

Farms by class of work power.—Farms have been grouped by class of work power on the basis of whether horses, mules, or tractors were reported. This classification does not present an entirely accurate picture of the work power used on all farms. For some farms, all or part of the work power may be furnished by the landlord and for some farms all or part of the work power may be hired. Thus, farms hiring all the work power from others and those having it furnished may be shown as having no work power.

Value of farm products sold.—Data on the value of farm products sold were obtained for 1954 by either of two methods. First, the values of livestock sold alive, poultry, poultry products, vegetables harvested for sale, nursery and greenhouse products, forest products, and all livestock products, except wool and mohair, were obtained during the enumeration by asking each farm operator the value of sales.

Second, the values of all other agricultural products sold were estimated. During the enumeration, the quantity sold was obtained for each farm, for corn for grain, sorghums for grain or forage, small grains, hays, and for all small fruits and berries. For all other crops, the quantity sold was estimated.

In estimating quantities sold, for the purpose of computing value of farm products sold, various methods were used. These methods, and the names of the crops for which the quantity sold was estimated by each method, are given in Chapter IX.

The estimated value of all crops sold, except vegetables harvested for sale, nursery and greenhouse products, and forest products, was obtained by multiplying the reported or estimated quantity sold by the State average price. The State average prices were obtained cooperatively by the Bureau of the Census and the Agricultural Marketing Service of the U. S. Department of Agriculture.

For the 1950 Census, the value of all farm products sold was obtained by inquiry of each farm operator. In that Census, inquiries were made regarding the value of farm products sold for a maximum of 46 individual farm products or groups of farm products. In most cases, the quantity sold for the individual farm products was obtained together with the value of sales. The total value of farm products sold for 1950 includes the value of several farm products not included in the figures for 1954—butter, cheese, skim milk, bees, honey, corn fodder, corn silage, and grain straw, and receipts from the rental of pasture.

Data for the sales of farm products represent total gross sales for the entire farm, regardless of who shared in the receipts. The landlord's share of crops and livestock sold and also the livestock which the landlord took from the tenant farm to his own place were considered as sales from the tenant farm. Sales of crops grown on a contract basis, of livestock fed on a contract basis, or of poultry raised under a contract with a feed dealer or others, were included as sales from the farm.

The data on sales cover 1 year's operation. The sales of crops represent the sales of crops before the enumeration as well as those yet to be sold at the time of the enumeration. Corn, cotton, and other commodities under loan were to be considered as sold at loan prices. Livestock sales are for the calendar year regardless of when the livestock were raised or produced. Most livestock products are sold at the time they are produced. It was assumed that all wool and mohair shorn or clipped in 1954 was sold.

The value of farm products sold does not include Government payments for soil conservation, lime and fertilizer furnished, and subsidy payments.

Differences in published data.—Many of the data shown in the various tables, represent estimates based on tabulation of data for a sample of farms. Some of these tabulations for a sample of farms were made for counties, others were made for State Economic Areas, and some were made for States. In some cases

the estimates obtained from tabulations by counties, State Economic Areas, and States will differ slightly because, as a matter of economy, adjustments were not made in the tabulations when the differences were not great enough to affect the usefulness of the data.

COMPLETENESS OF THE CENSUS

Places not counted as farms.—For the 1954 as for the 1950 Census of Agriculture, special procedures were developed to help insure a reasonably complete Census of farms and agricultural production. For the 1954 Census, the enumeration procedure required that enumerators visit and list all dwellings and places in rural areas. (See Enumeration Procedures for a more detailed description.) Enumerators were required to obtain agriculture questionnaires for all places locally considered as farms and also all places having agricultural operations. Thus, the procedure called for the enumeration of all places that might qualify as farms. Many of the places for which agriculture questionnaires were obtained during the enumeration did not qualify as farms in accordance with the Census definition.

Places enumerated and not counted as farms totaled approximately 461,000 and contained about 7,000,000 acres of land, and about 300,000 acres of cropland harvested. The acreage in these places was equal to 0.6 percent of all land in farms and the cropland harvested for these places was equal to less than 0.1 percent of the cropland harvested in farms. (See Table 7.)

TABLE 7.—NUMBER AND ACREAGE OF PLACES ENUMERATED AND NOT COUNTED AS FARMS, BY GEOGRAPHIC DIVISIONS: 1954 CENSUS OF AGRICULTURE¹

Division and State	Number of places	Acres of land	Acres of cropland harvested
United States.....	460,862	7,072,568	299,122
Geographic Divisions:			
New England.....	6,960	110,880	33,240
Middle Atlantic.....	21,840	231,200	11,460
East North Central.....	42,920	318,500	33,840
West North Central.....	29,960	600,540	31,360
South Atlantic.....	136,620	1,936,820	42,540
East South Central.....	83,140	1,588,720	32,500
West South Central.....	93,760	767,640	23,540
Mountain.....	12,301	1,001,580	73,062
Pacific.....	33,361	516,688	17,580

¹ The data are estimates based on the tabulation of data for a sample of 5 percent of the places.

Completeness of coverage of the Census.—It is difficult to obtain a complete enumeration of farms and farm land. The difficulties are related to the large number of farms to be enumerated, the variety of arrangements under which farms are operated, the employment of a large number of temporary personnel to take and to supervise the taking of a Nationwide Census, the reluctance of some farm operators to provide information to Census enumerators, the problems of locating and identifying places that might be farms, the unavailability of information locally for some agricultural operations, the absence from their farms during the period of enumeration of some farm operators and their families, the failure of some Census enumerators to perform a thorough job, the opinion of operators of part time and marginal farms that their operations should not be included in a Census of Agriculture, etc.

In general, reliable data have not been available to indicate the completeness of the Censuses of Agriculture. Therefore, as part of the 1954 and 1950 Censuses of Agriculture, detailed special surveys were undertaken to provide estimates of the completeness of coverage of the Census and to provide measures of reporting errors for a few important items.

The special survey for the 1954 Census of Agriculture was conducted in about 319 counties in the United States. The survey