



ACREAGE ON WHICH COMMERCIAL FERTILIZER WAS USED

Commercial fertilizers were being used on 133 million acres of land in 1959. This represented an increase of 10 million acres over the acreage fertilized in 1954. The principal crops on which fertilizer was being used were:

Crop	Million acres	Percent of total acreage fertilized
Corn	51.0	38.3
Wheat	17.5	13.1
Hay and cropland pasture	13.4	10.0
Cotton	8.5	6.4
Other pasture (not cropland)	4.5	3.4
Soybeans	2.7	2.0
Sorghum	2.4	1.8
All other crops	33.3	25.0
Total	133.3	100

SOURCES OF INCREASE IN FARM OUTPUT

Three major and two minor sources of increase in farm output since 1920 may be noted on the accompanying graph. During the period of the 1920's and 1930's the substitution of the tractor for farm-produced power (horses and mules) accounted for 51 percent of the increase of livestock and crops available for direct human use. During this same period, a change in crop production per acre accounted for 34 percent of the increase in farm output. The increase in farm output attributed to livestock product amounted to 15 percent. Increased consumption of pasture contributed 4 percent, which was counterbalanced by a 4-percent decrease in the acreage of cropland.

During the decade of the 1940's, the major source of increase in farm output was the greatly accelerated crop production per acre (43 percent). Reduction in farm-produced power and an increase in livestock product added contributed 24 and 22 percent respectively. Acreage used for cropland increased 11 percent.

More recently, during the 1950's, the substitution of inanimate power for animate power on the farm has continued to drop as a source of the increase in farm output (19 percent). Increased crop production per acre accounted for 46 percent of the total increase in farm output for the period from 1951-52 to 1955. Change in product added by all livestock amounted to a 31-percent increase. Pasture consumed by livestock was up 8 percent in 1955 over 1951-52 and cropland used was down 4 percent.

