

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.

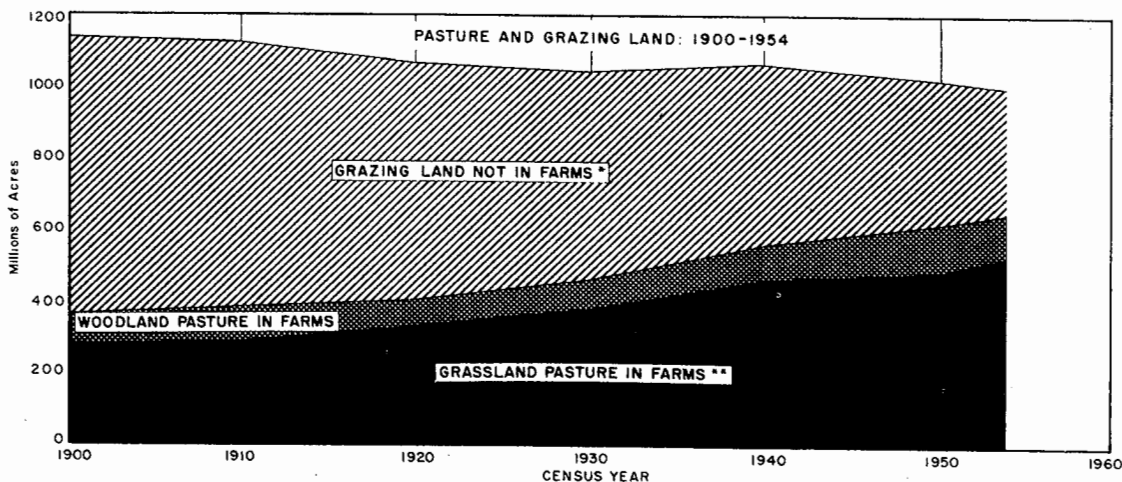
Land in farms in the western half of the United States has shown rather consistent increases at each Census. Since about 1920, however, only a small part of these increases has represented new lands used for agriculture. Most of the increases in land in farms

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.