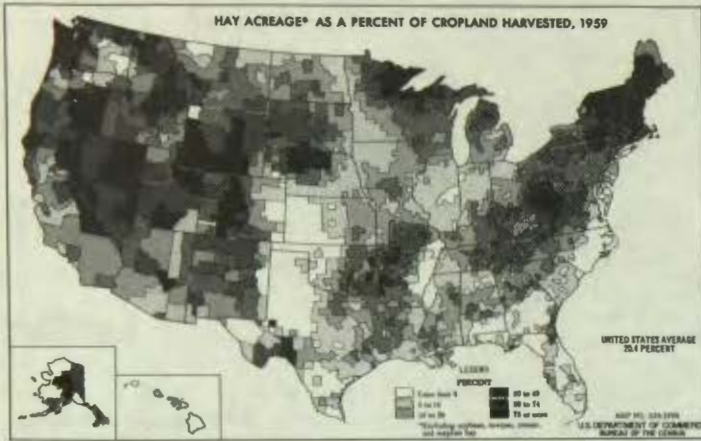
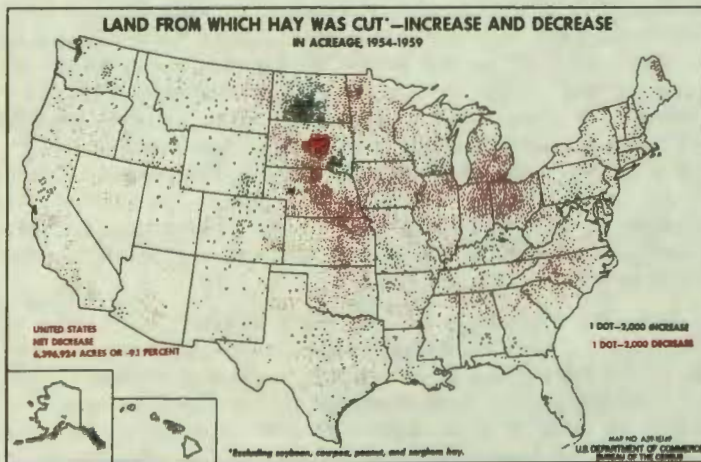


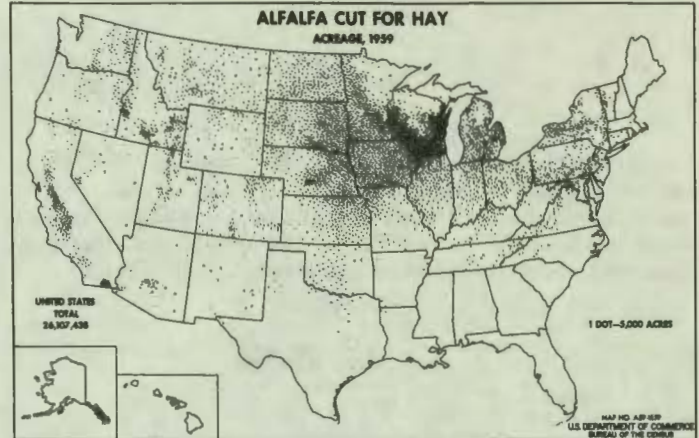
of the acreage of cropland harvested. Most of the hay is used on the farm on which it is produced. In 1959, only 14.6 percent of the tons of hay and grass silage produced was sold.



The acres of land from which hay was cut declined 6.4 million acres, or 9.2 percent, from 1954 to 1959. Much of this decrease occurred through the Corn Belt and Central Great Plains although there were other widely scattered areas of decrease. Decreases were especially heavy in central South Dakota. The only large area of increase in acreage occurred in central North Dakota.



Alfalfa is the most important hay crop and, on the basis of value of production, is the fourth most important crop in the United States. Alfalfa and other leguminous hay and leguminous hay mixed with other grasses comprise more than two-thirds of the acreage of hay harvested in the United States. Alfalfa made up more than two-fifths of the acreage of all hay harvested in 1959. The proportion of the total acreage of hay represented by the total acreage of alfalfa was nearly twice as large in 1959 as in 1939. Alfalfa has accounted for an increasing part of total hay production since 1939. The data in the following table indicate the change in the relative importance of various kinds of hay from 1939 to 1959.



Census year	Percent of land from which hay was cut represented by acreage of—					
	Alfalfa (and alfalfa mixtures) hay	Clover and/or timothy hay	Lespedeza hay	Small grain hay	Wild hay	Other hay
1959.....	41.1	22.1	4.9	5.6	16.5	9.8
1954.....	37.2	24.2	4.7	6.7	17.8	9.4
1949.....	24.3	22.5	10.3	7.2	21.1	9.9
1944.....	20.4	30.8	8.1	7.8	21.2	11.7
1939.....	20.9	28.2	7.7	9.9	19.5	13.8

The acreage of alfalfa is concentrated in irrigated areas in the West and in the North Central States.

Clover, timothy, and mixtures of clover and grasses cut for hay comprise the tenth most important field crop. The production of clover and timothy hay was concentrated in the Northern States and the five leading States in acreage in 1959 were New York, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Iowa, and Wisconsin. These States had approximately 43 percent of the total acreage harvested.

