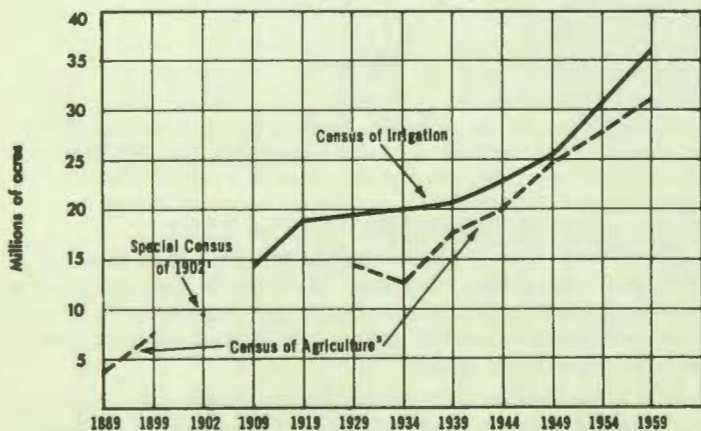


IRRIGATED LAND—INCREASE AND DECREASE

The accompanying map shows several areas with major increases of irrigated land, particularly in the High Plains of Texas, south-central Nebraska and southwestern Kansas, the Columbia Plateau area of Washington, the Central Valley of California, and southern Idaho. Reasons for the increases shown on the map vary with the several areas. The increases either reflect actual expansion of the total irrigated acreage, as in the Columbia Plateau, or in several instances, a recovery from drought conditions existing in 1954.

Decreases in irrigated acreage shown on the map are associated with four main factors: (1) Less acreage of rice in 1959 than in 1954 in Texas, Louisiana, and Arkansas with no substitution of another irrigated crop; (2) urbanization of irrigated areas, particularly in Arizona and California; (3) drought conditions in parts of the West in 1959, which meant less water for irrigation than was available in 1954; (4) adequate or more nearly adequate rainfall in eastern humid areas, which reduced the supplemental irrigated acreage in these areas.

ACREAGE OF IRRIGATED LAND FOR THE 17 WESTERN STATES AND LOUISIANA

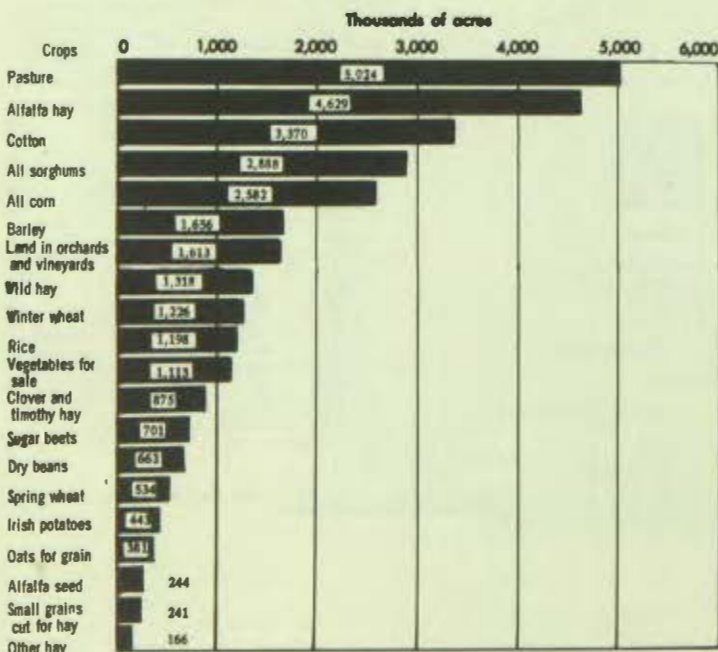


¹Total irrigated land, all States.
²In 1889, 1899 and 1944 through 1959, all irrigated land in farms; 1929 and 1934, acreage of irrigated crops only; 1939, acreage of irrigated crops plus irrigated pasture. Data for 1909 and 1919 not available.

ACREAGE OF IRRIGATED LAND

The acreage of irrigated land continued to increase in the United States between 1954 and 1959. The acreage of irrigated land in farms reported in 1959 was 33.2 million acres compared with 29.6 million acres in 1954 and 25.9 million acres in 1949. Thus during the 10 years, 1949-59, there was an increase of 7.3 million acres, or 28 percent in irrigated land in farms. The greatest increase for this 10-year period occurred in Texas, with an increase of 2.5 million acres. Nebraska was second with 1.2 million acres and California was third with 1.0 million acres. Colorado, Nevada, and Utah reported less irrigated land in farms in 1959 than in 1949. The percentage increase in irrigated land in farms in the 31 Eastern States amounted to 51 percent. The acreage was 1.5 million acres in 1949 and 2.3 million acres in 1959. Actually, more acreage was irrigated in the Eastern States in 1954, when 2.6 million acres were irrigated, than in 1959.

IRRIGATED ACREAGE OF SPECIFIED CROPS AND PASTURE IN THE 17 WESTERN STATES AND LOUISIANA, 1959



IRRIGATED ACREAGE OF SPECIFIED CROPS AND PASTURE IN THE 17 WESTERN STATES AND LOUISIANA

In 1959 irrigated land in the 17 Western States totaled 30.7 million acres. Louisiana had 0.5 million acres. Of this total of 31.2 million acres, the land used for pasture accounted for about 5 million acres, or one-sixth of the total. Hay of different kinds—alfalfa hay, wild hay, clover and timothy hay, small grains cut for hay, and other hay—accounted for about 6.8 million acres. Cotton was a major crop produced on irrigated land, since it occupied about 2.9 million acres. Sorghums, corn, barley, and oats, which are among the major feed grains, occupied about 5.9 million acres. Land in orchards, vineyards, and planted nut trees, winter wheat, rice, and vegetables harvested for sale each were produced on more than 1 million acres of irrigated land. Sugar beets, dry beans, and Irish potatoes accounted for a total of about 1.8 million acres. Altogether the specified crops shown on the accompanying graph accounted for nearly 30 million acres of the total 31.2 million acres of irrigated land in the 18 States indicated.