

and approximately 610 million acres (the remainder) which is not in farms. The total does not include forest land in parks, wildlife refuges, etc.

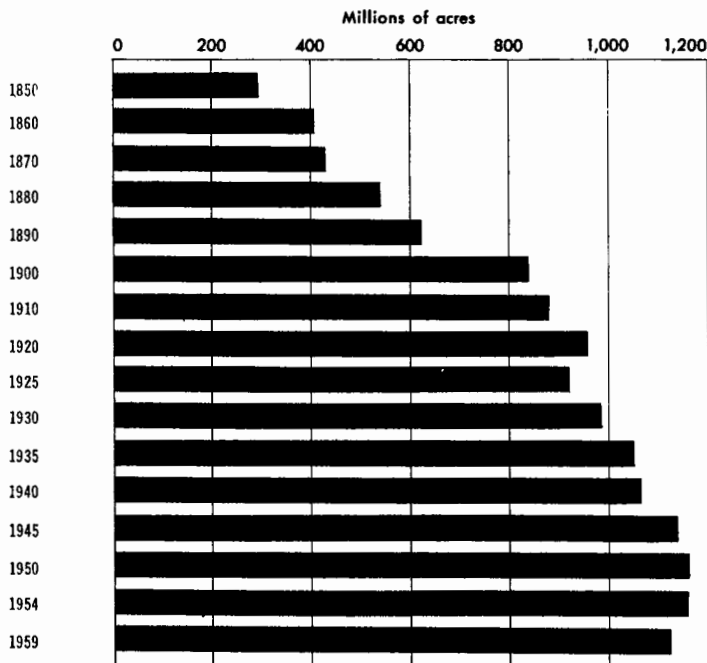
While much of the forest land not in farms is located in the West, much of the woodland in farms is in the East. Large areas of woodland are located in the Appalachian Mountain areas and in the southeastern States. Woodland in farms accounted for nearly one-sixth of the land in farms in 1959.

Of the woodland in farms in 1959, 93 million acres were pastured. The productivity of this woodland pasture varies greatly as it includes cutover forests, land once used for crops or open pasture in the process of reverting to forest land, arid woodland, brush, scrubland, and a variety of other kinds of woodland. Woodland pastured was distributed quite generally throughout areas of the United States climatically suited to woodland.

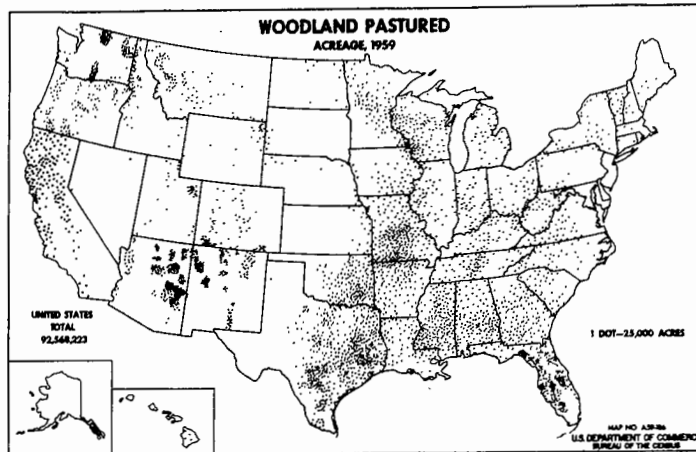
CHANGES IN LAND USE

The changes in the major uses of land in the United States were significantly different during the period prior to 1920 and the period since 1920. The period prior to 1920 was marked by the settlement and development of lands west of the Mississippi River and the clearing of forest lands. From 1890 to 1920, cropland other than that used for pasture increased from 248 to 402 million acres. This significant expansion of cropland was accompanied by decreases in grazing land. Grazing land not in farms was reduced about 107 million acres from 1900 to 1920. Part of this grazing land was converted to cropland and part of it has since been included as land in farms. Clearing of forest lands continued during this period as cropland and nonwooded pastureland increased in the eastern States and in parts of the Pacific Northwest.

ALL LAND IN FARMS IN THE UNITED STATES: 1850 TO 1959



In the period since 1920, there have not been large changes in major land uses. Cropland other than that used for pasture has fluctuated from about 380 to 410 million acres. Land development and improvement through drainage, irrigation, and clearing of forests have counterbalanced reversions of cropland to woodland and the conversion to such nonagricultural uses as cities, highways, parks, airports, etc. Land used for pasture and



grazing has declined about 114 million acres. Grazing lands not in farms have become part of the pastureland in farms, as more public lands have been included in farms. (If grazing lands are leased by farm operators, they are included as land in farms; if they are used under permit, they are not included in the census land in farms.)

Since 1890, all land in farms has increased 500 million acres. Most of this increase resulted from the transfer of grazing lands not in farms to farms. Most of the increase in land in farms since 1890 has occurred in the 17 Western States of the continental United States, except for an appreciable increase in Florida during recent censuses. New settlements which continued until about 1920 account for a part of the increase. Since 1920, a half or more of the increase has resulted from the adding of approximately 100 million acres of Federal, State, and Indian reservation land to the area reported in census farms. Most of the remaining net increase occurred in privately owned lands. Changes in method of controlling grazing rights and modifications of census definitions and procedures rather than the expansion of undeveloped lands account for most of the increase of privately owned land in farms.

The decrease of approximately 12 million acres in total cropland between 1954 and 1959, resulted, in part, from the placing of entire farms in the Soil Bank, the conversion of cropland to pastureland, the conversion and reversion of some cropland to woodland and other noncropland uses, and from the abandonment or nonoperation of some farms with their included cropland, and in the conversion of some cropland to such nonfarm uses as highways, cities, parks, suburban homesites, etc. Much of the decrease occurred in the Great Plains States in the areas where there was a significant reduction in the acreage of wheat and in the Southern and Eastern States, where there were large decreases in the number of farms.

Land in farms in 1959 was 38 million acres, or 3.3 percent, less than in 1954. About three-fourths of the decrease occurred in the South and resulted largely from the transfer of land in farms to forest land or to lands to be used for forest purposes, the placing of entire farms in the Soil Bank, and the discontinuance of farm operations. About one-fourth of the decrease in land in farms from 1954 to 1959 was in the North. This decrease resulted largely from the discontinuance of farm operations, the placing of entire farms in the Soil Bank, and the transfer of land in farms to nonfarm uses.

The acreage of cropland harvested in 1959 was the same as in 1910, 37 million acres less than at the end of World War I, and 41 million acres less than at the end of World War II. The acreage of cropland harvested in the South in 1959 was about one-fourth less than at the end of World War I and World War II.