and Louisiana, there was no inquiry in 1954 to cover irrigated land not harvested and not pastured. In the 1950 Census, irrigated cropland not harvested and not pastured accounted for 2.0 percent of the total land irrigated in 1949 in these 20 States. Irrigated pasture is of minor importance in Arkansas and Louisiana and was omitted from the 1954 Questionnaires for these States. (In 1949 for Arkansas the irrigated pasture amounted to 1,318 acres or 0.3 percent of all irrigated land in the State, and for Louisiana, 4,434 acres, or 0.8 percent of the irrigated land.)

For the 17 Western States and for Arkansas, Florida, and Louisiana, the irrigation data include the total land in farms reporting irrigation, the total land classified by use, and the irrigated portion classified as to whether harvested or pastured. For these 20 States, data for irrigated and nonirrigated crops are shown in Chapter VII.

For the remaining 28 States, the irrigation data presented in this volume and in Volume I are limited to the farms reporting and total acres of land irrigated. Additional data on irrigation in humid areas, based on a mail survey made in cooperation with the United States Department of Agriculture, will be published as Part 6 of Volume III, Special Reports, 1954 Census of Agriculture.

Irrigated farms.—These are farms reporting any land irrigated. Farms with irrigation facilities but with no land irrigated during the year are not included. Since no inquiry for irrigated pasture was included on the 1954 Census Questionnaire for Arkansas and Louisiana, farms in those States with irrigated pasture only are not included in the count of irrigated farms. Likewise, farms for which the irrigation was limited to cropland not harvested and not pastured are excluded for the 17 Western States, Arkansas, Louisiana, and Florida. Data on land in irrigated farms and on land in irrigated farms according to use are presented for these States. The land in irrigated farms includes the entire acreage of land in these farms, whether irrigated or not.

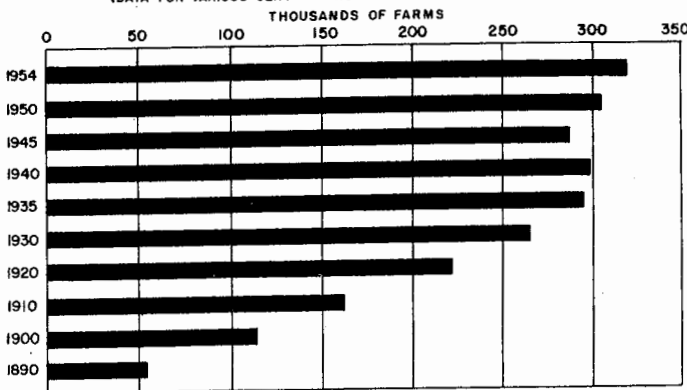
Land irrigated.—This relates only to that part of the land in irrigated farms to which water was applied. As previously mentioned, the total for irrigated land for 1954 for Arkansas and Louisiana does not include land used solely for pasture or grazing; and for the 17 Western States and for Arkansas, Florida, and Louisiana, the total irrigated land does not include irrigated cropland that was not harvested and not pastured.

Irrigated land in farms according to use.—This classification provides data on the use of irrigated land in farms and includes that part of the cropland harvested that was irrigated as well as that portion of the land pastured to which water was applied.

Farms with all harvested crops irrigated.—These are irrigated

IRRIGATED FARMS IN THE UNITED STATES: 1890 TO 1954

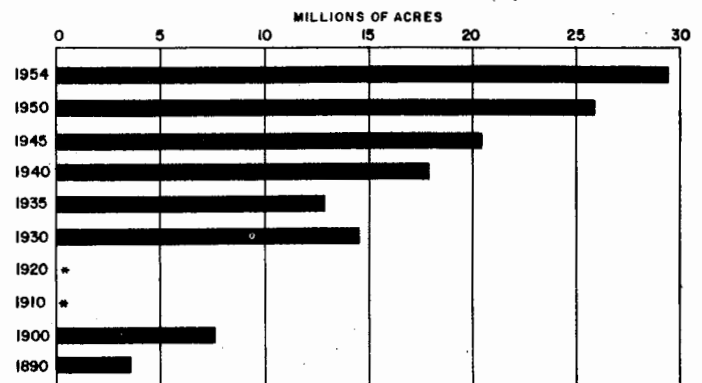
(DATA FOR VARIOUS CENSUSES NOT STRICTLY COMPARABLE, SEE TEXT)



54C-004

IRRIGATED LAND IN FARMS FOR THE UNITED STATES: 1890-1954

(DATA FOR VARIOUS CENSUSES NOT STRICTLY COMPARABLE, SEE TEXT)



* DATA INCOMPLETE

54C-005

TABLE 6.—ALL LAND AND IRRIGATED LAND IN IRRIGATED FARMS ACCORDING TO USE, SUMMARY FOR 20 SPECIFIED STATES: CENSUSES OF 1930 TO 1954

[Figures for States in Table 22]

Item and year	All irrigated farms					Farms with all harvested crops irrigated				Other irrigated farms			
	Farms reporting ¹	Acres ¹	Irrigated portion			Farms reporting	Acres ¹	Irrigated portion		Farms reporting ¹	Acres ¹	Irrigated portion	
			Farms reporting ¹	Acres ²	Average per farm reporting			Farms reporting	Acres ²			Farms reporting ¹	Acres ²
All land in farms.....	1954.. 298,810	197,113,378	298,810	28,064,177	96.9	206,309	97,484,535	206,309	20,802,554	92,501	99,628,843	92,501	8,161,623
1950.. 298,049	171,335,185	298,049	25,634,869	86.0	211,335	89,520,523	211,335	18,832,840	86,714	81,814,662	86,714	6,802,029	
1945.. 284,135	(NA)	284,135	20,477,568	72.1	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	
1940.. 295,602	113,197,570	295,602	17,942,968	60.7	222,094	66,238,131	222,094	14,148,684	73,508	46,959,439	73,508	3,794,284	
1935.. 292,530	(NA)	292,530	13,004,213	44.5	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	
1930 ² . 265,147	78,339,222	265,147	14,633,252	55.2	225,271	52,908,848	225,271	(NA)	39,876	25,430,374	39,876	(NA)	
Cropland harvested.....	1954.. 277,460	34,584,226	271,160	24,419,703	90.1	206,309	17,851,035	206,309	17,851,035	71,151	16,733,191	64,851	6,568,668
1949.. 279,967	28,353,907	273,347	21,095,886	77.2	211,335	15,676,995	211,335	15,676,995	68,632	12,676,914	62,012	5,418,891	
1939.. 287,418	19,883,014	285,167	15,191,156	53.3	222,094	12,076,776	222,094	12,076,776	7,806,238	(NA)	63,073	3,114,380	
1929 ³ . 265,147	(NA)	265,147	14,633,252	55.2	225,271	(NA)	225,271	(NA)	39,876	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	
Cropland pastured:													
Cropland used only for pasture.....	1954.. 100,471	7,345,405	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	61,333	3,756,216	(NA)	(NA)	39,138	3,589,189	(NA)	(NA)
1949.. (NA)	6,099,488	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	3,518,762	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	3,180,726	(NA)	(NA)	
1939.. (NA)	8,978,916	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	4,617,525	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	4,361,391	(NA)	(NA)	
Cropland not harvested and not pastured.....	1954.. 79,902	7,390,585	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	47,161	2,632,174	(NA)	(NA)	32,741	4,758,411	(NA)	(NA)
1949.. (NA)	5,587,483	27,369	522,798	19.1	(NA)	2,169,498	19,868	385,620	(NA)	3,417,985	7,501	137,178	
1939.. (NA)	4,801,677	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	1,927,388	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	2,874,289	(NA)	(NA)	
Cultivated summer fallow.....	1954.. 35,887	4,224,390	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	15,812	960,800	(NA)	(NA)	20,075	3,263,590	(NA)	(NA)
1949.. (NA)	2,988,413	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	683,421	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	2,304,992	(NA)	(NA)	
1939.. (NA)	3,166,195	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	35,505	1,671,374	(NA)	(NA)	1,494,821	(NA)	(NA)	
Other.....	1954.. 53,927	2,599,070	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	1,486,077	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	1,112,993	(NA)	(NA)	
1949.. (NA)	2,599,070	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	541,626	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	12,960	715,093	(NA)	
1939.. 35,811	1,256,719	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	22,851	541,626	(NA)	(NA)	12,960	715,093	(NA)	(NA)	
1929 ³ . 35,811	3,544,958	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	1,385,762	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	2,159,196	(NA)	(NA)	
Woodland pastured.....	1954.. 23,012	16,813,466	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	10,296	6,043,050	(NA)	(NA)	13,616	10,770,416	(NA)	(NA)
1949.. (NA)	19,224,421	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	8,830,950	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	10,393,462	(NA)	(NA)	
1939.. 13,926	2,141,287	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	5,853	852,077	(NA)	(NA)	8,073	1,289,210	(NA)	
1949.. (NA)	2,410,343	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	1,122,468	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	1,287,875	(NA)	(NA)	
Other pasture:													
Not cropland and not woodland.....	1954.. 113,184	122,959,022	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	63,010	63,081,708	(NA)	(NA)	50,174	50,877,314	(NA)	(NA)
1949.. (NA)	104,029,717	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	55,161,592	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	48,868,125	(NA)	(NA)	
Improved pasture.....	1954.. 48,028	3,622,044	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	27,973	2,059,006	(NA)	(NA)	20,055	1,563,038	(NA)	(NA)
Other land:													
House lots, roads, wasteland, etc.....	1954.. 258,235	5,879,387	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	173,955	3,268,275	(NA)	(NA)	84,280	2,611,112	(NA)	(NA)
1949.. (NA)	5,020,824	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	3,040,249	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	1,989,575	(NA)	(NA)	
Cropland, total.....	1954.. 284,200	49,320,216	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	199,075	24,239,425	(NA)	(NA)	85,125	25,080,791	(NA)	(NA)
1949.. (NA)	40,640,880	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	21,365,255	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	19,275,625	(NA)	(NA)	
1939.. (NA)	33,663,607	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	18,621,689	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	15,041,918	(NA)	(NA)	
Land available for crops.....	1954.. 185,613	147,117,893	111,186	4,544,474	40.9	111,714	72,880,974	69,455	2,951,519	73,899	74,236,919	41,731	1,592,955
1949.. 174,053	129,953,626	104,971	4,016,185	38.3	105,755	67,511,313	70,096	2,770,225	68,298	62,442,313	34,875	1,245,960	
1939.. (NA)	(NA)	80,062	2,751,812	34.4	(NA)	(NA)	60,020	2,071,908	(NA)	(NA)	20,042	679,904	
Farms by acres of cropland harvested, 1954:													
1 or 2 acres.....	58,645	xxx	22,132	xxx	xxx	19,285	xxx	xxx	xxx	4,320	xxx	2,847	xxx
3 to 9 acres.....	xxx	xxx	41,412	xxx	xxx	35,040	xxx	35,040	xxx	xxx	xxx	6,372	xxx
10 to 19 acres.....	31,966	xxx	35,273	xxx	xxx	28,040	xxx	28,040	xxx	3,926	xxx	7,233	xxx
20 to 29 acres.....	20,567	xxx	xxx	xxx	xxx	16,895	xxx	16,895	xxx	3,672	xxx	xxx	xxx
30 to 49 acres.....	31,230	xxx	xxx	xxx	xxx	25,172	xxx	25,172	xxx	6,058	xxx	xxx	xxx
50 to 99 acres.....	47,203	xxx	xxx	xxx	xxx	36,034	xxx	36,034	xxx	11,169	xxx	xxx	xxx
100 to 199 acres.....	42,370	xxx	172,343	xxx	xxx	26,014	xxx	26,014	xxx	16,356	xxx	xxx	xxx
200 to 499 acres.....	32,725	xxx	xxx	xxx	xxx	14,865	xxx	14,865	xxx	17,860	xxx	xxx	xxx
500 to 999 acres.....	9,123	xxx	xxx	xxx	xxx	3,504	xxx	3,504	xxx	5,619	xxx	xxx	xxx
1,000 or more acres.....	3,631	xxx	xxx	xxx	xxx	1,460	xxx	1,460	xxx	2,171	xxx	xxx	xxx

NA Not available.

¹ Data not strictly comparable. See text. Figures for 1954 and 1940 Censuses are for farms reporting irrigated cropland harvested and/or pasture except that in 1954 there was no inquiry for irrigated pasture in Arkansas and Louisiana. Irrigated pasture is negligible in these two States. Figures for the 1950 and 1945 Censuses are for farms reporting any irrigation; figures for 1935 and 1930 Censuses are for farms reporting irrigated cropland harvested.

² Data not strictly comparable. Figures for 1954 and 1940 Censuses are for irrigated cropland harvested plus irrigated pasture; figures for 1950 and 1945 Censuses are for all irrigated land in farms; figures for 1935 Census are for irrigated cropland harvested; figures for 1930 Census represent acres of irrigated crops including some duplication where two or more crops were harvested from the same land.

³ Data for the 1930 Census are for 19 States—Florida excluded.

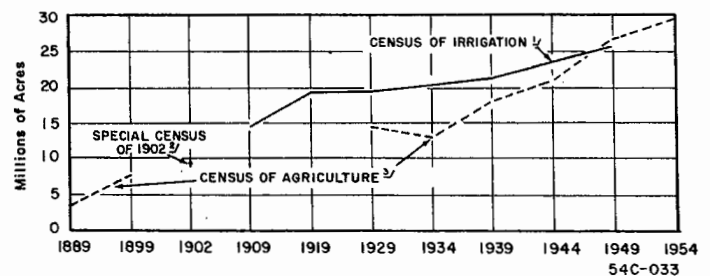
farms for which all the land from which crops were harvested was reported as irrigated. Data on land in farms and land use are shown separately for farms with all harvested crops irrigated.

Other irrigated farms.—Irrigated farms other than those with all harvested crops irrigated include farms with a part of their cropland harvested irrigated and a part not irrigated, and farms with pasture only irrigated. Data for "other irrigated farms" are not shown separately by States but may be obtained by subtracting the data for farms with all harvested crops irrigated from the data for all irrigated farms.

Irrigation data for earlier Censuses.—The data shown in this volume on number of farms and acreage irrigated are from the various Censuses of Agriculture. Data on acreages irrigated are also available from the Censuses of Irrigation taken at each decennial Census beginning with 1910. Since the data for the Irrigation Censuses were obtained from irrigation enterprises rather than from farm operators, they are omitted from this report.

The irrigation figures presented in this volume from earlier Censuses are not entirely comparable with those for 1954. The irrigation inquiries in 1950 were essentially the same as those in

ACREAGE OF IRRIGATED LAND IN THE UNITED STATES: 1869-1954



¹Total irrigated land in farms for 1909, 1919, and 1929, irrigation census included the 17 Western States Arkansas, and Louisiana; for 1939 and 1949, Florida also included.

²Total irrigated land, all States.
³For 1889 and 1899, census total for irrigated land in farms included the 17 Western States, Arkansas and Louisiana; for 1929, irrigated land from which crops were harvested, same 19 States; for 1934, irrigated crops, same 19 States; for 1939, irrigated cropland harvested plus irrigated pasture, 48 States. For 1944, 1949, and 1954, total irrigated land 48 States. Data for 1909 and 1919 not available.

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1954. The 1950 data, however, are somewhat more inclusive, since they included the acreage of irrigated cropland not harvested and not pastured for the 17 Western States, Arkansas, Florida, and Louisiana, and the acreage of irrigated pasture for Arkansas and Louisiana. For 1950 and 1945, the irrigation data for all States include all land irrigated. For 1940, the inquiries were for irrigated cropland harvested and irrigated pasture. For 1935, the figures relate only to irrigated cropland harvested. For 1930, the figures are for 19 States only. For 1930, the number of irrigated farms relates to farms reporting irrigated crops harvested and the acreage irrigated represents the sum of the acreages of irrigated crops, including some duplication where two or more crops were harvested from the same land. For 1920 and 1910, the number of irrigated farms relates to farms reporting any land irrigated. For 1920 and 1910, no figures for irrigated acreage are included in the tables. Figures for crops irrigated are available for these two years, but the data were not considered to be complete. For the 1900 and 1890 Censuses, the data are for 19 States and relate to the number of irrigators and area irrigated.

Land-use and conservation practices.—Each of the inquiries relating to land-use and conservation practices was included on the questionnaires for specified States only.

Cultivated summer fallow, for 17 Western States, has been discussed under the land-use classifications.

Cropland used only for crops not harvested and not pastured. This question, included on the questionnaire for the remaining 31 States, was expected to reflect the acreage in soil-improvement crops. This item has also been discussed under the land-use classification.

Land in cover crops turned under for green manure.—This inquiry was included on the questionnaires for all States lying east of the Mississippi River, those bordering that river on the west, and for 123 counties in East Texas. The data for this item represent land on which a cover crop was turned under in 1954 and another crop was planted.

Land in row crops, or close-seeded crops, grown in strips for wind erosion control.—This question was included in 15 of the States lying along and to the west of the 100th meridian. This question was not included in Arizona or in California; and, for Texas, the inquiry was included for 131 counties in the western part of the State. The data relate to the area of row crops or close-seeded crops that were grown in strips across the path of prevailing winds to prevent or reduce the blowing of topsoil.

Cropland used for grain or row crops farmed on the contour.—This inquiry was carried in all States except Florida. The data relate to land used in 1954 for grain and row crops planted around the slope to maintain comparatively level rows instead of being planted in straight rows running up and down the slope. All land farmed on the contour is not included. The data omit contoured land used in 1954 solely for hay or pasture.

Population.—Data on total population, rural population, and farm population are presented for the United States for each Agriculture Census year for which data are available. Figures

for decennial Census years are based on the decennial Censuses with adjustments to obtain comparability. Figures for other years are estimates. Figures for 1910 to 1954 relate to April 1; those for earlier years to June 1. Figures for total population for 1940 to 1954 include members of Armed Forces overseas.

Rural population is that part of the population not classed as urban. The data for rural population relate to the civilian population only. All members of the Armed Forces are excluded from the figures for rural population. The 1954 figures for rural population are estimates of persons living in rural areas as determined for the 1950 Census of Population. According to the definition used in the 1950 Census, the urban population comprised all persons living in—

(a) Places of 2,500 inhabitants or more incorporated as cities, boroughs, and villages;

(b) Incorporated towns of 2,500 inhabitants or more except in New England, New York, and Wisconsin, where "towns" are simply minor civil divisions of counties;

(c) The densely settled urban fringe, including both incorporated and unincorporated areas, around cities of 50,000 or more; and

(d) Unincorporated places of 2,500 inhabitants or more outside any urban fringe.

TABLE 7.—TOTAL, RURAL, AND FARM POPULATION, FOR THE UNITED STATES: 1850 TO 1954

Item and year	Number of persons ¹	Percent of total population	Increase or decrease (—)		
			Number	Percent	
Total population ²	1954	161,763,000	100.0	10,631,000	7.0
	1950	151,132,000	100.0	11,549,000	8.3
	1945	139,583,000	100.0	7,763,000	5.9
	1940	131,820,000	100.0	4,763,000	3.7
	1935	127,057,000	100.0	4,282,000	3.5
	1930	122,775,000	100.0	7,373,000	6.4
	1925	115,402,000	100.0	9,313,000	8.8
	1920	106,089,000	100.0	14,204,000	15.5
	1910	91,885,000	100.0	15,890,425	20.9
	1900	75,994,575	100.0	13,046,861	20.7
	1890	62,947,714	100.0	12,791,931	25.5
1880	50,155,783	100.0	10,337,334	26.0	
1870	39,818,449	100.0	8,375,128	26.6	
1860	31,443,321	100.0	8,251,445	35.6	
1850	23,191,876	100.0			
Rural population ³	1954 ⁴	57,124,000	35.3	3,406,731	6.3
	1950	53,717,269	35.5	(NA)	(NA)
	1945	61,769,897	40.9	4,524,324	7.9
	1940	57,245,573	43.5	3,425,350	6.4
	1930	53,820,223	43.8	2,267,576	4.4
	1920	51,552,647	48.6	1,579,313	3.2
	1910	49,973,334	54.4	4,138,680	9.0
	1900	45,834,654	60.3	4,993,205	12.2
	1890	40,841,449	64.9	4,815,401	13.4
	1880	36,026,048	71.8	7,370,038	25.7
	1870	28,656,010	72.0	3,429,207	13.6
1860	25,226,803	80.2	5,578,643	28.4	
1850	19,648,160	84.7			
Farm population ⁶	1954	21,890,000	13.5	-3,168,000	-12.6
	1950	25,058,000	16.6	-237,000	-0.9
	1945	25,295,000	18.1	-5,252,000	-17.2
	1940	30,547,000	23.2	-1,614,000	-5.0
	1935	32,161,000	25.3	1,632,000	5.3
	1930	30,529,000	24.9	-661,000	-2.1
	1925	31,190,000	27.0	-784,000	-2.5
	1920	31,974,000	30.1	-103,000	-0.3
	1910	32,077,000	34.9		

NA Not available.

¹ Figures for 1910 to 1954 relate to April 1, those for earlier years to June 1. Figures for decennial years are based on the decennial Censuses with adjustments to obtain comparability; those for other years are estimates.

² Figures for 1940 to 1954 include members of Armed Forces overseas, for the earlier years the number of persons in the Armed Forces overseas was not available but was probably negligible. Figures for 1870 include adjustment for underenumeration in Southern States.

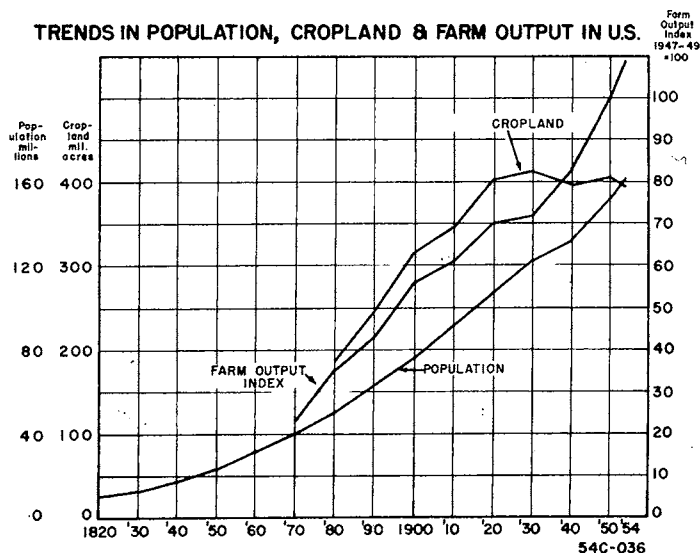
³ Figures shown for rural population exclude members of Armed Services overseas; the percent of total population for 1954, 1950, and 1940, respectively, is based on the civilian population.

⁴ Figures are estimates for the territory classified as rural in the 1950 Census. The data for 1954 are not fully comparable with those shown for 1950 because many of the areas classed as rural in 1950 would have qualified in 1954 as urban under the 1950 definitions. The data for 1954 are not comparable with those for earlier years because of change in definition. See text.

⁵ Rural population as determined on the basis of the definition used in the 1940 and earlier Censuses. See text.

⁶ The figures shown for farm population are estimates roughly comparable with the current estimates of the farm population obtained from the Census Bureau's Current Population Survey. For most years, these estimates differ substantially from the farm population as tabulated from the decennial Censuses of Population and from the 1945, 1935, and 1925 Censuses of Agriculture.

TRENDS IN POPULATION, CROPLAND & FARM OUTPUT IN U.S.



All remaining population was classified as rural.

Although the rural population data shown for 1954 are based upon the population residing in areas not classed as urban in the 1950 Census, the figures are not fully comparable with those shown for 1950 because many of the areas classed as rural in 1950 would have qualified, under the 1950 definition, as urban in 1954.

Prior to 1950, the urban population comprised all persons living in incorporated places of 2,500 inhabitants or more and in areas (usually minor civil divisions) classed as urban under special rules relating to population size and density.

To provide a basis for comparison of the 1950 figures with those for earlier Censuses, the 1950 rural population is shown for both the 1950 and 1940 definitions. The areas classed as urban, under the 1950 definition which did not qualify as urban under the 1940 definition, accounted for 8,052,628 persons in the 1950 Census. The change in definition resulted in a 13.0 percent decrease in the number of persons classed as rural.

Farm population.—The farm population includes all persons living on farms, as determined by the question, "Is this house on a farm (a ranch)?" Persons in rural areas were classed as nonfarm if they paid cash rent for their homes and yards only. Persons in institutions, summer camps, "motels," and tourist camps were also classed as nonfarm. The data for farm population relate to the civilian population living on farms regardless of their occupation.

The figures shown for farm population are estimates roughly comparable with the current estimates of the farm population obtained from the Census Bureau's Current Population Survey.

TABLE 8.—AVERAGE NUMBER OF PERSONS PER FARM, WITH PER CAPITA DATA FOR LAND IN FARMS, CROPLAND HARVESTED, AND VALUE OF FARM PRODUCTS SOLD, FOR THE UNITED STATES: CENSUSES OF 1850 TO 1954

Item and year	Average number of persons per farm	Average per capita			
		Land in farms (acres)	Cropland harvested ¹ (acres)	Value of farm products sold (dollars)	
Total population.....	1954..	33.82	7.2	2.1	152
	1950..	28.08	7.7	2.3	146
	1945..	23.82	8.2	2.5	116
	1940..	21.62	8.0	2.4	51
	1935..	18.65	8.3	2.3	(NA)
	1930..	19.52	8.0	2.9	78
	1925..	18.11	8.0	3.0	(NA)
	1920..	16.45	9.0	3.3	(NA)
	1910..	14.44	9.6	3.4	(NA)
	1900..	13.25	11.0	3.7	(NA)
Farm population.....	1890..	13.79	9.9	3.5	(NA)
	1880..	12.51	10.7	3.3	(NA)
	1870..	14.97	10.2	(NA)	(NA)
	1860..	15.38	13.0	(NA)	(NA)
	1850..	16.00	12.7	(NA)	(NA)
	1954..	4.58	52.9	15.2	1,126
	1950..	4.66	46.2	13.7	880
	1945..	4.32	45.1	14.0	642
	1940..	5.01	34.7	10.5	219
	1935..	4.72	32.8	9.2	(NA)
1930..	4.85	32.3	11.8	315	
1925..	4.90	29.6	11.0	(NA)	
1920..	4.96	29.9	10.9	(NA)	
1910..	5.04	27.4	9.7	(NA)	

NA Not available.

¹ Prior to 1924, based on total acreage of crops. See Table 4.

CHANGES IN FARMS AND LAND IN FARMS

Change in the number of farms.—In 1954, there were nearly 600,000 fewer farms than in 1950. The 4,782,416 farms in 1954 was the lowest number recorded at any Census since 1890. In 1850, the first Census for which a count of farms was taken, there were 1,449,073 farms, or one farm for each 16 persons living in the United States. With the growth of population and westward migration, the number of farms increased along with the growth in population. By 1880, the number of farms had increased to over 4 million, and by 1910, the number was more than 6½ million, or one farm for each 14.5 persons. In this period from 1880 to

1910, the number of farms increased with the settlement of new lands.

During the next two decades, 1910 to 1930, the number of farms and land in farms remained relatively stationary. From 1910 to 1920, the number of farms increased only 1.4 percent, as compared with a 10.9 percent increase during the preceding decade. Land in farms increased by only 4.8 percent between 1910 and 1920, as compared with 34.6 percent increase between 1900 and 1910. In 1920, there were nearly 6½ million farms in the United States, and by 1930, the number of farms had dropped to a level slightly below that of 1910.

Since 1920, the trend in number of farms has been downward, except for a brief increase during the depression years when many people turned to the land for subsistence. The 1935 Census recorded an alltime high of 6.8 million farms. The back-to-the-land movement, however, was short lived. By 1940, there were 3.1 percent fewer farms than in 1930. This downward trend in the number of farms has continued at an accelerated rate, with a decline of nearly 4 percent between 1940 and 1945, slightly more than 8 percent between 1945 and 1950, and over 11 percent from 1950 to 1954. By 1954, the number of farms was 1½ million less than in 1920 and more than 2 million less than the peak reached in 1935. In 1954, the number of farms relative to the total population was only about one-half that of 1920—one farm per 33.8 persons in 1954 as compared with one farm per 16.4 persons in 1920.

In the East, abandonment of some of the poorer agricultural lands, particularly in the more mountainous and hilly areas, and the diversion of farm lands to other uses, have resulted in a substantial decline in the number of farms. In the Northeast, consistent decreases in the number of farms have occurred since 1880. The growth of cities, suburban development, factory sites, new highways, and the like, have eliminated numerous farms. By 1954, there were about 42 million fewer acres of land in farms east of the Mississippi River than in 1900. Between 1950 and 1954, the net loss in this area was 13 million acres.

Although the trend in total number of farms generally has been down since 1920 there have been some increases because of the development of new lands and shifts in some areas to more intensive types of farming. Many of the increases in the West are associated with the development of irrigation projects. In the 17 Western States, there were 279,896 irrigated farms in 1954, or 30.1 percent more than the 215,152 irrigated farms reported in the 1920 Census. The clearing and draining of land continued to be a factor in scattered areas, particularly in parts of the South.

Consolidation of smaller farms into larger operating units has been an important factor contributing to the large net decrease in the number of farms since 1920. In 1920, the average farm was 148 acres in size with 54 acres of cropland harvested. By 1954, the average size of farm had increased to 242 acres with 70 acres of cropland harvested. From 1950 to 1954, the average size of farm increased by 27 acres and for each 5-year intercensal period from 1935 to 1950 by approximately 20 acres, or a total gain of 87 acres, or 56 percent in the 20-year period, 1935 to 1954.

Mechanization of farming has made it possible for farm operators to handle increasingly larger acreages with the same labor. Also, the full and efficient utilization of modern farm machinery and equipment favors larger farm units. This combination of farms has been encouraged by more attractive opportunities of employment at nonfarm jobs in cities and in industry. Many farmers have discontinued or curtailed their farming operations to work at nonfarm jobs, thus providing additional land for those farmers who desired or were able to increase the size of their operations.

Farmers and farm families have been leaving the farm in large numbers. The farm population, except for brief periods, has been declining since 1910. By 1954, the farm population was down to 21,890,000 persons and represented only 13.5 percent of the total population. In 1910, more than one-third of the total population

lived on farms. From 1935 to 1954, the farm population decreased by nearly one-third.

This decrease in farm population was accompanied by an increase in both the rural nonfarm and the urban populations. All net losses in the farm population are not due to actual movement of persons from rural to urban areas. Some families continue to live in the same dwelling but no longer consider themselves as living on a farm.

But not all farmers who accept employment at nonfarm jobs give up their farm operations entirely. The number of part-time farms has been steadily increasing. In 1929, farm operators working off their farms 100 or more days accounted for 11.5 percent of all farm operators. By 1939, this ratio had increased to 15.5 percent; by 1949, to 23.3 percent; and by 1954, to 27.9 percent. In addition to farm operators who were formerly full-time farmers, these part-time farmers include persons engaged primarily in non-farm activities, who have moved into rural areas and engaged in agriculture sufficiently for their places to qualify as farms under the Census definition.

This trend toward rural living has been stimulated by the automobile, better roads, and the availability of facilities such as electricity and the telephone. This trend is reflected by the increasing number of nonfarm rural population relative to the farm population and by the large number of part-time and residential farms relative to the number of commercial farms. These part-time and residential farms comprised 30.4 percent of all farms in 1954. Although large in number, these part-time and residential farms contribute only a negligible portion of the total agricultural production.

These part-time and residential farms are generally small in size. Nearly two-thirds are under 50 acres (64.0 percent in 1954). They account for seven-tenths of the farms under 10 acres and nearly one-half of the farms 10 to 49 acres (69.9 and 48.2 percent, respectively). Notwithstanding the tendency toward larger farms, the number of very small farms has been increasing. In 1954, farms under 10 acres accounted for 10.1 percent of all farms. In 1920, farms under 10 acres accounted for only 4.5 percent of all farms.

From 1950 to 1954, the number of farms decreased in all States except Florida, and in all except 180 of the 3,067 counties. In Florida, the number of farms increased in 29 of the 67 counties. The increases in Florida were confined largely to citrus counties and were accompanied by substantial increases in the numbers of citrus trees. There were increases in a few counties in the West due to new irrigation projects. Other increases were mostly in areas least affected by mechanization. For example, there were some increases in a few of the tobacco counties in the Carolinas.

The largest decreases in number of farms from 1950 to 1954 were in the South, with one-third million fewer farms in 1954 than in 1950, a loss of one-eighth of the farms in the South. Much of the loss was attributable to the disappearance of share-tenant and cropper farms with the land absorbed into larger operating units. In 1954, there were 223,839 fewer tenants in the South than in 1950. There were 79,103 fewer croppers and 85,360 fewer share tenants.

The largest percentage losses in number of farms were in New England. In that area, there were one-fifth fewer farms in 1954 than in 1950. Throughout much of the Northeast, the decline in residential and part-time farms accounted for a large part of the decrease in all farms.

Much of the increase and decrease in number of farms can be attributed to changes in the number of part-time and residential farms. The rural families responsible for a large portion of these noncommercial farms often have little or sporadic interest in active participation in agriculture.

Effect of definitions and procedures on number of farms.—Changes in the total number of farms from Census to Census have been affected by differing definitions and procedures. For 1950, the definition of a farm was changed both for places of less

than 3 acres and places of 3 or more acres. For several Censuses prior to 1950, places of less than 3 acres were counted as farms if the value of agricultural products for home use and for sale amounted to \$250 or more. For 1950 and 1954, places of less than 3 acres were not counted as farms unless the value of agricultural products sold amounted to \$150 or more. The more restricted definition used for 1950 and 1954 resulted in the inclusion of fewer farms of less than 3 acres than would have been the case if the definition of a farm had not been changed in 1950. (The number of farms of less than 3 acres was 98,966 in 1945; 76,606 in 1950; and 99,896 in 1954.)

Places of 3 or more acres were counted as farms in Censuses prior to 1950 if there were farm products produced during the year preceding the Census (other than only a small home garden, a few fruit trees, or a very small flock of chickens, etc.). For the 1950 and 1954 Censuses, places of 3 or more acres were counted as farms only if the annual value of agricultural products, exclusive of home-garden products, amounted to \$150 or more. The agricultural products could have been either for home use or sale. This more restricted definition for places of 3 or more acres, likewise, resulted in the inclusion of fewer farms in the 1950 and 1954 Censuses than would have been included had there been no change in the definition of farms of 3 or more acres. The smaller size farms were most affected by this change. (In 1945 there were 2,149,999 farms of 3 to 49 acres; in 1950, the number was 1,886,158; and in 1954, 1,597,226.)

The more restrictive definition of a farm in 1950 resulted in the elimination in the office processing of 247,000 enumerated places, most of which would have been counted as farms if the same criteria had been used in 1950 as in prior Censuses. Had the 1950 criteria been used in 1945, the number of places eliminated would have been appreciably less than the 247,000 places eliminated in 1950. The number of part-time and residential places with meager agricultural production was increasing during this period. A decrease of an estimated 150,000 to 170,000 farms between 1945 and 1950 was attributable to the change in the Census definition.

By 1945, the number of small farms, marginal in respect to the Census definition, had reached significant proportions. A part of this situation was the result of the increasing importance of part-time and residential farms and part to increasing price levels. Numerous places were being included in the count of farms only because the reported value of products for family use was sufficient to qualify the place as a farm. In some instances, the only agricultural production was a home garden. In 1945, there were nearly 100,000 farms of under 3 acres, or two and three-fourths times as many as in 1940. This situation led to the adoption of the more rigid definition used in 1950 and 1954, and to the determination of marginal cases during the office processing instead of providing the enumerator with the definition of a farm and permitting him to make the determination of which places were to be enumerated as farms.

Census procedures sometimes have had an appreciable effect on county data without necessarily affecting significantly the totals for the State or the United States. For example, a part of the increase in numbers of farms in some of the citrus counties in Florida, in 1954 as compared with 1950, may be the result of the improvement in enumeration procedures. In 1954, the enumerators were provided with a list of known citrus groves to assist them in accounting for all farms in their districts. An effort was made to obtain reports directly from each owner. In 1950 and earlier Censuses, the enumeration depended largely on getting information for groves of nonresident owners from caretakers, often with one questionnaire filled in the name of the caretaker as manager covering all groves under his care. However, much of the increase in Florida was the result of new citrus plantings rather than to changes in procedures.

Much of the variation in numbers of farms in some counties with Indian reservations occurred because of differences in enumeration procedures. For both 1954 and 1950, the instructions

called for filling questionnaires for every individual Indian having allotted or owned lands. Land in the Indian reservation not reported by individual Indians or not rented to non-Indians was to be reported in the name of the cooperative group using the land. In both years, enumerators had difficulty in determining which Indians required separate questionnaires and frequently reported the entire reservation on one questionnaire.

In 1945, a procedure was adopted for the enumeration of Indian reservations which differed from that previously followed, in that, much of the Indian agriculture was to be reported for cooperative groups whereas previous Censuses required a report for each Indian. Largely as a result of this procedure the number of non-white farm operators in 24 counties in 4 Western States was about 11,000 fewer in 1945 than in 1940. (See Page 16, Chapter I, of Volume II, General Report, 1945 Census of Agriculture.)

Another procedure in the 1945 Census, which affected the count of farms by counties throughout much of the South, was the enumeration in that year of all tenants and croppers in a multiple-unit operation in the county in which the multiple-unit headquarters was located. In 1954 and 1950 and in Censuses prior to 1945, each tenant or cropper was enumerated in the county where his farm was located. Also, in the enumeration of multiple units in 1945, if a tenant or cropper operated land in addition to that in the multiple unit, this additional land was to be enumerated as though it were a separate farm. No information as to the extent of this duplication in the farm count is available.

Changes in land in farms.—The net change in the total acreage of farms between 1950 and 1954 in the United States was negligible. Decreases in land in farms between 1950 and 1954 occurred in all States east of the Mississippi River, except Florida. Other States showing decreases were Minnesota, Iowa, Arkansas, and Oklahoma. These decreases, amounting to approximately 16 million acres, were offset by increases in the western half of the country and in Florida. Practically all the increase of land in farms represented land pastured and was accompanied by corresponding decreases in grazing land not in farms. These changes represent a continuation of trends shown by earlier Censuses. Substantial losses of land in farms in the more mountainous and hilly portions of the East began in the Northeast during the latter part of the last century. By 1900, land in farms in New England was nearly 1 million acres less than the peak reached in 1880. By 1954, this loss of land in farms in New England had reached nearly 10 million acres, or almost half the land once in farms. For all States east of the Mississippi River, Florida excluded, there has been a net loss of 56 million acres of land since the turn of the century.

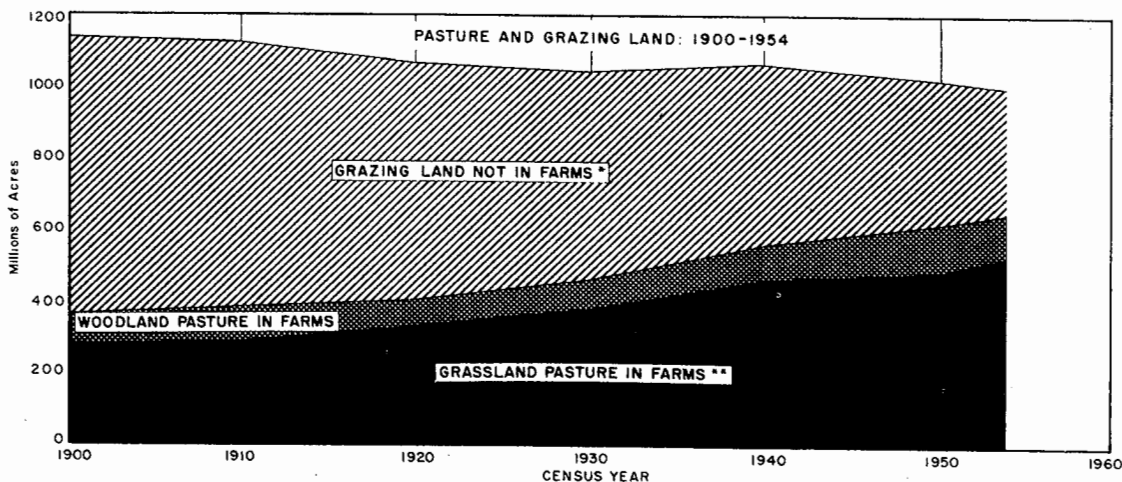
Land in farms in the western half of the United States has shown rather consistent increases at each Census. Since about 1920, however, only a small part of these increases has represented new lands used for agriculture. Most of the increases in land in farms

since 1920 is represented by increased acreages of land pastured with nearly corresponding decreases in grazing lands not in farms. Many of the grazing lands in the West comprise public domain grazed under permit. These grazing-permit lands are excluded from land in farms. Increasing acreages of the public lands, however, are leased for grazing and such leased lands are included as land in farms. Reports of the Director of the Bureau of Land Management of the U. S. Department of the Interior show that, of the grazing lands administered under the Taylor Grazing Act, more than 17 million acres were leased in 1954 (of 17,420,376 acres of grazing lands leased, 17,280,123 acres were Taylor Grazing leases and 140,253 were combination Taylor Grazing and other leases), as compared with 13,033,956 acres in 1950, with 11,310,316 acres in 1945, and with 7,411,987 acres in 1940. Large acreages of grazing lands are State-owned, and a considerable acreage of the original railroad grants are owned by railroads. Most of these State and railroad lands suitable for grazing are now leased for grazing. Thus, much of the formerly open range has now become land in farms.

Effect of definitions and procedures on change in land in farms.—Definitions and procedures which affected numbers of farms also affected land in farms. Farms most affected by definitions and procedures were small and, therefore, have an even smaller effect on acreage of land in farms.

Land in farms in the range areas of the West is affected by difficulty of applying the Census rule of excluding grazing-permit lands from the farm acreage and the including of all leased grazing lands in the farm acreage. Many of the grazing permits provide for the sole use of specified areas and are not readily distinguished by farm operators from leases, which have similar restrictions to those in the grazing permits as to the numbers of livestock which can be grazed, and as to the seasons when grazing is permitted. More specific and rigid requirements in Census procedures in respect to the accounting for all Indian lands used for grazing has also contributed to the increasing acreages of land in farms in the range areas.

The Census procedure of crediting the entire acreage of a farm, with land in two or more counties, to the county in which the farm headquarters is located accounts for much of the increases and decreases in land in farms in counties. Land credited to a farm in one county at one Census may later become, through rental or ownership, a part of a farm with headquarters in another county. Such land would then be credited to this other county at the next Census. These changes, resulting from changes in location of farm headquarters, are important factors affecting the area of land in farms, particularly in the West, and in other areas where farms are large. Changes resulting from these procedures are offsetting and have little effect on State totals. Such changes are not important factors in areas where there are few farms containing 1,000 or more acres.



NOTE * Includes nonforested grazing land, idle grassland in first decades, forest and arid woodland grazed, and shrub and brush grazing land in all years. ** Includes cropland used only for pasture in recent years and plowable pasture in earlier years.