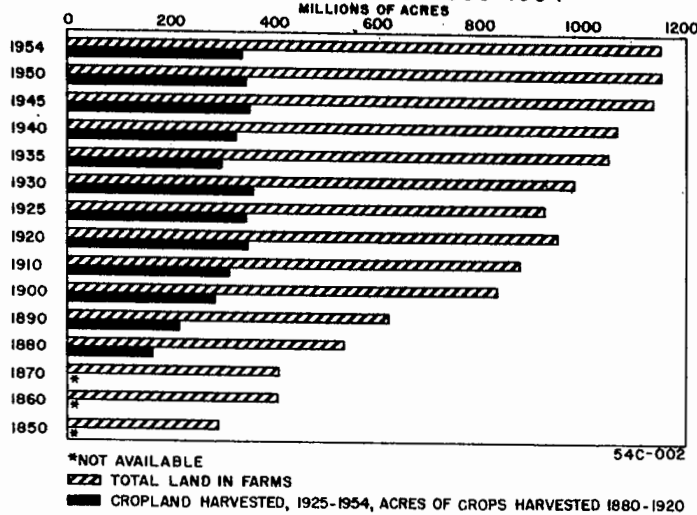


ALL LAND IN FARMS AND CROPLAND HARVESTED,
FOR THE UNITED STATES: 1850-1954



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.

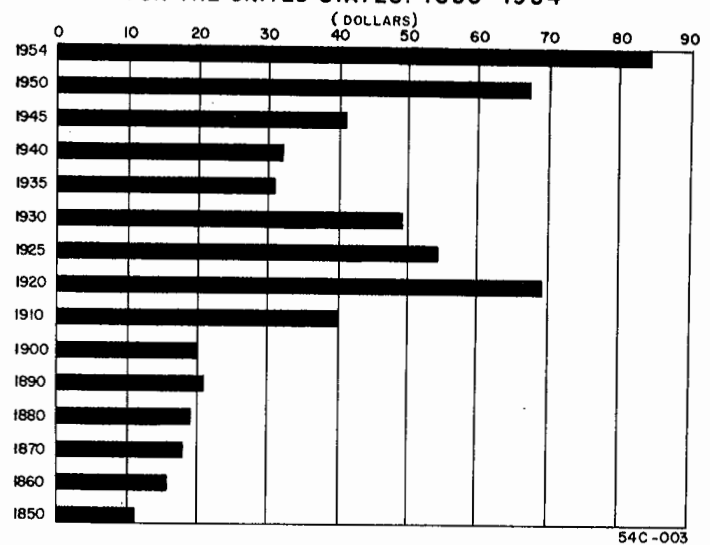
Value of land and buildings for earlier Censuses.—The 1950 figures for value of land and buildings were also based on a sample of farms. The procedure for estimating the total value of land and buildings, however, differed somewhat from that used for 1954. For 1950, the estimates were on a State level; 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,
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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,
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