

DEFINITIONS AND EXPLANATIONS

The descriptive terms and explanations refer principally to the 1959 Census of Agriculture. In general, they are applicable to earlier censuses. The definitions consist primarily of a résumé of the questionnaire wording, occasionally supplemented by the more essential parts of instructions and procedures for enumerating and processing the questionnaires. For the exact phrasing of the inquiries, reference should be made to the facsimile of the 1959 agriculture questionnaire shown in the appendix to this volume.

Definitions having a general application, such as those for "farms reporting" and "operators reporting" and factors influencing the reliability of the data are discussed in the Introduction to this volume and will not be considered in this chapter, unless of particular significance in respect to the subject under consideration.

**A Farm.**—For 1959, places of 10 or more acres were counted as farms if the value of agricultural products sold during 1959 amounted to \$50 or more. Places of less than 10 acres were counted as farms only if the value of sales of agricultural products during 1959 amounted to \$250 or more. Places for which the value of agricultural products sold during 1959 was less than these minima because of crop failure or other unusual conditions, and places operated at the time of the census for the first time were counted as farms if normally they could be expected to produce and sell these minimum quantities of agricultural products.

**Count of Farms Reporting Specified Facility and Equipment Items.**—The agriculture questionnaire provided for a "no" or "yes" response to indicate the absence or the presence on the place of each of the following specified facility and equipment items:

- |                            |   |
|----------------------------|---|
| Do you have on this place— | 300. Telephone? . . . . . No <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/><br>301. Home freezer (for quick freezing and storing food)? . . . . . No <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/><br>(Do not include refrigerators.)<br>302. Milking machine? . . . . . No <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/><br>303. Electric milk cooler? . . . . . No <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/><br>304. Bulk-type milk cooler? . . . . . No <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/><br>305. Crop drier (for grain, forage, or other crops)? . . . . . No <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/><br>306. Power-operated elevator, conveyor, or blower? . . . . . No <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> |
|----------------------------|---|

Question 304 appeared on the questionnaire for only six States—New York, Pennsylvania, Ohio, Michigan, Wisconsin, and Minnesota.

An answer of "no" represents the absence of a specified item and an answer of "yes" represents the presence of a specified item. For some farm reports, neither the "no" nor the "yes" box was checked by the respondent. The omission of a response should not be considered the same as a report of "no." For those farms "not reporting" a specified item, the response for some should have been "no" while the response for others should have been "yes." The percentage of the farms not reporting was negligible for all items. The inquiry for facility and equipment items normally used in the farm home was designed to obtain information for items located "on this place." Facility and equipment items temporarily out of order were included, and all equipment on the place was included whether owned by the person in charge or by others.

**Telephone.**—In 1959, the questionnaire inquiry, "Do you have on this place—Telephone?" is identical to the 1954 inquiry. In 1950 the inquiry read, "Is there a telephone on this place?" and in 1945 it read, "Does farm dwelling have telephone?" In 1940, 1930, and 1920, the inquiry for telephones merely specified "on farm." The more restricted inquiry in 1945 may have resulted in the omission of some farms from the count of those with

telephones. This could have been true if (a) the telephone were in a second dwelling on the farm, or (b) if the telephone were in a nondwelling structure on the farm.

**Electricity.**—The use of electricity in 1954 was so widespread throughout the 48 conterminous States that there seemed to be no further need for obtaining a count of the farms having it in those States. In 1959, an inquiry regarding the availability of electric service on farms and the source of the electric power used was made only in Alaska and Hawaii. The 1959 inquiry on electricity in Alaska and Hawaii specified "on this place." In 1954, there was no inquiry regarding the source of electricity; however, in 1950, it was determined whether the electricity was from a power line or from a home plant.

In 1945, 1940, and 1930, the inquiry on electricity was less inclusive than the inquiry in 1954 and 1950. In 1945 and 1940, the inquiry referred to electricity in the "farm dwelling," and in 1930, to electricity in the "farmer's dwelling house." In these earlier years, some farms with electricity in buildings other than the farmer's dwelling or with electricity used only for the purpose of pumping water, etc., may not have been enumerated as farms with electricity. In 1920, the inquiry was for "gas or electric light in operator's house."

**Home Freezer.**—A count of farms with home freezers was obtained for the 1959, 1954, and 1950 censuses.

**Milking Machine.**—A question on milking machines has been included on the questionnaire for each census beginning with 1945. The figures represent the number of farms with milking machines and do not represent the number of machines or units.

Table 2.—FARMS REPORTING "YES" TO INQUIRIES ON SPECIFIED FACILITIES AND EQUIPMENT, FOR THE UNITED STATES: 1959 AND 1954

[Data for conterminous United States are based on reports for only a sample of farms. See text.]

Item	Farms reporting			
	Number		Percent of all farms	
	1959	1954 <sup>1</sup>	1959	1954 <sup>1</sup>
Telephone.....	2,410,982	2,332,309	65.0	48.8
Home freezer.....	2,067,425	1,541,415	55.8	32.2
Milking machine.....	666,197	712,022	18.0	14.9
Electric milk cooler....	428,380	NA	11.6	NA
Crop drier.....	51,523	NA	1.4	NA
Power-operated elevator, conveyor, or blower....	925,450	NA	25.0	NA

NA Not available.

<sup>1</sup>Data for Alaska and Hawaii not included.

Table 3.—SPECIFIED ITEMS OF FARM EQUIPMENT FOR WHICH DATA WERE OBTAINED IN ONLY A FEW STATES: 1959

Item	Alaska <sup>1</sup>		Hawaii				
	Farms reporting	Number	Farms reporting	Number			
Silos (upright and pit).....	103	174	NA	NA			
Potato diggers.....	82	99	NA	NA			
Electric motors 1 hp. or more..	NA	NA	1,167	2,943			
Power spraying and dusting machines.....	NA	NA	1,578	1,941			
Electricity:							
From power line.....	306	...	5,211	...			
From home plant.....	23	...	68	...			
	Farms reporting						
	Total	Michi-gan	Minne-sota	New York	Ohio	Pennsyl- vania	Wis- consin
Bulk-type milk coolers.....	59,215	8,426	10,012	7,271	7,439	6,572	19,495

NA Not available.

<sup>1</sup>April 1, 1960.