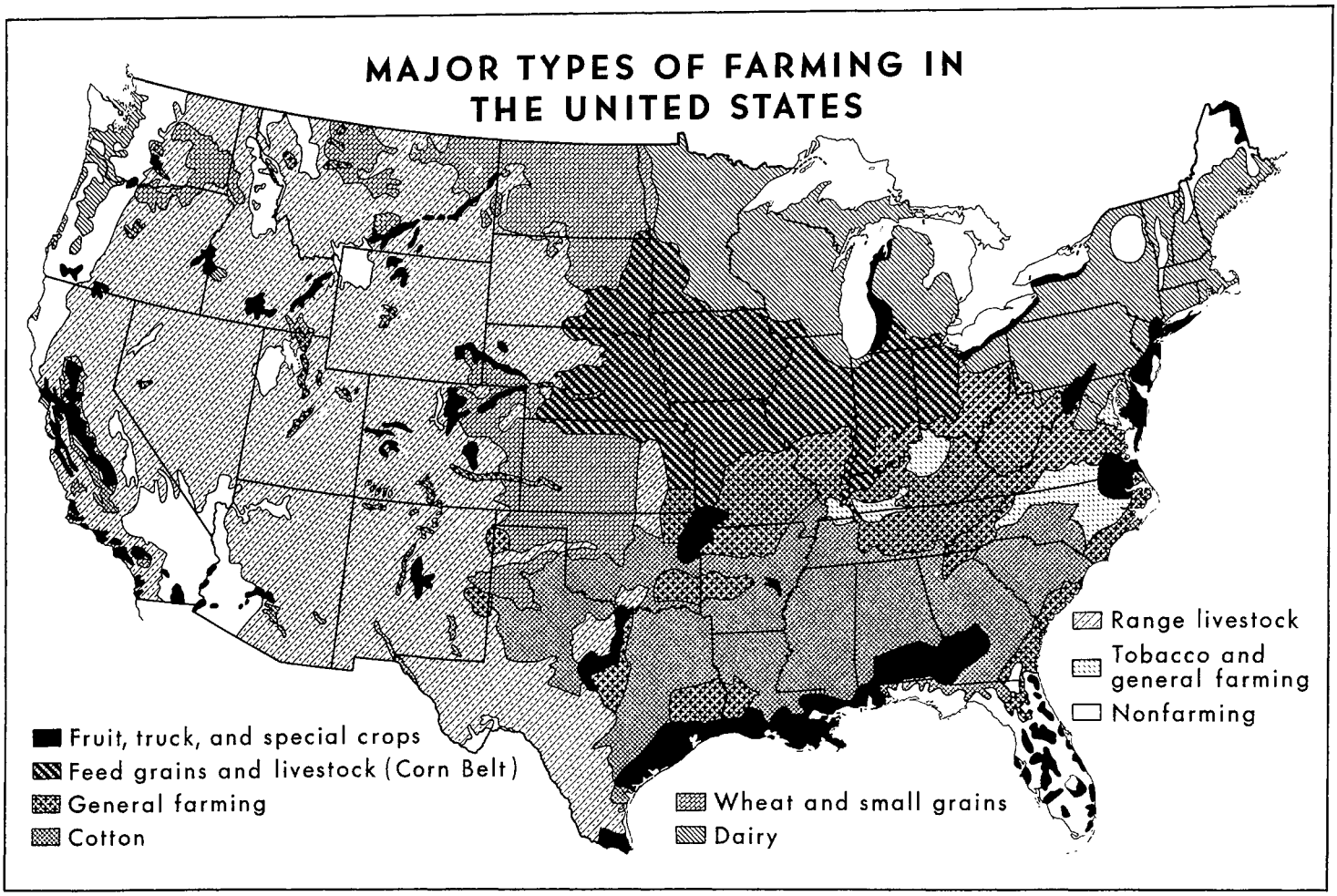

GENERALIZED LAND RESOURCE AREAS

The accompanying map is presented to give an overall view of the combinations of various physical conditions in different parts of the United States. The caption describing the contents of this map in the 1958 Yearbook of Agriculture effectively emphasizes the major points presented by the map, therefore it is cited here: "Our land exhibits a wide range in productive capacity. Climate, surface relief, and soil are the major factors that, through various combinations, have produced the great diversity in the use potentiality of the land. Of these factors, climate is the most important because moisture supply controls land use. The land-resource areas delimited here are therefore first divided according to moisture differences.

"The country is divided into a humid East and a drier West, in which only the higher mountains and the North Pacific Coastal region receive enough precipitation to bring them in the humid category. The line drawn to separate the humid East from the drier West, running almost north and south across the middle of the country, represents no abrupt change, but is placed in the zone of transition between moist and dry. It approximates a line that separates the area where average annual precipitation exceeds average potential evapotranspiration from those where the reverse is true.

"Broad belts differentiated according to length of frost-free season are used to give some indication of differences in temperature that affect potentialities of land resources. Among the humid areas, differences in surface relief, soils, and drainage account for the different classes of areas shown. Among the subhumid and arid areas, different degrees of aridity overshadow differences in surface relief or soil in all but the moister areas and therefore mainly account for the different classes of drier areas."

MAJOR TYPES OF FARMING

Studies of types of farming in the United States have permitted the periodic assembling of data about the characteristics of American agriculture, including its economic units in terms of crops grown, livestock and livestock products produced, methods used in production, and sources of income. These studies have also aided in explaining the areal differences that have developed in farming in the United States. Type-of-farming studies also provide a classification of the production programs on individual farms into types of farming, which can in turn be generalized by regions and areas.

Types of farming for the United States were first presented in the U.S. Department of Agriculture Yearbook for 1908. Later a map of agricultural provinces in the United States was developed by O. E. Baker and others. By 1930 this map had been refined and the number of provinces, or regions as they were later called, was increased from 10 to 12. As a part of the 1930 Census of Agriculture a detailed study of types of farming was made, and a map was published in 1935. On this map, 514 type-of-farming areas were regionalized into 12 major type-of-farming regions and 100 subregions.

In 1950, the U.S. Department of Agriculture published the results of further study of type-of-farming areas as Agriculture Information Bulletin No. 3. A progressive grouping of State type-of-farming areas, maps of which had been prepared by many of the States prior to and after the 1935 type-of-farming study, gave the most recent generalization of types of farming in the United States. The color map published at that time divides the country into 165 generalized type-of-farming areas, 61 subregions, and 9 major agricultural regions. It is the nine major agricultural regions or major type of farming areas which are presented on the accompanying map.