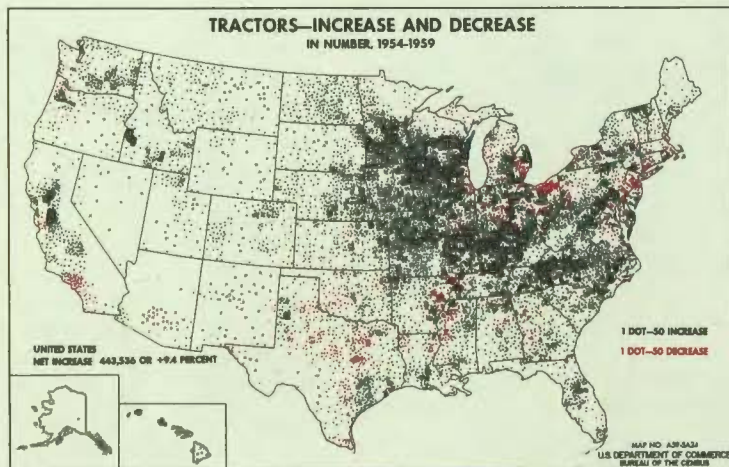


TRACTORS ON FARMS

The 5.1 million tractors reported on farms in 1959 represent an increase of nearly a half million in 5 years. Approximately a fourth of all tractors were found on farms in the Corn Belt States in 1959. More than half (52 percent) of all tractors were located in the Corn Belt, Lake States and Northern Plains regions. Many farms of course have more than one tractor, particularly in the highly commercialized agricultural areas. When the distribution of tractors on farms is compared with the distribution of cropland harvested, a close similarity exists, as would be expected, since so much of the tractor power is used in the production of crops. Approximately a half million tractors were reported on farms in both the Northeast and the Appalachian regions. The Southeast, Delta, and Mountain regions each reported about a quarter of a million tractors. The Delta States reported 0.4 million and the Pacific States 0.3 million tractors.

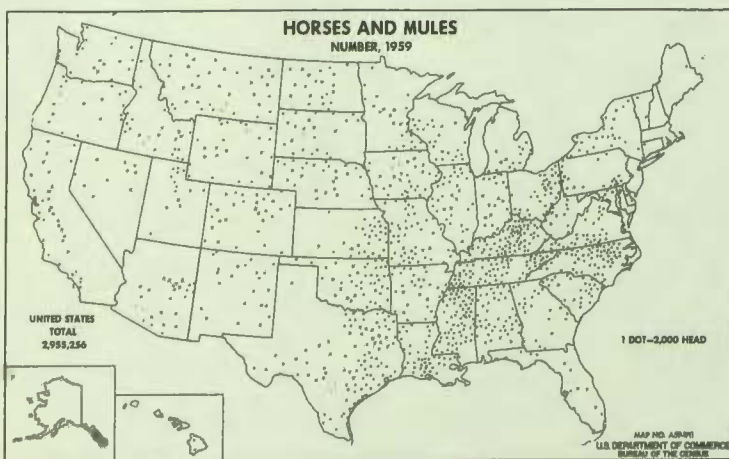


TRACTORS—INCREASE AND DECREASE IN NUMBER

The overall increase in the number of tractors on farms between 1954 and 1959 was about 9 percent. Many counties, however, reported decreases in the number of tractors while others reported increases considerably in excess of the overall 9 percent increase.

The major decreases in the number of tractors occurred mainly in those counties where rapid urbanization was underway and in counties where considerable acreages of cropland were being transferred to pasture and forestry uses.

Major increases took place in many counties of the Appalachian region and in the relatively hilly parts of such States as Ohio, Indiana, and Illinois. The small tractor was undoubtedly becoming popular to farmers growing tobacco and other crops on relatively small farms. Several areas in the West where the irrigated acreage increased sharply also had increases in the number of tractors. Sizable increases also occurred in the productive Corn Belt and in the lower parts of Minnesota and Wisconsin.



HORSES AND MULES

The number of horses and mules reported on farms in 1959 was less than 3 million. A considerable part of these were cow ponies on western ranches. More than a third of all horses and mules reported on farms were located in the Great Plains, Mountain, and Pacific States where crop production for the most part is highly mechanized.

Another third of the horse and mule population was found in the Appalachian, Southeast, and Delta States regions, where on many small farms horses and, more often, mules are still used for draft purposes.

The remaining third of the horses and mules were found in the Corn Belt, Lake States, and Northeast regions. Many of the horses on these farms were used for riding purposes or had been retired from active use on the farms where they were enumerated. In some of the more hilly parts of these regions, however, some draft use of horses and mules may still be found.