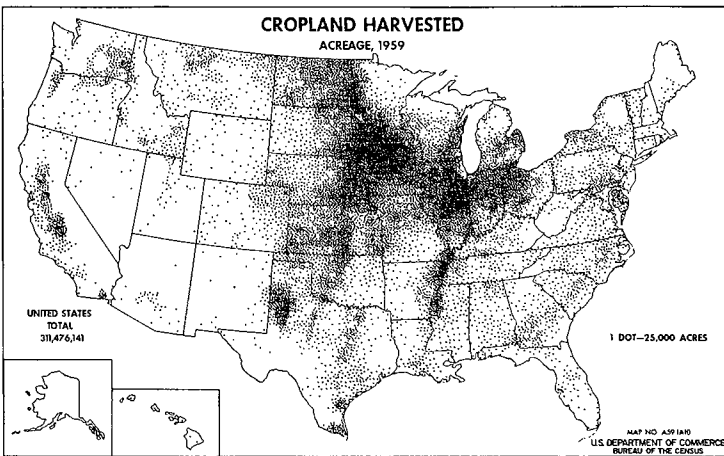


TOTAL CROPLAND

The 1959 Census of Agriculture reported 448 million acres of cropland for the 50 States. (In recognition of some under-enumeration, the U.S. Department of Agriculture estimates a total cropland acreage of 458 million acres.)

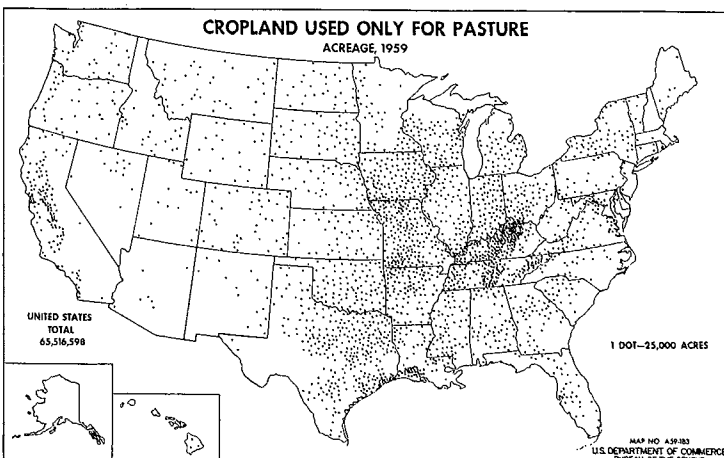
The heaviest concentration of cropland is found in the Corn Belt, lower Lake States, and Northern Plain States where more than half of the Nation's cropland is located, although these States have only a fifth of the land area. The States of Alaska, Arizona, Nevada, New Mexico, Utah, and Wyoming, which have 31 percent of the land area, have less than 10 million acres or only about 2 percent of the cropland area. The new State of Hawaii has about 0.5 million acres of cropland, while Alaska has only about 24,000 acres. Several fairly extensive areas in the North-eastern and Southern part of the United States have very little cropland acreage.



CROPLAND HARVESTED

In comparing the map showing the distribution of cropland harvested with the map showing total cropland, the number of acres represented by each dot should be noted carefully. The pattern of cropland harvested is, of course, very similar to the pattern for total cropland, since cropland harvested represents 70 percent of total cropland. Cropland harvested includes all land from which any crops were harvested in 1959, whether for home use or for sale. It includes land from which hay (including wild hay) was cut, land in berries and other small fruits, and land used for orchards, vineyards, nurseries, and greenhouses. Matured crops hogged off or grazed were considered to have been "crops harvested" and were reported here. Land from which two or more crops were harvested in 1959 was counted only once in the land-use classification.

The high density of cropland harvested in the Corn Belt, the lower Lake States, the Northern Plains States, the lower Mississippi Valley, and the High Plains of Texas, and in irrigated valleys in the Western States is especially conspicuous.



CROPLAND USED ONLY FOR PASTURE

Cropland used only for pasture has been a difficult category of land use to enumerate consistently in the Census of Agriculture because of the difficulty of interpreting the definition uniformly from area to area and from year to year. Rotation pasture is included in this category. Also included is land used only for pasture or grazing, if the operator considered that it could have been used for crops without additional improvement. Permanent open pasture may have been reported either for this item or for "other pasture" depending on whether or not the operator considered it as cropland.

Using pasture in rotation with crops is a fairly common practice in the Corn Belt, Lake States, and Northern and Southern Plains States, and in some of the irrigated areas of the Western States.

In some areas, in Kentucky and Tennessee for instance, there is a tendency for farmers to report permanent pasture as cropland used only for pasture, since these farmers thought such pasture land was capable of being used as cropland. In southern Louisiana, pasture is commonly used in rotation with rice.