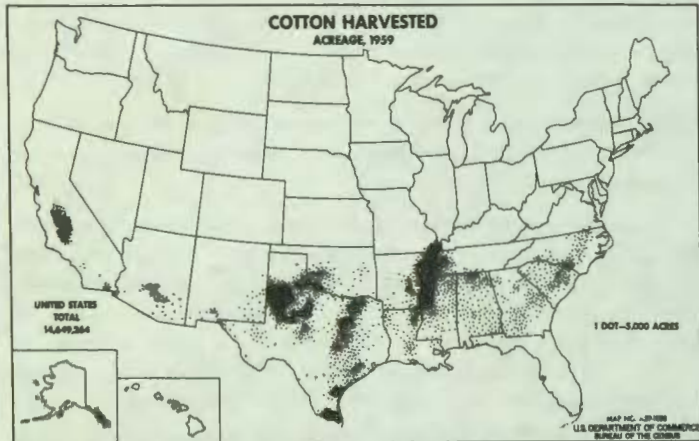
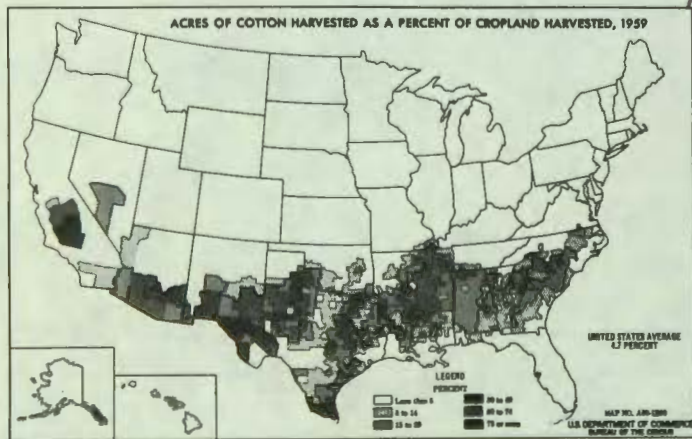


Cotton.—On the basis of value, cotton is the second most important crop harvested in the United States. While cotton accounts for almost 15 percent of the value of all field crops harvested, the acreage of cotton harvested in 1959 represented less than 5 percent of the acreage of land from which crops were harvested.

Cotton was harvested from 14.6 million acres in 1959, the smallest acreage reported for any census since 1879, and 4.2 million below the acreage harvested in 1954. However, the 1959 crop of 14 million bales was almost 8 percent above the production of 1954. The average yield of 0.95 bale per acre was the highest ever recorded for any census. This record high yield per acre was primarily due to better production practices, the diversion of land under governmental control programs, and the shift of cotton acreage from nonirrigated to irrigated areas.

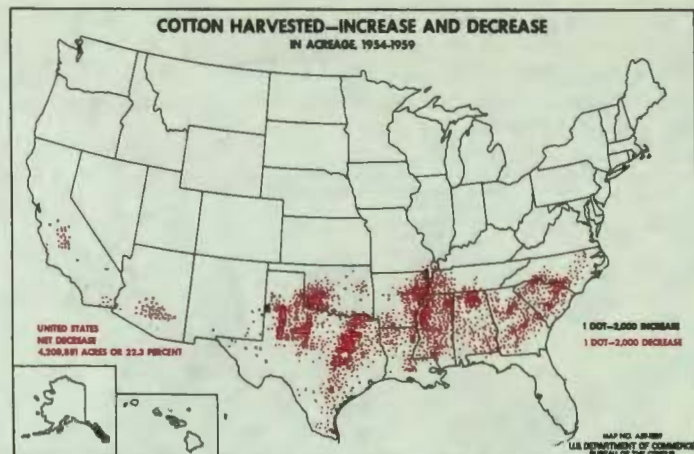


Almost all cotton is grown in the southern and western part of the United States. Approximately 20 percent of the acreage is irrigated. However, the production on irrigated land accounts for approximately 33 percent of the total.



Large changes have occurred in the number of farms reporting cotton, cotton acreage, and average yield per acre during the last 30 years. In 1929, cotton was grown on almost 2 million farms; in 1959, cotton was reported on only 509,540 farms. In 1929, cotton was harvested from 43.2 million acres; in 1959, 14.6 million acres were harvested. Notwithstanding the large reduction in acreage, the production of cotton in 1959 was only 4.5 percent less than in 1929. The increased use of fertilizers and insecticides, the use of improved seed, improved cultural and harvesting practices, and the shift of cotton production from nonirrigated to irrigated lands have contributed greatly to the maintenance of cotton production at a level of 12 to 15 million bales while the

cotton acreage has declined from more than 43 million to less than 15 million acres. There also has been a shifting of cotton acreage from the southeastern United States to the West during the last 20 years.



From 1949 to 1959 the number of farms reporting cotton harvested declined more than one-half. Most of the decline was in farms reporting less than 25 acres.

COTTON—FARMS REPORTING BY ACRES HARVESTED: 1959 AND 1949

Farms with acres harvested of—	Farms reporting	
	1959	1949
Total.....	508,502	1,110,876
Under 5 acres.....	98,138	172,364
5 to 24 acres.....	289,668	718,208
25 to 49 acres.....	54,446	116,730
50 to 99 acres.....	34,132	56,677
100 to 199 acres.....	21,191	28,743
200 acres and over.....	10,927	17,154

More than half of the cotton in 1959 was produced on the 26,648 farms which harvested 100 or more bales. Approximately one-fifth of the cotton was harvested on farms producing 500 or more bales.

Wheat.—The value of wheat harvested in 1959 amounted to about one-eighth of the value of all field crops harvested and its acreage was equal to approximately one-sixth of the acreage of land from which crops were harvested.

The wheat acreage is concentrated in the Central and Northern Great Plains and in the Pacific Northwest, where rainfall is low and where there is considerable fluctuation in annual yield.

