

by adding the number of farms reporting the several types. However, this total would contain a minor but undetermined amount of duplication because when two or more types of wheat were harvested on the same farm, the farm would have been counted as a farm reporting for each type of wheat harvested. The questionnaire did not contain a separate inquiry for wheat in 13 States—the six New England States, Alabama, Arkansas, Florida, Louisiana, Mississippi, 30 counties in Southeast Missouri, and 123 counties in East Texas. In these States, wheat was tabulated as "Other grain." The amount of wheat harvested in these States and counties is small and the omission of data for these States usually does not significantly affect State, region, or geographic division totals. However, the omission of data in 30 counties in Southeast Missouri, and 123 counties in East Texas does slightly affect the comparability of data for these two States. In 1949, the 30 counties in Southeast Missouri had 10.9 percent of the total wheat acreage for the State and the 123 counties of East Texas had 3.9 percent of the total wheat acreage for that State.

Mixtures of wheat and other small grains were not to be reported as wheat but as mixed grain for the 1954 and 1950 Censuses. No attempt was made to allocate grains harvested as mixtures in order to obtain separate totals for wheat and for other grains. For the 1945, 1940, and 1935 Censuses, enumerators were instructed to report one-half the acreage of wheat and flax, harvested as mixtures, under wheat and the other half under flax.

The harvested acreage of all wheat, as reported for the 1954 Census, was 51.4 million acres. This is a reduction of 28 percent from the 71.2 million acres reported for 1949. The reduction in acreage resulted not only from acreage allotments but also abandonment because of severe drought in Texas, Oklahoma, Kansas, Nebraska, New Mexico, and Colorado. Yield per harvested acre, 17.7 bushels in 1954, equalled the previous high, that for 1944.

Data on the quantity of wheat sold was obtained for each farm in both the 1954 and the 1950 Censuses. The value of sales for the 1954 crop was computed by multiplying bushels sold by an estimated State average price. A comparable value of wheat sold for 1949 is not available since the value of sales for all small grains was obtained as a total for each farm.

Oats.—The questionnaire for the 1954 Census of Agriculture provided (except in Washington, Oregon, and 123 counties in East Texas) only one inquiry for oats. This inquiry called for the reporting of acres harvested, bushels harvested, and bushels sold. In Washington and Oregon, a second inquiry called for the amount of oats cleaned out of vetch and peas. In these two States, a considerable acreage of oats and peas, or oats and vetch, are grown together and harvested at the same time. Enumerators were instructed not to consider these combinations as mixed grain. The acreage of oats and peas grown together was listed under the acreage for peas and the acreage of oats and vetch was listed under the acreage for vetch.

The quantity of oats harvested was reported separately and has been added into the production of oats grown alone in both Washington and Oregon. In Washington, 45 farms reported 11,911 bushels harvested and 4,922 bushels sold for oats cleaned out of vetch and peas; and in Oregon, 1,053 farms reported 617,760 bushels harvested and 398,807 bushels sold.

In 1954, for 123 counties in East Texas, the acreage, production, and sales of oats were included with "Other grain." The quantity of oats harvested in these 123 counties does not represent a significant part of the quantity harvested in the United States, in the South, or in the geographic division. However, the quantity of oats harvested in these 123 counties does represent a significant part of the crop in Texas and this fact needs to be considered when making comparisons of the figures for Texas for 1954 with those for other years. In 1949, the acreage of oats for these 123 counties constituted 35.6 percent of the total for the State.

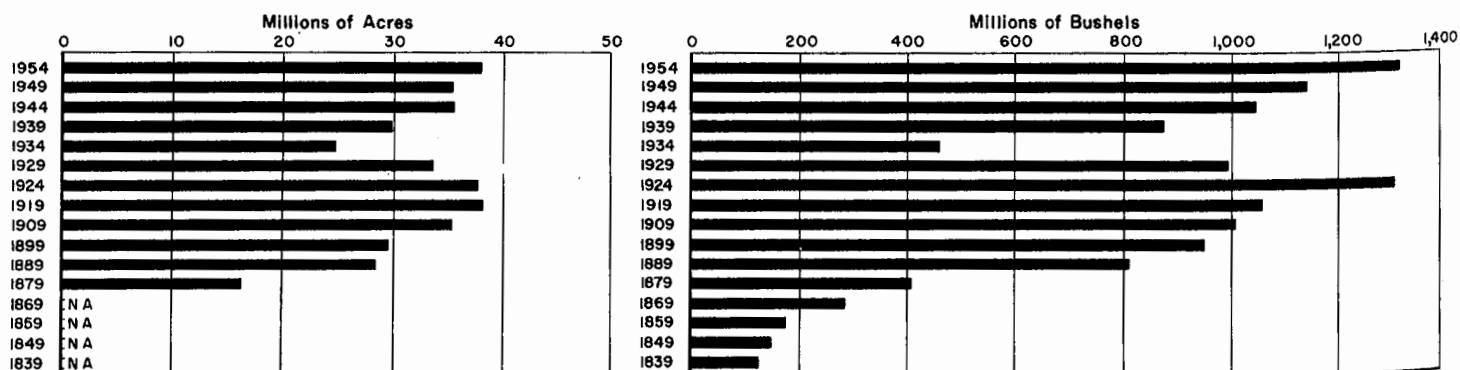
Two inquiries on oats had been on the Agriculture Questionnaire for the 1925 Census through the 1950 Census. One inquiry asked for the acreage and production of oats threshed or combined, while the other asked for the acreage of oats cut when ripe or nearly ripe for feeding unthreshed. This second inquiry, oats cut when ripe or nearly ripe for feeding unthreshed, was not included in the 1954 Census, as instructions called for the reporting of oats cut when ripe or nearly ripe under small grains cut for hay. A comparison of the figures for small grains cut for hay for 1954 and for 1949 indicates a considerable increase in the acreage for this item. A part of this increase, in some areas, was the result of dry weather and the shortage of other types of hay. However, a considerable portion of the increase is the result of the inclusion of oats cut when ripe or nearly ripe in small grains cut for hay. In order to facilitate comparisons between the two Censuses, Table 89 shows the acreage of oats cut for feeding unthreshed and the acreage of small grains cut for hay for 1949. The totals are added to facilitate a comparison with the acreage of small grains cut for hay for 1954.

The reported acreage of oats harvested, 37.9 million acres, is the largest since 1919. The increase to a large extent, represented a diversion of acres from crops such as wheat, corn, and cotton. The production, 1,314 million bushels, is also the largest reported for any Census.

The quantity of oats sold was obtained for each farm in both the 1954 and the 1950 Censuses. The value of oats sold was computed for 1954 by multiplying the quantity sold by State average prices. A comparable value of oats sold is not available for 1949 since the value of oats sold was included in the value of all small grains sold.

Barley.—A separate inquiry on barley appeared on the Agriculture Questionnaire for 37 States in 1954. Barley did not appear as a separate item on the questionnaire for the six New England States, Florida, Alabama, Mississippi, Arkansas, Louisiana, 30 counties of Southeast Missouri, and 123 counties in East Texas. In all of these

OATS THRESHED — ACRES, 1879 TO 1954, AND PRODUCTION, 1839 TO 1954: FOR THE UNITED STATES



NA—Not available
Oats threshed: Yield 34.7 bu. in 1954