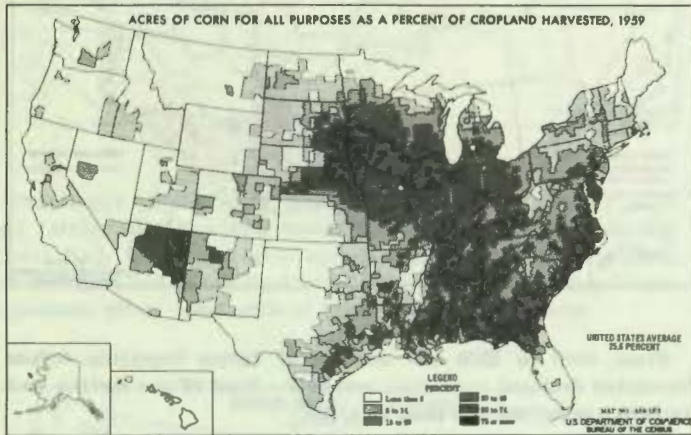
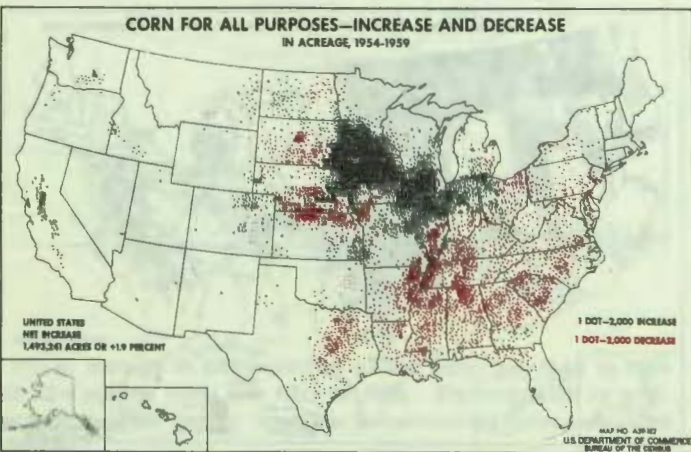


FIELD CROPS

Corn.—Corn is the most important crop grown in the United States. It was grown in 1959 on almost three-fifths of all farms; its acreage was equivalent to more than one-fourth of the acreage of land from which crops were harvested. Corn production is concentrated in the Upper Mississippi River Basin. More than 70 percent of the corn acreage and nearly 80 percent of the corn produced in 1959 was concentrated in the nine States of Iowa, Illinois, Indiana, Ohio, Minnesota, Wisconsin, Nebraska, Missouri, and South Dakota.



The 79.6 million acres of corn harvested for the conterminous United States in 1959 represent a 1.9 percent increase above the acreage harvested in 1954. Favorable weather conditions, the removal of government acreage allotments in commercial producing areas, and an increase in government support prices were the principal reasons for the increase in acreage.



The production of corn for grain, 3.7 billion bushels, was the largest reported in any census and represents a 41 percent increase over that of 1954. In 1959, favorable weather conditions, increased use of commercial fertilizer, hybrid seed, and improvement in tillage and harvesting methods resulted in the highest yield ever recorded by a census (52.8 bushels per acre). The 6.8 million acres of corn cut for silage in 1959 was down only slightly from the census record of 6.9 million acres reported in 1954.

Significant changes have occurred in the number of farms which harvested corn, the acreage harvested, and the production of corn for grain during the last 30 years. Corn was grown on less than half as many farms in 1959 as in 1929. More than half of the decrease in the number of farms growing corn occurred during the last 10 years. Of the 1.3 million decrease from 1949 to 1959 in the number of farms growing corn, more than three-fifths was accounted for by the decrease in the number of farms growing 10 acres or less.

The 79.6 million acres of corn harvested for all purposes in 1959 was 18.5 percent less than the 97.7 million acres harvested in 1929.

Almost 90 percent of the corn acreage is harvested for grain. The production of corn for grain for the two census years 1959 and 1954, was 48 percent greater than for the census year 1929, although the 1959 and 1954 acreage was less than the 1929 acreage. The yield per acre for 1959 was 52.8 bushels per acre as compared with 25.6 bushels per acre for 1929. The increased use of hybrid seed, fertilizers, improved tillage and harvesting equipment, and the discontinuance of corn production on small farms and less productive lands account for the significant increase in corn yield.

