

In reporting land in his farm according to the use made of it in 1954, the respondent was asked to distinguish between some classes of land for which the line of demarcation was not always clear and could not always be determined on a uniform basis. Although the wording of the questions, the definitions given, and the instructions were aimed toward clarifying the intent of the inquiries, much was left to the judgment of the respondent and enumerator. For example, permanent open pasture was sometimes reported as cropland pasture and sometimes as other pasture (not cropland and not woodland), depending on whether or not the respondent, or enumerator, considered such land to be cropland. Similarly, pastureland with scattered trees, or pastureland covered with brush or small woody growth, was sometimes classed as woodland pasture and sometimes as other pasture. Changes between Censuses, particularly on a county level, in the acreages of cropland pasture, other pasture, and woodland pasture may be the result of how these items were reported rather than to actual change.

In general, land-use items were accepted as reported during the office processing. Changes were made only when it was obvious that the land had been reported in error, such as very large acreages of woodland pasture in areas where there is very little or no woodland, or extremely large acreages of cropland pasture in areas where cropland acreages are small and nonplowable grazing lands predominate.

**Land-use classification, 1925 to 1950.**—Land-use classes similar to those of 1954 have been used at each Census from 1925. The principal modifications have been in the classes relating to cropland pasture and in the subclassifications of cropland not harvested and not pastured. The modifications of the classification relating to cropland pasture also affect the summary classification relating to total cropland and the class "other pasture." In 1940, all woodland was grouped into one class and pasture other than woodland and plowable pasture were included with "all other land."

In presenting classifications for earlier Censuses, the wording for classes not fully comparable with corresponding classes in 1954 calls attention to significant differences.

The following wordings are used to designate the classifications relating to cropland pasture:

**Cropland used only for pasture, 1954 and 1949.**

**Cropland used only for pasture plowed within 7 years, 1944.** The inquiry was for "land used only for pasture or grazing in 1944 that was plowed within past 7 years."

**Plowable pasture, 1924 to 1949.** This item was defined as land used only for pasture or grazing which could have been used for crops without additional clearing, draining, or irrigating.

The wordings used for the summary classifications for total cropland are—

**Cropland, total, 1954 and 1949.**

**Cropland, other than cropland pasture not plowed within 7 years, 1944.** This summary item was obtained by adding cropland harvested, cropland used only for pasture plowed within 7 years, and cropland not harvested and not pastured.

**Land available for crops, 1929 to 1939.** This item is the sum of cropland harvested, plowable pasture, and cropland not harvested and not pastured.

The modifications from Census to Census in the inquiry relating to cropland pasture results in the following variations in the wordings for the item "other pasture":

**Other pasture, not cropland and not woodland, 1954 and 1949.**

**Other pasture, not cropland plowed within 7 years and not woodland, 1944.**

**Other pasture, not plowable and not woodland, 1924 to 1934.**

The effect of changes in the inquiries relating to cropland pasture on the comparability of land-use data from 1924 to 1954 is shown in Table 5.

The subclasses of cropland not harvested and not pastured for the various Censuses are as follows:

**Cultivated summer fallow, 1954 and 1949, for 17 Western States.**

**Other cropland (not harvested, not pastured, and not cultivated summer fallow), 1954 and 1949, for 17 Western States.**

TABLE 5.—ITEMS NEEDED TO OBTAIN COMPARABILITY OF DATA FOR EARLIER CENSUS YEARS WITH THOSE FOR 1954, FOR TOTAL CROPLAND, CROPLAND PASTURED, AND OTHER PASTURE (NOT CROPLAND AND NOT WOODLAND)

Census year	Most nearly comparable item, each Census (as shown in Table 4)		To obtain more complete comparability with 1954 the following adjustments would be needed	
	Item as shown in this report	United States total (acres)	Add <sup>1</sup>	Subtract <sup>1</sup>
<b>CROPLAND, TOTAL</b>				
1954	Cropland, total	459,648,961		
1949	Cropland, total	477,837,938		
1944	Cropland, other than cropland pasture not plowed within 7 years	450,694,226	Cropland used only for pasture not plowed within 7 years	
1939	Land available for crops	530,131,042		Plowable pasture other than cropland pastured.
1934	Land available for crops	513,913,969		Plowable pasture other than cropland pastured.
1929	Land available for crops	522,395,804		Plowable pasture other than cropland pastured.
1924	Land available for crops	505,027,400		Plowable pasture other than cropland pastured.
<b>CROPLAND PASTURED</b>				
1954	Cropland used only for pasture	66,069,838		
1949	Cropland used only for pasture	69,331,844		
1944	Cropland used only for pasture plowed within 7 years	47,449,184	Cropland used only for pasture not plowed within 7 years	
1939	Plowable pasture	131,379,940		Plowable pasture other than cropland pastured.
1934	Plowable pasture	98,579,038		Plowable pasture other than cropland pastured.
1929	Plowable pasture	109,159,914		Plowable pasture other than cropland pastured.
1924	Plowable pasture	113,567,498		Plowable pasture other than cropland pastured.
<b>OTHER PASTURE (NOT CROPLAND AND NOT WOODLAND)</b>				
1954	Other pasture, not cropland and not woodland	459,878,925		
1949	Other pasture, not cropland and not woodland	415,649,520		
1944	Other pasture, not cropland plowed within 7 years and not woodland	481,016,668		Cropland used only for pasture not plowed within 7 years.
1939	Other land; house lots, roads, wasteland, etc., and pasture other than plowable and woodland	393,543,673	Plowable pasture other than cropland pastured	House lots, roads, wasteland, etc.
1934	Other pasture, not plowable and not woodland	311,225,652	Plowable pasture other than cropland pastured	
1929	Other pasture, not plowable and not woodland	269,672,710	Plowable pasture other than cropland pastured	
1924	Other pasture, not plowable and not woodland	217,687,145	Plowable pasture other than cropland pastured	

<sup>1</sup> No Census data available for these items.