

ACREAGE OF LAND IN FARMS AND NOT IN FARMS, FOR THE UNITED STATES: 1850 TO 1960



LAND IN FARMS, BY TENURE OF OPERATOR, FOR THE UNITED STATES: 1959



ALL LAND IN FARMS

The distribution of land in farms is shown in the accompanying map. Land in farms is located in the major divisions of the country as follows:

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		of total
	Million	land
Region	acres	area
Northeast	40.3	36
North Central	385.4	80
South	353.2	64
West	341.2	45
Alaska and Hawaii	3.4	1
Total	1,123.5	49

North Central States include those in the Corn Belt, Lake States, and Northern Plains farm production regions.

The South includes those States in the Applachian, Southeast, Delta, and Southern Plains farm production regions.

The West includes the Pacific and Mountain States.

ACREAGE OF LAND IN FARMS AND NOT IN FARMS

From 1954 to 1959, there was a decline of approximately 38 million acres of land in farms in the United States. This was the third and largest decline in the acreage of land in farms since the first census of agriculture was taken in 1850. Furthermore, the acreage of land reported in farms was less than that which was not in farms. As a result primarily of including statistics for the new State of Alaska, the acreage of land in farms as a percent of the total land area declined from 60.8 in 1954 to 49.5 in 1959. The inclusion of data for Alaska was the first addition of territory in the agricultural census since the addition of New Mexico and Arizona as the 47th and 48th States in 1912.

Some of the reasons underlying the 38-million-acre decrease in land in farms between 1954 and 1959 are cited in the general text for this section of the report.

LAND IN FARMS BY TENURE OF OPERATOR

Of the four major tenure groups of farm operators, part owners operate about 44 percent of the total acreage. Full owners account for 31 percent of the total, and land operated entirely by tenants and that operated by managers accounts for about 15 and 10 percent respectively.

	Million acres	Percent of land in farms
Full owners		31
Part owners	498.3	-14
Managers	109.8	10
All tenants	166.8	15
Total	1,123.5	100

In 1954, full owners were operating 34 percent of the land in farms; part owners, 41 percent; all tenants, 16 percent; and managers, 9 percent.