



AVERAGE VALUE OF FARM PRODUCTS SOLD PER ACRE OF ALL LAND IN FARMS

The values shown on this map were computed by taking the total dollar value of all farm products sold and dividing this by the acreage of land in farms. Thus the overall average for the United States was 27 dollars per acre and the range was from less than 5 dollars per acre to average values of more than 100 dollars in many counties.

The average value of farm products sold per acre of all land in farms was highest in those areas with inherently fertile soils and with a high proportion of the land in farms used as cropland, and in those areas where it has been profitable to apply large inputs of capital and in some cases labor to produce farm products. Counties in which average values of farm products sold per acre was low were numerous in the Western States where extensive areas are used for grazing.

Counties in the Corn Belt, parts of California and Florida, the lower Mississippi Valley, eastern North Carolina, and counties around large cities throughout the country account for most of the counties with the highest average value of farm products sold per acre of all land in farms. In the Corn Belt and lower Mississippi Valley, a high proportion of inherently fertile cropland per farm is being used in producing relatively high value livestock and cotton, respectively. In California and Florida, citrus fruits and off-season vegetables and—particularly in California—cotton, deciduous fruits, nuts and some dairying and other livestock production contribute high average values of farm products sold. In eastern North Carolina tobacco is a dominant high-value crop. Around the large cities, dairy products and some vegetable production are major factors contributing to the high per-acre values of farm production.

In parts of the Western States, where large acreages of pasture and grazing land are needed for livestock production, the average

values of farm products sold per acre are naturally very low. In the Eastern States, rough topography and poor soils are commonly associated with a low value of production per acre in many places.

In Alaska and Hawaii, a generally intensive agricultural pattern of use prevails if the land is used at all for agriculture. Some dairying and vegetable products grown on Alaskan farms bring high prices in local markets. In Hawaii, sugarcane and pineapples, which are the two major crops, have a relatively high value per acre grown.

VALUE OF ALL CROPS SOLD AS A PERCENTAGE OF ALL FARM PRODUCTS SOLD

In 1959, the total value of all farm products sold amounted to more than 30 billion dollars. Of this total about 13 billion dollars, or 42 percent of the total value of all farm products sold, was accounted for by crops. Livestock products accounted for most of the remaining value of farm products, although some forest products were sold by farmers.

Areas where crop production accounts for 80 percent or more of the total farm production include the Middle Atlantic and Southeastern Coastal Plain where crops such as tobacco, cotton, vegetables, and fruit are important; the lower Mississippi Valley and Texas High Plains cotton areas; and the Columbia River Basin and north-central Montana wheat areas. In parts of the Corn Belt and in many of the irrigated valleys of the West, the value of livestock and crop production is more nearly equal. Over large areas of the West which are suited mainly for grazing there is very little crop production.

The Corn Belt States and Pacific States as groups, account for about 36 percent of the total value of all crops sold.