

INTRODUCTION

The 1959 Census of Agriculture is the seventeenth nationwide census of agriculture of the United States. This chapter summarizes graphically and briefly many of the significant facts revealed by the census regarding agricultural production in the United States. It indicates the extent and distribution of our farm resources, including land, livestock, and farm power. It outlines how our producing units or farms are organized. It also presents facts regarding the kinds, amounts, and distribution of agricultural production.

Source of information.—Most of the data for the graphic material in this report were obtained from the various censuses of agriculture. Detailed statistics for that part of the information which is based on the 1959 Census of Agriculture may be found in volumes I, II, III, and V of the reports for the 1959 Census of Agriculture.

Definitions and explanations.—The terms used in this report correspond with those used in reports of the various censuses of agriculture. Only general definitions and explanations are given in this publication. More detailed definitions and explanations may be found in Volume II: "General Report—Statistics by Subjects," of the reports for the 1959 Census of Agriculture.

A census of agriculture has been taken every 5 years since 1920 and every 10 years prior to 1920. Census data relate to the census date or to the calendar year or crop year immediately preceding the census date.

The map below shows the three broad regions of the United States and the nine major geographic divisions referred to in this report. In many cases, data are shown for or reference is made to these regions and geographic areas.

