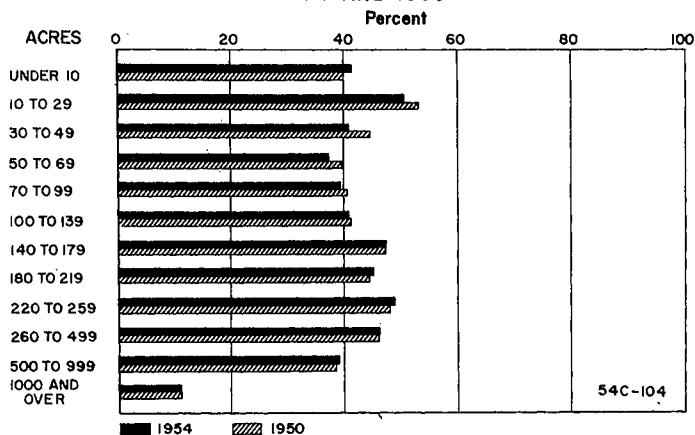


of different operators and, thus, counted as a considerable number of separate farms.

Between 1950 and 1954, the number of farms in the "Under 10 acres" group remained relatively constant, but the percentage of all farms represented by farms under 10 acres in size increased from 1950 to 1954. Table 3 shows the number of farms included in the under 10 acres group for each Census beginning with 1880. Farms of under 10 acres increased from 139,241 in 1880 to 594,561 in 1945, then decreased to 484,291 in 1954.

PERCENT OF ALL LAND IN FARMS REPRESENTED BY CROPLAND HARVESTED, BY SIZE OF FARM; FOR THE UNITED STATES: 1954 AND 1950



PERCENT OF ALL LAND IN FARMS REPRESENTED BY LAND PASTURED, BY SIZE OF FARM; FOR THE UNITED STATES: 1954 AND 1950

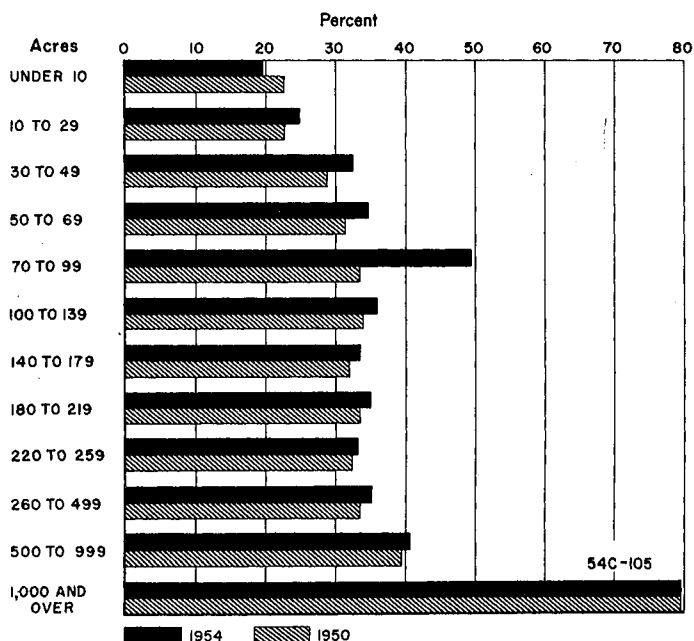


TABLE 3.—NUMBER OF FARMS UNDER 10 ACRES IN SIZE, WITH LAND IN FARMS; FOR THE UNITED STATES: 1880 TO 1954

[Figures for States in Table 12]

Year	Under 10 acres		Under 3 acres		3 to 9 acres	
	Number of farms	Land in farms (acres)	Number of farms	Land in farms (acres)	Number of farms	Land in farms (acres)
1954	484,291	2,259,817	99,896	(NA)	384,395	(NA)
1950	484,014	2,437,584	76,606	(NA)	408,308	(NA)
1945	594,561	2,805,435	98,966	141,262	495,505	2,664,183
1940	506,402	2,667,754	35,977	50,946	470,425	2,616,808
1935	570,831	3,057,166	35,573	51,269	535,258	3,005,897
1930	358,504	1,908,370	43,007	61,338	315,497	1,847,032
1925	378,535	2,096,610	15,151	22,976	363,384	2,073,034
1920	288,772	1,600,287	20,350	33,613	268,422	1,566,074
1910	335,043	(NA)	18,033	(NA)	317,010	(NA)
1900	267,229	1,477,379	41,385	78,715	225,844	1,308,664
1890	150,194	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)
1880	139,241	(NA)	4,352	(NA)	134,889	(NA)

NA Not available.

Changes in the number of farms reported for the under 10 acres group between Census years may be attributed to changes in the agricultural operations on these places, to changes in Census definition of a farm, and to changes in the relative completeness of the Census. Places in this group may have sufficient agricultural production to be counted as farms at one Census, and at another, they may have too limited production to be included as farms. In many cases, such places have small agricultural operations as they represent rural residences.

The number of farms in all of the size groups from 10 to 179 acres for the United States decreased for each Census period since 1935 (see Table 4). This trend continues to reflect the consolidation of farms, the discontinuance of farm operations on small farms, and a decrease in farm numbers brought about by the rapid increase in farm technology and mechanization of agriculture. The increase in nonfarm job opportunities has contributed significantly to this change.

Farms of 1,000 or more acres in size accounted for 2.7 percent of all farms in 1954, 2.3 percent in 1950, and 1.9 percent in 1945. Farms in this 1,000-or-more-acres group accounted for 45.9, 42.6, and 40.3 percent, respectively, of the total farm land. In 1954, these large farms of 1,000 or more acres accounted for 20.7 percent of the total cropland, 65.4 percent of the total land pastured, and 36.1 percent of the total woodland (see Table 6). The increase in the number and size of large farms has resulted from farm consolidation arising because of the improvements in farm technology and efficiency, the rapid mechanization of agriculture, and the incorporation of grazing lands into farms in the West.

For any one area representing similar land and similar farming practices, the size of farm varies with the type of farming, the resources of the farm family, the number of available workers in the family, the age of the operator, the utilization of machinery, size of holding at the time of settlement, etc. On the one extreme are places which represent, primarily, rural homes with limited agricultural operations, and on the other, there are strictly commercial farms depending in a large part on hired employees.