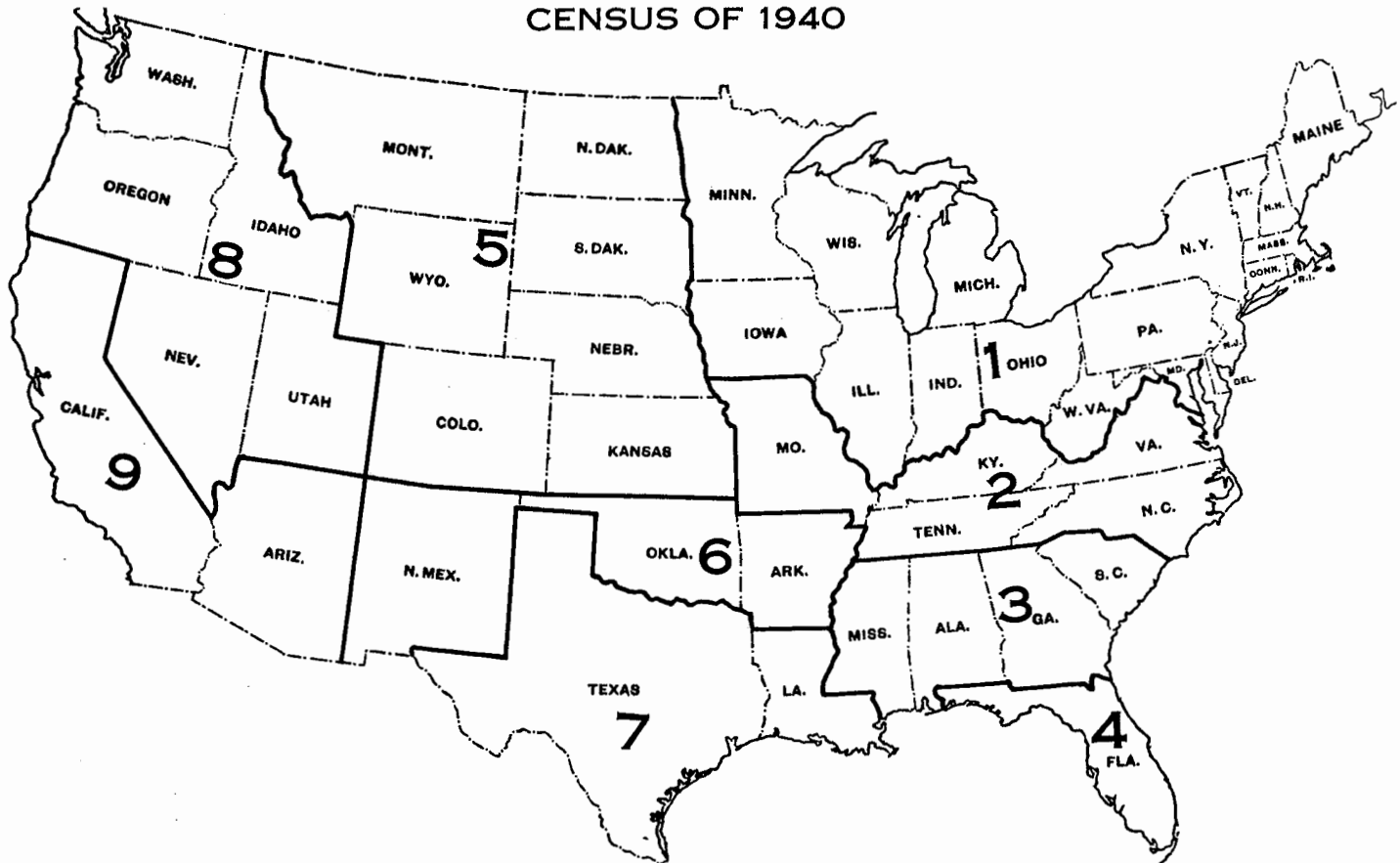


PLAN OF REGIONALIZATION OF FARM AND RANCH SCHEDULE CENSUS OF 1940



required when two or more agriculture questionnaires were needed for a landholding. Since it called for the name and agricultural operations of each tenant on the landholding, the procedure enabled the enumerator to determine that all operations were reported completely and only once. A more detailed description of this questionnaire and of statistics compiled through its use appears in Part 1 of Volume III of the reports of the 1954 Census of Agriculture.

ENUMERATION PROCEDURES

Enumeration.—The enumeration was performed by farm operators and Census enumerators.

About 2 weeks before the Census starting date a copy of the agriculture questionnaire was distributed to 7,897,000 boxholders on the rural postal routes in all States except Alabama, Georgia, Louisiana, Mississippi, North Carolina, South Carolina, and 53 of the 75 counties in Arkansas. The questionnaire was accompanied by a letter asking the farm operator to examine the questionnaire and to answer as many of the questions as possible prior to the visit of the Census enumerator. When the questionnaire was filled out by the farm operator, the Census enumerator was required to examine the questionnaire for the purpose of insuring that all necessary entries had been made. The procedure, mailing agriculture questionnaires in advance of the enumeration, was expected to improve the quality of the information given by the farmers and to expedite the work of the enumerator. By reading the questionnaire, farmers learned what information was desired and were able to compile their records in advance of the enumerator's visit.

In general, Census enumerators were assigned areas for which they could complete the enumeration within 4 weeks. The

number of farms enumerated by an enumerator averaged approximately 160. Census enumerators began their enumeration on the starting date for their area, and continued until the completion of the enumeration of their assigned areas. The starting dates of the enumeration varied for various parts of the country. The following map indicates the starting date for most areas. Generally, the starting date was in October for those areas in which most of the crops had been harvested by early October and in which travel by enumerators would be difficult during the last half of November and in December.

The following table indicates by geographic divisions and States the proportion of farms enumerated by 2-week periods and the average date of enumeration for the farms in each State. When the enumeration of an enumeration district was completed, the enumerator gave the agriculture questionnaires to his crew leader who checked them for completeness before recommending the payment of the enumerator for his work.

In approximately 26,000 enumeration districts, enumerators were paid a fixed fee for each agriculture questionnaire and each line filled on Form A2 plus 11 cents per mile for the use of their automobiles plus a wage of approximately \$1.25 per hour for the time spent in training sessions. In 15,000 enumeration districts including approximately 4,300 rural enumeration districts, where farms were widely scattered or travel conditions were difficult, or where farms were in urban areas, enumerators were paid \$1.25 per hour for enumeration work and training plus 7 cents per mile for the use of their automobiles.

Measures for insuring completeness of coverage.—Plans for the 1954 Census of Agriculture included several provisions for insuring that the Census would be a complete coverage of all agricultural operations in the United States.