

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