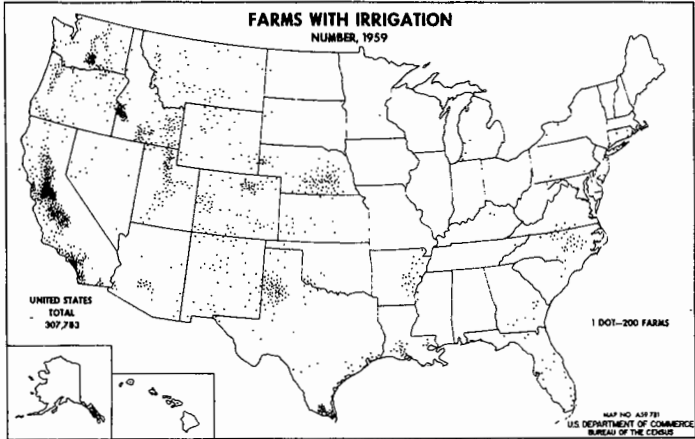


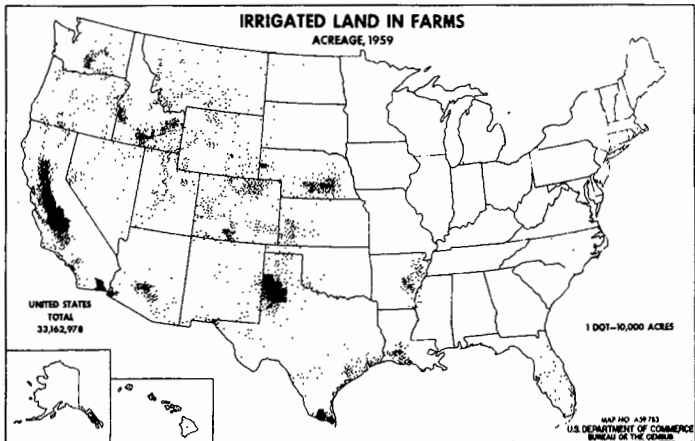
assets themselves. No fully satisfactory index is available to use for removing the full effect of the change in price level from census to census. The following chart, however, indicates what the value of farm land and buildings from 1850 to 1959 would be if adjusted to 1959 price levels. The adjusted values have been calculated by dividing the value of farm land and buildings by the index of wholesale prices (1959 = 100). The value of land and buildings at 1959 prices indicates more accurately the change in the value of farm land and buildings than the absolute values reported for the census.

IRRIGATION

Irrigated farms.—The actual number of farms with irrigation in the conterminous United States in 1959 was small. A total of only 306,532 farms reported some irrigation in 1959. This was only 8.3 percent of all farms. Farms with irrigation comprised only 2.1 percent of all farms in the North and 3.8 percent in the South, but 60.5 percent of the farms in the 11 conterminous Western States. If the six States of the Great Plains—North Dakota, South Dakota, Nebraska, Kansas, Oklahoma, and Texas—are added to the 11 Western States, these 17 States account for 85.7 percent of the farms with irrigation. Three other States—Arkansas, Louisiana, and Florida—also have considerable irrigation. Although Arkansas and Louisiana have humid climates, flooding of rice fields results in a considerable number of farms with irrigation. Arkansas and Louisiana had 10,469 irrigated farms and 1,196,662 acres of irrigated land in 1959. There also were 4,249 farms in Florida with 413,526 acres irrigated.



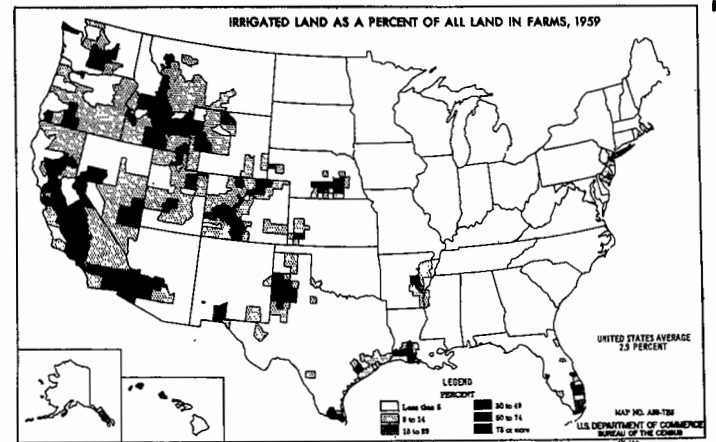
Distribution of irrigated land.—Over 66 percent of all irrigated land was in the West and 93.1 percent was in the 11 Western States and the 6 Great Plains States which have a dry climate. The acreage of land irrigated was 21.6 percent of the acreage of cropland harvested in these 17 States. Not all irrigated land



was used for the production of harvested crops, however. Pastureland is also irrigated.

The irrigated acreage was particularly large in the fruit-, vegetable-, and cotton-producing areas of the West and of Texas. The largest concentration of irrigated land was in the Central Valley of California. If other areas of California are included, California had about 7.4 million acres, or 22.4 percent, of all irrigated acreage in the United States in 1959. Texas had 5.7 million acres. Most of this was in the High Plains cotton-producing areas.

Proportion of land irrigated.—Irrigated land makes up a substantial part of the total area of land in farms in several areas of the United States. Almost 84 percent of the farmland of Imperial County, California, was irrigated and in several counties of the Central Valley of California, over 30 percent of the farmland was irrigated. The Snake River Valley of Idaho had a high proportion of farmland irrigated although total acreage was not large. The Texas High Plains cotton area also had a high proportion of farmland irrigated with several counties having over 30 percent of the land in farms irrigated in 1959.



Acreage and production of crops from irrigated land.—The acreage of irrigated crops was compiled for the 17 Western States and Louisiana for 1959. Approximately 95 percent of the irrigated land is located in these 18 States. The following chart shows the acreage irrigated for the most important crops.

IRRIGATED ACREAGE OF SPECIFIED CROPS AND PASTURE IN THE 17 WESTERN STATES AND LOUISIANA: 1959

