

GENERAL REPORT

TABLE 4.—ALL LAND IN FARMS AND SPECIFIED USES OF LAND, FOR THE UNITED STATES: CENSUSES OF 1850 TO 1954

[Figures for regions, divisions, and States in Tables 9 to 22]

Item and year	Farms reporting				Acres						
	Number	Percent of all farms	Increase or decrease (-) from preceding Census		Total	Percent of all land in farms	Increase or decrease (-) from preceding Census		Average		
			Number	Percent			Number	Percent	Per farm (based on all farms)	Per farm reporting	
All land in farms	1954	4,782,416	100.0	-599,746	-11.1	1,158,191,511	100.0	-374,341	(Z)	242.2	242.2
	1950	5,382,162	100.0	-477,007	-8.1	1,158,565,852	100.0	16,950,488	1.5	215.3	215.3
	1945	5,859,169	100.0	-237,630	-3.9	1,141,615,364	100.0	80,762,990	7.6	194.8	194.8
	1940	6,096,799	100.0	-715,551	-10.5	1,060,852,374	100.0	6,337,263	0.6	174.0	174.0
	1935	6,812,350	100.0	523,702	8.3	1,054,515,111	100.0	67,744,095	6.9	154.8	154.8
	1930	6,288,648	100.0	-82,992	-1.3	986,771,016	100.0	62,451,664	6.8	156.9	156.9
	1925	6,371,640	100.0	-76,703	-1.2	924,319,352	100.0	-31,564,363	-3.3	145.1	145.1
	1920	6,448,343	100.0	86,841	1.4	955,883,715	100.0	77,085,390	8.8	148.2	148.2
	1910	6,361,502	100.0	624,130	10.9	878,798,325	100.0	40,206,551	4.8	138.1	138.1
	1900	5,737,372	100.0	1,172,731	25.7	838,591,774	100.0	215,373,155	34.6	146.2	146.2
	1890	4,564,641	100.0	555,734	13.9	623,218,619	100.0	87,130,784	16.3	136.5	136.5
	1880	4,008,907	100.0	1,348,922	50.7	536,081,835	100.0	128,346,794	31.5	133.7	133.7
	1870	2,659,985	100.0	615,908	30.1	407,735,041	100.0	522,503	0.1	153.3	153.3
	1860	2,044,077	100.0	505,004	41.1	407,212,538	100.0	113,651,924	38.7	199.2	199.2
	1850	1,449,073	100.0			293,560,614	100.0			202.6	202.6
Cropland harvested ¹	1954	4,104,241	85.8	-630,157	-13.3	332,870,479	28.7	-11,528,101	-3.3	69.6	81.1
	1949	4,734,398	88.0	-629,092	-11.7	344,398,550	29.7	-8,467,215	-2.4	64.0	72.7
	1944	5,363,490	91.5	-349,765	-6.1	352,865,765	30.9	31,623,335	9.8	60.2	65.8
	1939	5,713,255	93.7	-655,933	-10.3	321,242,430	30.3	25,618,254	8.7	52.7	56.2
	1934	6,369,188	93.5	407,496	6.8	295,624,176	28.0	-63,617,915	-17.7	43.4	46.4
	1929	5,981,692	94.8	(NA)	(NA)	359,242,091	36.4	14,692,824	4.3	57.1	60.3
	1924	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	344,549,267	37.3	-3,999,282	-1.1	54.1	(NA)
	1919	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	348,603,729	36.5	37,310,347	12.0	54.1	(NA)
	1909	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	311,293,382	35.4	28,075,102	9.9	48.9	(NA)
	1899	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	283,218,280	33.8	63,512,716	28.9	49.4	(NA)
	1889	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	219,705,564	35.3	53,518,980	32.2	48.1	(NA)
	1879	(NA)	(NA)			166,186,584	31.0			41.5	(NA)
Cropland pastured:											
Cropland used only for pasture	1954	1,842,661	38.5	-272,339	-12.9	66,069,838	5.7	-3,262,006	-4.7	13.8	35.9
	1949	2,115,000	39.3	² 470,465	² 28.6	69,331,844	6.0	² 21,882,660	² 46.1	12.9	32.8
Cropland used only for pasture plowed within 7 years	1944	1,644,535	28.1	² -1,646,052	² -50.0	47,449,184	4.2	² -83,930,756	² -63.9	8.1	28.9
Plowable pasture	1939	3,290,587	54.0	425,793	14.9	131,379,940	12.4	32,800,902	33.3	21.5	39.9
	1934	2,864,794	42.1	159,818	5.9	98,579,038	9.3	-10,580,876	-9.7	14.5	34.4
	1929	2,704,976	43.0	140,457	5.5	109,159,914	11.1	-4,407,584	-3.9	17.4	40.4
	1924	2,564,519	40.2			113,567,498	12.3			17.8	44.3
Cropland not harvested and not pastured	1954	1,289,674	27.0	-262,538	-16.9	60,708,644	5.2	-3,398,900	-5.3	12.7	47.1
	1949	1,552,212	28.8	(NA)	(NA)	64,107,544	5.5	13,728,267	27.2	11.9	41.3
	1944	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	50,379,277	4.4	-27,129,396	-35.0	8.6	(NA)
	1939	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	77,508,673	7.3	-42,202,082	-35.3	12.7	(NA)
	1934	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	119,710,755	11.4	65,716,956	121.7	17.6	(NA)
	1929	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	53,993,799	5.5	7,083,164	15.1	8.6	(NA)
	1924	(NA)	(NA)			46,910,635	5.1			7.4	(NA)
Cultivated summer fallow ³	1954	214,411	18.2	7,370	3.6	28,631,403	4.1	3,016,860	11.8	24.3	133.5
	1949	207,041	15.9	(NA)	(NA)	25,614,543	3.7	(NA)	(NA)	19.6	123.7
With no cropland harvested ³	1954	6,049	0.5	631	11.6	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)
	1949	5,418	0.4	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)			(NA)	(NA)
Other cropland not harvested and not pastured	1954	1,140,171	23.8	-269,646	-19.1	32,770,241	2.8	-5,722,760	-14.9	6.9	28.7
	1949	1,409,817	26.2	(NA)	(NA)	38,493,001	3.3	(NA)	(NA)	7.2	27.3
Total for 31 States ⁴	1954	902,370	25.0	-232,148	-20.5	18,411,700	4.0	-6,101,255	-24.9	5.1	20.4
	1949	1,134,518	27.8	(NA)	(NA)	24,512,955	5.2	(NA)	(NA)	6.0	21.6
Land used only for crops not harvested and not pastured (soil-improvement crops, new seedlings, and crop failure) ⁴	1954	305,850	8.5	(NA)	(NA)	4,953,061	1.1	(NA)	(NA)	1.4	16.2
With no cropland harvested ⁴	1954	19,991	0.6	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)
Idle cropland ⁴	1954	696,498	19.3	(NA)	(NA)	13,458,639	3.0	(NA)	(NA)	3.7	19.3
Crop failure	1944	385,727	6.6	-218,677	-36.2	10,297,172	0.9	-10,282,845	-50.0	1.8	26.7
	1939	604,404	9.9	-644,848	-51.6	20,580,017	1.9	-43,101,760	-67.7	3.4	34.1
	1934	1,249,252	18.3	697,930	126.6	63,681,777	6.0	50,975,194	401.2	9.3	51.0
	1929	551,322	8.8	(NA)	(NA)	12,706,583	1.3	-311,366	-2.4	2.0	23.0
	1924	(NA)	(NA)			13,017,949	1.4			2.0	(NA)
Cropland, idle or fallow	1944	1,107,224	18.9	-544,995	-33.0	40,082,105	3.5	-16,846,551	-29.6	6.8	36.2
	1939	1,652,219	27.1	-379,747	-18.7	56,928,656	5.4	899,678	1.6	9.3	34.5
	1934	2,031,966	29.8	647,374	46.8	56,028,978	5.3	14,741,762	35.7	8.2	27.6
	1929	1,384,592	22.0	(NA)	(NA)	41,287,216	4.2	7,394,530	21.8	6.6	29.8
	1924	(NA)	(NA)			33,892,686	3.7			5.3	(NA)
Woodland pastured	1954	1,500,401	31.4	-196,041	-11.6	121,151,635	10.5	-13,563,340	-10.1	25.3	80.7
	1949	1,696,442	31.5	179,612	11.8	134,714,975	11.6	39,639,729	41.7	25.0	79.4
	1944	1,516,830	25.9	(NA)	(NA)	95,075,246	8.3	(NA)	(NA)	16.2	62.7
	1934	2,186,106	32.1	254,738	13.2	108,095,711	10.3	22,773,811	26.7	15.9	49.4
	1929	1,931,368	30.7	153,484	8.6	85,321,900	8.0	8,617,954	11.2	13.6	44.2
	1924	1,777,884	27.9			76,703,946	8.3			12.0	43.1
Woodland not pastured	1954	1,377,651	28.8	-272,213	-16.5	75,820,772	6.5	-9,278,663	-10.9	15.9	55.0
	1949	1,649,864	30.7	-39,328	-2.3	85,099,435	7.3	13,838,252	19.4	15.8	51.6
	1944	1,689,192	28.8	(NA)	(NA)	71,261,183	6.2	(NA)	(NA)	12.2	42.2
	1934	1,909,067	28.0	297,869	18.5	77,379,254	7.3	12,755,429	19.7	11.4	40.5
	1929	1,611,198	25.6	-25,442	-1.6	64,623,825	6.5	-2,443,390	-3.6	10.3	40.1
	1924	1,636,640	25.7			67,067,215	7.3			10.5	41.0

See footnotes at end of table.

FARMS AND LAND IN FARMS

9

TABLE 4.—ALL LAND IN FARMS AND SPECIFIED USES OF LAND, FOR THE UNITED STATES: CENSUSES OF 1850 TO 1954—Continued

[Figures for regions, divisions, and States in Tables 9 to 22]

Item and year	Farms reporting				Acres					
	Number	Percent of all farms	Increase or decrease (—) from preceding Census		Total	Percent of all land in farms	Increase or decrease (—) from preceding Census		Average	
			Number	Percent			Number	Percent	Per farm (based on all farms)	Per farm reporting
Other pasture:										
Not cropland and not woodland.....1954..	1,996,849	41.8	—65,594	—3.2	459,878,925	39.7	44,229,405	10.6	96.2	230.3
1949..	2,062,443	38.3	—865,370	—29.6	415,649,520	35.9	—65,367,148	—13.6	77.2	201.5
1954..	388,191	8.1			17,335,277	1.5			(Z)	44.7
Improved other pasture:										
Not cropland plowed within 7 years and not woodland.....1944..	2,927,813	50.0	(NA)	(NA)	481,016,668	42.1	(NA)	(NA)	82.1	164.3
1934..	2,019,431	29.6	254,428	14.4	311,225,652	29.5	41,552,942	15.4	45.7	154.1
1929..	1,765,003	28.1	153,078	9.5	269,672,710	27.3	51,985,565	23.9	42.9	152.8
1924..	1,611,925	25.3			217,687,145	23.6			34.2	135.0
Other land:										
House lots, roads, wasteland, etc.....1954..	4,276,159	89.4	—415,429	—8.9	41,691,218	3.6	—3,572,766	—7.9	8.7	9.7
1949..	4,691,588	87.2	—599,185	—11.3	45,263,984	3.9	1,695,943	3.9	8.4	9.6
1944..	5,290,773	90.3	(NA)	(NA)	43,508,041	3.8	(NA)	(NA)	7.4	8.2
1934..	6,003,964	88.1	1,252,653	26.4	43,900,525	4.2	—856,252	—1.9	6.4	7.3
1929..	4,751,311	75.6	(NA)	(NA)	44,756,777	4.5	—13,076,869	—22.6	7.1	9.4
1924..	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	57,833,646	6.3			9.1	(NA)
House lots, roads, wasteland, etc., and pasture other than plowable and woodland ⁶1939..	5,222,744	85.7			393,543,673	37.1	38,417,496	10.8	64.5	75.4
Cropland:										
Total ⁷1954..	4,418,915	92.4	—627,748	—12.4	459,648,961	39.7	—18,188,977	—3.8	96.1	104.0
1949..	5,046,663	93.8	—521,155	—9.4	477,837,938	41.2	27,143,712	6.0	88.8	94.7
Cropland other than cropland pasture not plowed within 7 years ⁸1944..	5,567,818	95.0	—423,485	—7.1	450,694,226	39.5	—79,436,817	—15.0	76.9	80.9
1939..	5,991,303	98.3	(NA)	(NA)	530,131,043	50.0	16,217,074	3.2	87.0	88.5
1934..	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	513,913,969	48.7	—8,481,835	—1.6	75.4	(NA)
1929..	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	522,395,804	52.9	17,368,404	3.4	53.1	(NA)
1924..	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	505,027,400	54.6			79.3	(NA)
Land pastured, total.....1954..	3,596,951	75.2	—448,973	—11.1	647,100,398	55.9	27,404,059	4.4	135.3	179.9
1949..	4,045,924	75.2	—388,962	—8.8	619,696,339	53.5	—3,844,759	—0.6	115.1	153.2
1944..	4,434,886	75.7	(NA)	(NA)	623,541,098	54.6	(NA)	(NA)	106.4	140.6
1934..	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	517,900,401	49.1	53,745,877	11.6	70.0	(NA)
1929..	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	464,154,524	47.0	56,195,935	13.8	73.8	(NA)
1924..	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	407,958,589	44.1			64.0	(NA)
Woodland, total.....1954..	2,388,256	49.9	—347,505	—12.7	196,072,407	17.0	—22,842,003	—10.4	41.2	82.5
1949..	2,735,761	50.8	56,018	2.1	219,814,410	19.0	53,477,981	32.2	40.8	80.3
1944..	2,679,743	45.7	—222,413	—7.7	166,336,429	14.6	29,158,771	21.3	28.4	62.1
1939..	2,902,156	47.6	(NA)	(NA)	137,177,658	12.9	—48,297,307	—26.0	22.5	47.3
1934..	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	185,474,965	17.6	35,529,240	23.7	27.2	(NA)
1929..	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	149,945,725	15.2	6,174,564	4.3	23.8	(NA)
1924..	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	143,771,161	15.6	—23,959,633	—14.3	22.6	(NA)
1919..	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	167,730,794	17.5	—23,134,759	—12.1	26.0	(NA)
1909..	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	190,865,553	21.7	(NA)	(NA)	30.0	(NA)
1879..	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	190,255,744	35.5	30,945,567	19.4	33.2	(NA)
1869..	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	159,310,177	39.1			34.9	(NA)
Improved land ¹⁰1920..	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	503,073,007	52.6	24,621,257	5.1	78.0	(NA)
1910..	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	478,451,750	54.4	63,953,263	15.4	75.2	(NA)
1900..	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	414,451,487	49.4	56,881,732	15.9	72.2	(NA)
1890..	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	357,616,755	57.4	72,845,713	25.6	78.3	(NA)
1880..	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	284,771,042	53.1	95,849,943	50.7	71.0	(NA)
1870..	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	188,921,099	46.3	25,810,379	15.8	71.0	(NA)
1860..	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	163,110,720	40.1	50,078,106	44.3	79.8	(NA)
1850..	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	113,032,614	38.5			78.0	(NA)
Irrigated land in farms ¹¹1954..	320,236	6.7	15,175	5.0	29,552,155	2.6	3,764,713	14.6	6.2	92.3
1949..	305,061	5.7	16,866	5.9	25,787,455	2.2	5,247,985	25.6	4.8	84.5
1944..	288,195	4.9	—11,409	—3.8	20,539,470	1.8	2,566,640	14.2	3.5	71.3
1939..	299,604	4.9	—7,043	—2.4	17,982,830	1.7	4,948,656	38.0	2.9	60.0
1934..	296,189	4.3	24,632	9.3	13,034,174	1.2	—1,599,078	—10.9	1.9	44.0
1929..	265,147	4.2	42,358	19.0	14,633,252	1.5	(NA)	(NA)	2.3	55.2
1919..	222,789	3.5	60,066	36.9	(14)	(14)	(NA)	(NA)	(14)	(NA)
1909..	162,723	2.6	48,874	43.0	(14)	(14)	(NA)	(NA)	(14)	(NA)
1899..	113,849	2.0	59,713	110.3	7,744,492	0.9	4,028,547	108.4	1.4	68.0
1889..	54,136	1.2			3,715,945	0.6			0.8	68.6
Cover crops turned under and land planted to another crop ¹²1954..	488,240	12.8	(NA)	(NA)	9,278,572	1.8	(NA)	(NA)	2.4	19.0
Land in row or closely seeded crops grown in strips for wind erosion control ¹³1954..	26,972	3.2	(NA)	(NA)	5,218,112	0.9	(NA)	(NA)	6.1	193.5
Cropland used for row or grain crops farmed on contour ¹⁷1954..	434,899	9.2	(NA)	(NA)	22,434,812	2.0	(NA)	(NA)	4.7	51.6

Z 0.05 percent or less. NA Not available.

¹ Prior to 1924, the total acreage of crops for which figures are available, except for 1919 when 14,502,932 acres of corn cut for forage were excluded as most of this was probably duplicated in the acreage of corn harvested as grain.

² Much of the change from 1944 to 1949 and from 1939 to 1944 due to change in definition. See text.

³ Data are for 17 States for which a separate inquiry was included on the questionnaire. Cultivated summer fallow is negligible in other States. See Table 18 for States included.

⁴ Data are for 31 States for which separate inquiry was carried for land used only for crops not harvested and not pastured. See Table 17 for States included.

⁵ Much of the change from 1944 to 1949 due to change in definition. See text.

⁶ Includes pasture other than plowable and woodland; also wasteland, house yards, barnyards, feed lots, lanes, roads, etc.

⁷ Cropland harvested, cropland used only for pasture, and cropland not harvested and not pastured.

⁸ Cropland harvested, cropland used only for pasture plowed within 7 years, and cropland not harvested and not pastured.

⁹ Cropland harvested; crop failure; cropland, idle or fallow; and plowable pasture.

¹⁰ Nominally includes all land regularly tilled or mowed; land in pasture that has been cleared or tilled; land lying fallow; land in gardens, orchards, vineyards, and nurseries; and all land occupied by buildings, yards, barnyards, etc. See text.

¹¹ Data not strictly comparable. See text.

¹² Increase or decrease 1934 to 1939 based on farms reporting and acreage of irrigated cropland harvested only.

¹³ Increase or decrease 1930 to 1935 based on reports for 19 States only.

¹⁴ The total acreage of irrigated crops harvested for 1919 was 9,831,368 (includes some duplication and excludes land in orchards and vineyards), and for 1909 was 7,241,561. The reports for crops grown under irrigation for these years, however, were not considered complete.

¹⁵ Data are for 31 States and East Texas for which this inquiry was carried. See Table 19 for States included.

¹⁶ Data are for 14 States and West Texas for which this inquiry was carried. See Table 19 for States included.

¹⁷ Data are for all States except Florida. Land farmed on contour is negligible in Florida.