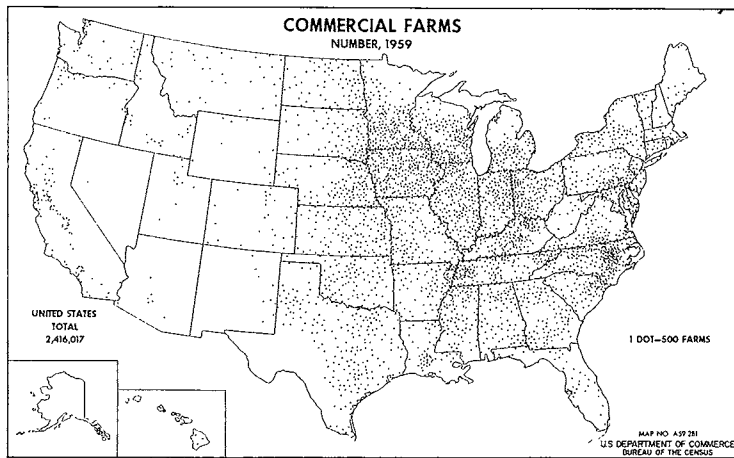


NUMBER OF FARMS

In the 1959 Census of Agriculture 3.7 million farms were reported, 1.1 million fewer than were reported in 1954. Of this decrease, about 232,000 units that would have been counted as farms in 1954 did not meet the new definition of a farm adopted for the 1959 Census. However, even excepting the reduction in number of farms attributable to a change in the definition of a farm, the change in the number of farms was the greatest ever recorded for any 5-year period by the census of agriculture.

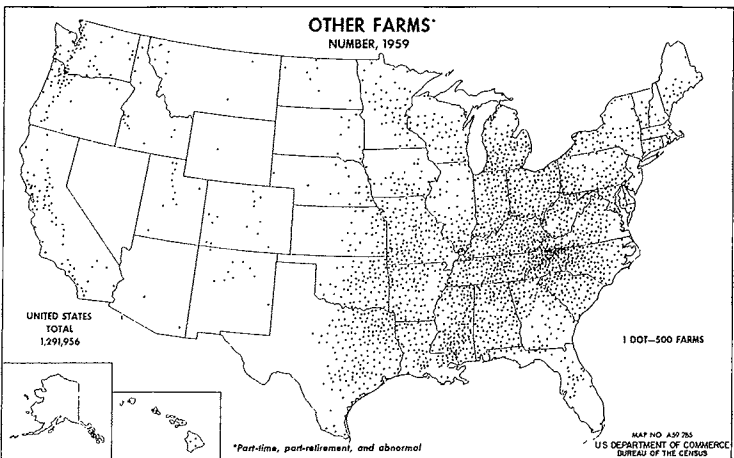
More than two-fifths of all the farms were located in the Southern States, which account for only a fifth of the total land area of the 50 States. On the other hand, the 11 Western States, Alaska, and Hawaii, which have one-half of the total land area, have only about a tenth of all farms. Farms are most evenly distributed among counties in the Corn Belt States. In parts of the Northeast, Southeast, and the Western States there are large areas where practically no farms may be found.



COMMERCIAL FARMS

Nearly two-thirds of all farms reported by the 1959 Census of Agriculture were classified as commercial farms. In general, all farms with a value of sales amounting to \$2,500 or more were classified as commercial. Farms with a value of sales of \$50 to \$2,499 were classified as commercial if the farm operator was under 65 years of age and (1) he did not work off the farm 100 or more days during the year and (2) the income received by the operator and members of his family from nonfarm sources was less than the value of all farm products sold.

Almost half of all commercial farms in the United States were located in the Corn Belt, Lake States, and Northern Plains States. The Corn Belt States alone had nearly a fourth of all commercial farms. Among the States, Iowa had the largest number of commercial farms with 154,329.



OTHER FARMS

Part-time, part-retirement, and abnormal farms are classed as other farms. They constituted about one-third of all farms in 1959. For the first time the census of agriculture recognized the part-retirement farm in a separate economic class. The operators of these farms were 65 years old or over and the value of sales of farm products was \$50 to \$2,499. Abnormal farms include all institutional farms and Indian reservations.

The heaviest concentration of such farms is found in the Appalachian States, particularly in the mountainous parts of those States. Numerous part-time farms are scattered about this area. Employment in nearby towns or in the mills located in rural areas is fairly common in the southern Piedmont and Appalachian Mountain regions.

On the other hand there are very few other farms in the Northern Plains States. About 13 percent of all farms in these States were classed as other farms in 1959, whereas from two-fifths to nearly one-half of all farms in the Appalachian, Southeast, and Delta States were so classified.