

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 preced- ing 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	1,158,565,852	16,950,488	1.5	75,260,606,000	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	1,905,361,020	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	16,614,647,491	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	7,444,054,462	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			293,560,614			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 $\frac{1}{2}$ less than reported currency values published in the 1870 report.