



MAJOR USES OF LAND BY REGIONS

The regional distribution of the major uses of land is shown in the accompanying map and tables. Cropland acreage reported in this table is based on the acreage reported by the Census of Agriculture, adjusted by the Economic Research Service of the U.S. Department of Agriculture for some under-enumeration.

Several striking regional differences in the uses made of land exist. Cropland occupies more than half of the total land area in two of the farm production regions—the Corn Belt and Northern Plains regions. On the other hand, six of the regions have less than 25 percent of the land area used as cropland (Northeast, Appalachian, Southeast, Mississippi Delta, Mountain, and Pacific). Hawaii and Alaska have a relatively small part of the total land area in cropland.

In relation to the other major uses of land, grassland pasture and range dominates the various land uses in the Mountain and Southern Plains States. More than half the total land area of these States is so used. In the Northern Plains, two-fifths of the land area is used for grazing, which combined with the high proportion of land used as cropland (52 percent) gives this region the highest percentage of total land area in agricultural use (93 percent). At the other extreme, only 26 percent of the land area in the Northeast is used for agriculture.

Forest and woodland is the main use of land in 6 of the 10 farm production regions (Northeast, Lake, Appalachian, Southeast, Mississippi Delta, and Pacific States). In the Southeast, 63 percent of the land area is in forest and woodland. More than half the land area is in forest and woodland in the Northeastern, Delta, and Appalachian States. On the other hand, only 3 percent of the land area of the Northern Plains States is in forest and woodland. Most of this is in the Black Hills and along water courses.

Other land includes land in very intensive uses such as urban development and transportation. It also includes some very extensive areas that are being put to relatively little productive use. The large expanse of tundra in Alaska and the desert areas in some of the Western States are examples of such areas.

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Region	Crop-land	Grass-land pasture and range	Forest land	Special-use areas	Miscellaneous other land	Total land area
Northern:						
Northeast.....	20,973	7,999	66,892	13,524	2,936	112,324
Lake States.....	45,495	8,266	54,614	10,445	3,889	122,709
Corn Belt.....	95,090	21,806	31,349	12,018	5,021	165,284
Northern Plains.....	101,054	79,743	5,377	8,218	485	194,877
Total.....	262,612	117,814	158,232	44,205	12,331	595,194
Southern:						
Appalachian.....	29,990	12,984	70,202	8,525	2,849	124,550
Southeast.....	21,071	13,939	77,860	9,939	1,259	124,068
Mississippi Delta.....	20,808	9,358	54,170	4,890	3,464	92,600
Southern Plains.....	53,916	109,239	38,150	9,104	1,897	212,306
Total.....	125,785	145,520	240,382	32,458	9,469	553,614
Western:						
Mountain.....	42,952	312,832	144,288	29,901	18,475	548,448
Pacific.....	26,134	53,965	96,580	17,839	9,982	204,500
Alaska.....	24	2,350	132,314	17,090	213,703	365,481
Hawaii.....	500	646	2,000	376	584	4,106
Total.....	69,610	369,793	375,182	65,206	242,744	1,122,535
48 States.....	457,483	630,131	639,482	124,403	50,257	1,901,756
United States (50 States)....	458,007	633,127	773,796	141,869	264,544	2,271,343

¹ Excludes wilderness areas.