

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.

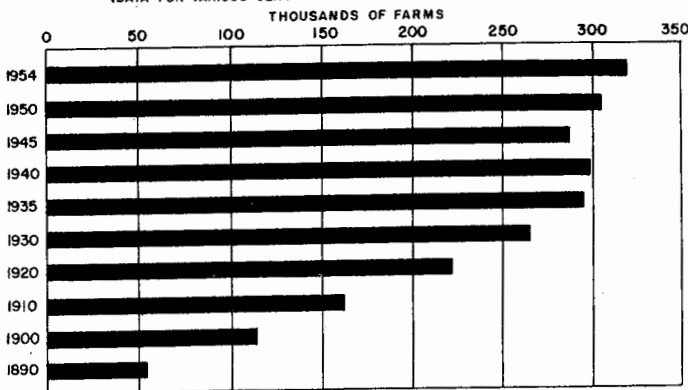
Land irrigated.—This relates only to that part of the land in irrigated farms to which water was applied. As previously mentioned, the total for irrigated land for 1954 for Arkansas and Louisiana does not include land used solely for pasture or grazing; and for the 17 Western States and for Arkansas,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

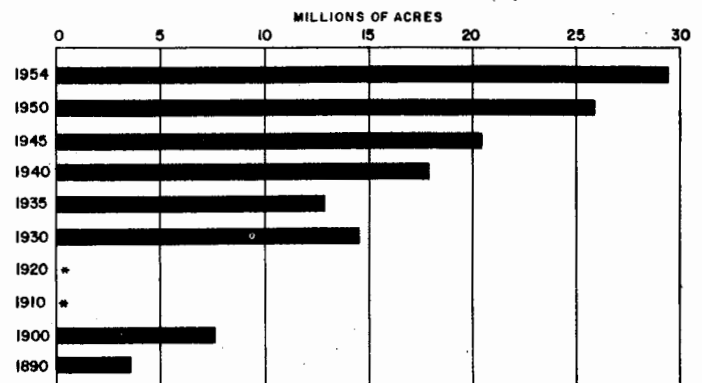
(DATA FOR VARIOUS CENSUSES NOT STRICTLY COMPARABLE, SEE TEXT)



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

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



* DATA INCOMPLETE

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