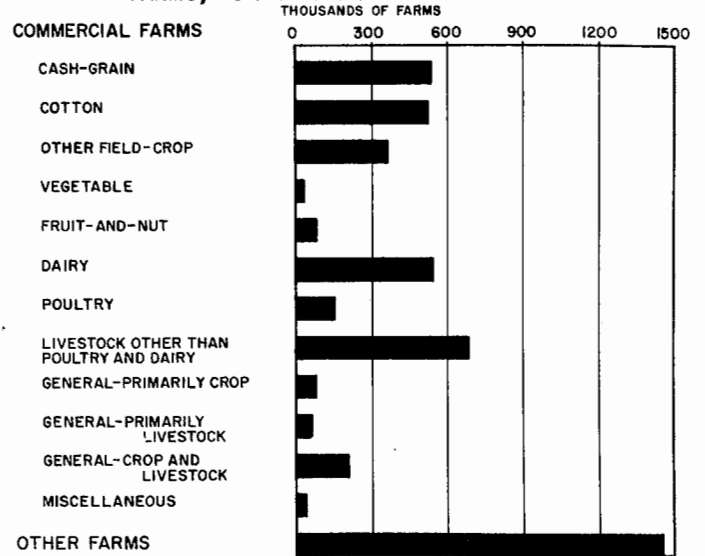| Type of farm	Product or group of products amounting to 50 percent or more of the value of all farm products sold
Cash-grain	Corn, sorghums, small grains, field peas, field beans, cowpeas, and soybeans.
Cotton	Cotton (lint and seed).
Other field-crop	Peanuts, Irish potatoes, sweetpotatoes, tobacco, sugarcane, sugar beets for sugar, and other miscellaneous crops.
Vegetable	Vegetables.
Fruit-and-nut	Berries and other small fruits and tree fruits, nuts, and grapes.
Dairy	Milk and other dairy products. The criterion of 50 percent of the total sales was modified in the case of dairy farms. A farm for which the value of sales of dairy products represented less than 50 percent of the total value of farm products sold was classified as a dairy farm if— (a) Milk and other dairy products accounted for 30 percent or more of the total value of products sold; and (b) Milk cows represented 50 percent or more of all cows; and (c) Sales of dairy products, together with the sales of cattle and calves, amounted to 50 percent or more of the total value of farm products sold.
Poultry	Chickens, eggs, turkeys, and other poultry products.
Livestock farms other than dairy and poultry	Cattle, calves, hogs, sheep, goats, wool, and mohair, provided the farm did not qualify as a dairy farm.
General	Farms were classified as general when the value of products from one source or group of sources did not represent as much as 50 percent of the total value of all farm products sold. Separate figures are given for three kinds of general farms: (a) Primarily crop (b) Primarily livestock (c) Crop and livestock *Primarily crop* farms are those for which the sale of one of the following crops or groups of crops—vegetables, fruits and nuts, cotton, cash grains, or other field crops—did not amount to 50 percent or more of the value of all farm products sold, but for which the value of sales for all these groups of crops represented 70 percent or more of the value of all farm products sold. *Primarily livestock* farms are those which did not qualify as dairy farms, poultry farms, or livestock farms other than dairy and poultry, but for which the sale of livestock and poultry and livestock and poultry products amounted to 70 percent or more of the value of all farm products sold. *General crop and livestock* farms are those which could not be classified as either crop farms or livestock farms, but for which the sale of all crops amounted to at least 30 percent but less than 70 percent of the total value of all farm products sold.
Miscellaneous	This group of farms includes those that had 50 percent or more of the total value of products accounted for by sale of horticultural products, or sale of horses, or sale of forest products. In 1950, this group of farms also included those that had 50 percent or more of the total value of farm products accounted for by the sale of fur animals or the sale of bees, wax, and honey.

The above types provide a classification meaningful to large areas of the United States, both as to number of farms, and as to the kind of farming followed. Relatively unimportant types, such as forest-products farms, horse farms, etc., were grouped as miscellaneous since the main purpose in classifying these was to exclude them from the other types.

COMMERCIAL FARMS CLASSIFIED BY TYPE, AND OTHER FARMS, FOR THE UNITED STATES: 1954

54C-029

Cotton farms were classified separately from "Other field-crop farms" because they constitute such a large proportion of the total farms. The separate classification of cotton farms, also, makes the data more useful in areas where cotton is a competing cash crop with peanuts or tobacco. Usually, it is possible to identify the crop accounting for the "Other field-crop farms" because, in most areas, only one crop provides the source of income for this type.

General farms were separated into three groups in order to provide a more specific description of the farms not obtaining as much as 50 percent of the value of all farm products sold from one source or group of sources.

In the South, the "home farms" of multiple-unit operations were classified on the same basis as all other farms. No attempt was made to consider value of sales of products from the land rented out. The "home farm" may have been classified as residential, and, thus, not have been included with the farms classified by type, even though it was the headquarters of a relatively large agricultural operation.

In a few instances, the number of "crop-type" farms reporting cropland harvested is less than the total number of farms in the type group. This difference occurs because the land-use tabulations did not provide for the counting of farms reporting and acres of cropland harvested when the acreage of cropland harvested was less than one acre. Such differences occurred largely on farms where tobacco, or berries or other fruits was the important crop.

Factors affecting classification by type of farm.—The criteria for classifying farms by type were essentially the same for the 1954 and 1950 Censuses of Agriculture. There were differences, however, in the method of obtaining data on the value of farm products sold which may have influenced, in a relatively few cases, the type for a given farm.

Limitations of the use of value of products sold for classifying farms by type.—The value of farm products sold has been used for several Censuses as the basis for making a classification of farms by type. It provides a common denominator for relating the importance of all enterprises. As a general rule, it reflects the physical resources and productivity of the farm. However, the use of income data has limitations for those farms where crop failure curtailed production during the year, for farms where livestock or other inventories were expanding or contracting at greater than the usual yearly rate for the farm, and for farms on which a considerable part of the products sold is represented by purchased items. The use of gross sales without adjustment for any of the costs of production may give too