

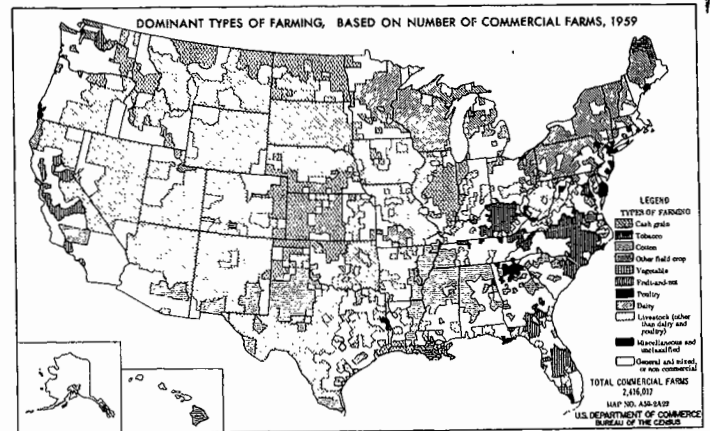
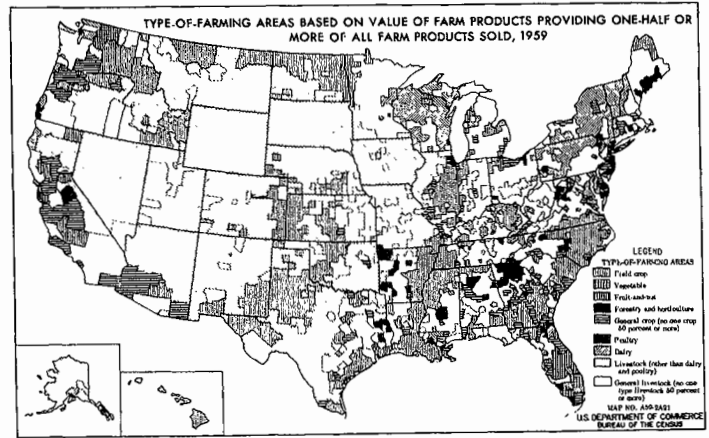
<i>Type of farm</i>	<i>Source of sales</i>
Cotton-----	Cotton
Other field-crop-----	Peanuts, Irish potatoes, sweetpotatoes, sugarcane for sugar or sirup, sweet sorghums for sirup, broomcorn, popcorn, sugar beets for sugar, mint, hops, pineapples, and sugar beet seed
Vegetable-----	Vegetables for sale
Fruit-and-nut-----	Berries, other small fruits, tree fruits, grapes, and nuts
Poultry-----	Chickens, chicken eggs, turkeys, and other poultry products
Dairy-----	Milk and cream. The criterion of 50 percent of total sales was modified in classifying dairy farms. A farm having a value of sales of dairy products amounting to less than 50 percent of the total value of farm products sold was classified as a dairy farm, if— (a) Milk and cream sold accounted for more than 30 percent of the total value of farm products sold, and (b) Milk cows represent 50 percent or more of total cows, and— (c) The value of milk and cream sold plus the value of cattle and calves sold amounted to 50 percent or more of the total value of all farm products sold.
Livestock other than dairy and poultry--	Cattle, calves, hogs, sheep, goats, wool, and mohair, except for farms in the 17 conterminous Western States, Louisiana, Florida, Alaska, and Hawaii that qualified as livestock ranches
Livestock ranches-----	Farms in the 17 conterminous Western States, Louisiana, Florida, Alaska, and Hawaii were classified as livestock ranches if the sales of livestock, wool, and mohair represented 50 percent or more of the total value of farm products sold, and if pastureland or grazing land amounted to 100 or more acres and was 10 or more times the acreage of cropland harvested.
General-----	Field seed crops, hay, silage, or sales from three or more other sources and farms not meeting the criteria for any other type. That is, a farm was classified as "general" if the value of farm products sold came from three or more sources and did not meet the criteria for any other type.
Miscellaneous-----	Nursery and greenhouse products; forest products; horses, mules, colts, and ponies; and all institutional farms and Indian reservation farms.

The above types were selected because they provide a classification or grouping of farms meaningful to large areas of the United States, as well as smaller areas of specialized production.

DISTRIBUTION OF COMMERCIAL FARMS BY TYPE

Of the 12 types of commercial farms, livestock farms other than dairy and poultry farms and livestock ranches ranked first in number of farms in the United States in 1959. Dairy farms ranked second in number, followed closely by cash-grain farms. For the country as a whole, cotton and general farms ranked fourth and fifth, respectively. These five types account for more than three-fourths of all commercial farms in the United States.

Regionally, there are some important variations from the National pattern. In the North, livestock farms and ranches other than dairy and poultry farms and livestock ranches represent the most numerous type. Dairy farms and cash-grain farms occupy second and third place, respectively. In the South, cotton farms are the most numerous, while tobacco farms and livestock farms other than poultry farms and livestock ranches rank second and third, respectively. These three types make up almost two-thirds of the commercial farms in the South.



The great diversity which characterizes the Western States results in somewhat less uniformity of farm type than is found in the North and the South. Livestock farms other than poultry and dairy farms and livestock ranches ranked first with 41,246 farms, or 17.8 percent of the commercial farms in the West. Cash-grain, fruit-and-nut, and dairy farms ranked 2, 3, and 4 and are each of almost equal numerical importance. Although the West is noted for its livestock ranches, this type ranked only fifth.

Dairy farms ranked first in number in most of the north-eastern States and in Michigan, Wisconsin, and Minnesota. These States have favorable growing conditions for pasture and hay, favorable climate for dairy cattle, and large nearby markets for fluid milk and other dairy products.

Cotton farms are the most important type numerically in most of the Southern States. Cattle raising is becoming more important in the South but in most of these States, the percentage of farms on which livestock provides the chief source of income is still small.

Cash-grain farms are the most numerous type in Illinois, where corn and soybeans are the most important cash crops, and in North Dakota and Kansas, where wheat is the chief cash crop. In many of the other States in which wheat is an important crop, cash-grain farms rank second in numerical importance.

The extent of specialization in farming in the various States is shown by the percentage of all commercial farms represented by the three most important types in each State. In only 15 States does a single type of farm account for 50 percent or more of all commercial farms, indicating that there is considerable variation in the types of farms in most States.

Cash-grain farms.—Out of the 2.4 million commercial farms, almost one-sixth were cash-grain farms. The greatest concentration of cash-grain farms was in the Corn Belt where corn