

CHAPTER I

FARMS AND LAND IN FARMS

(1)

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Chapter 1.—FARMS AND LAND IN FARMS

Introduction.—This chapter presents statistics on the number of farms, land in farms and its major uses, and value of farm land and buildings. These statistics reflect the changes in number of farms and in land utilization through the years, as well as the effects of various governmental and other programs on land use. United States totals for past censuses have been revised to reflect the inclusion of Alaska and Hawaii as parts of the United States, whenever possible. There is no census information available for either Alaska or Hawaii for the quinquennial censuses.

Sources of Data.—The data presented are from the 1959 Census of Agriculture with comparative data for earlier censuses. The totals for number of farms, land in farms, and land use represent a summation of the replies to inquiries on questionnaires filled for each farm in the United States. The values of farm land and buildings for 1959, 1954, and 1950 for the conterminous States are based on reports for only a sample of farms; for Alaska and Hawaii, values are based on reports for all farms. (Data on the value of farm land and buildings were not obtained for Hawaii for 1959.)

The Introduction to this volume contains a description of (a) the procedures used in the enumeration; (b) the methods used in processing statistics; and (c) the sampling procedures used. It also contains tables showing the reliability of any estimates based on a sample.

The information obtained from the censuses of agriculture is supplemented with data on population from the censuses of population and on the uses of land not in farms from estimates of the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

Presentation of Statistics.—Statistics are presented as totals for the United States, for the conterminous United States (Alaska and Hawaii excluded), for major geographic areas, and for each of the 50 States. An outline map showing the States, geographic divisions, and regions appears in the Introduction. Averages, percentages, and other derived data are provided as aids in using and analyzing the statistics. Graphic presentation of the data through the use of charts and maps supplements the tabular presentation.

Statistics for the United States include available comparable data from previous censuses for all items, whereas, for regions, divisions, and States, comparable data are confined to selected items and selected census years.

Any lack of comparability due to changes in wording of the inquiries and in definitions or in procedures followed in collecting data is explained in the text or by means of footnotes and headnotes in the tables.

Other Published Data.—Data by counties and States for number of farms, land in farms, land use, and value of farm land and buildings are in volume I, parts 1 to 50, for the individual States.

Data for these items also appear in other chapters of this volume—by size of farm in chapter V; by color, race, and tenure of farm operator in chapter X; by economic class of farm in chapter XI; and by type of farm in chapter XII. Some data by these classifications may also be found in volume I.

Totals for number of farms, land in farms, and land use, shown in other chapters are based, in many cases, on reports for only a sample of farms. Totals based on reports for a sample of farms will differ slightly from totals tabulated from reports of

all farms. Headnotes in the tables indicate which data were based on reports for only a sample of farms.

Values of land and buildings, except for Alaska and Hawaii, were derived from data obtained from a sample of farms. In this chapter, averages and total values have been calculated for all farms, whereas, in volume I, only average per farm and per acre are shown, and these relate only to the farms for which value was reported. An explanation of the procedures used to obtain these averages will be found under "Value of land and buildings."

A detailed report and detailed data on irrigated land and irrigated farms appear in Volume III: "Irrigation of Agricultural Lands," for the 17 Western States, Louisiana, and Hawaii, and in Volume V, Part 2: "Irrigation in Humid Areas," for the 30 Eastern States. Alaska has not been included in either grouping, as its irrigated acreage is negligible. Data for irrigated farms, land in such farms, crops irrigated, and source of water are shown in volume III and part 2 of volume V.

History of Census Inquiries on Farms, Land in Farms, Land Use, and Farm Values.—The first nationwide census of agriculture providing data on the number of farms, land in farms, and value of land and buildings was taken in 1850. The census of 1840 was restricted to the enumeration of specified agricultural products, and various classes of farm animals. The classification of land use, comparable to that of the most recent census, was first employed in 1925. Prior to 1925, land in farms was classified either as improved or unimproved.

DEFINITIONS AND EXPLANATIONS

The descriptive terms and explanations refer principally to the 1959 Census of Agriculture, although, in general, they are applicable to earlier censuses. The definitions and explanations include additional instructions found on the questionnaire, and the more essential instructions and procedures for enumerating and processing questionnaires as outlined in enumerators' and office processing manuals. For the exact phrasing of the inquiries and instructions carried on the questionnaires, see the facsimile of the 1959 agriculture questionnaire in the appendix of the Introduction to this volume.

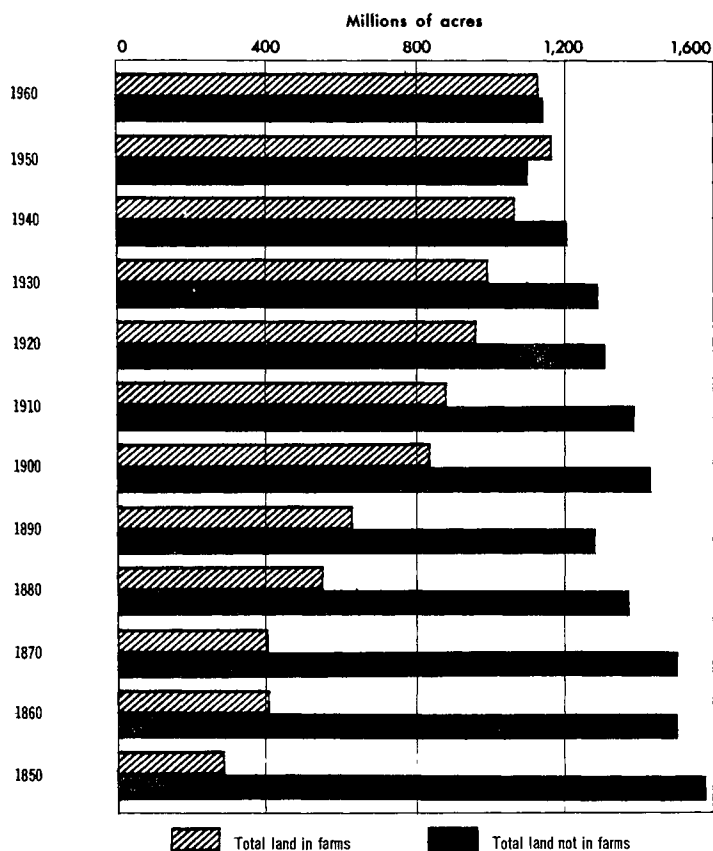
Definitions having a general application, such as those for "a farm," "farms reporting," and "farm operators," and factors influencing the accuracy of the data are also given in the Introduction. These are not represented in this chapter unless of particular significance in respect to the subject under consideration.

The definition of a census farm has been modified from time to time. The change in the definition of a farm and an appraisal of the effect of the change in definition upon statistics and upon changes in the number of farms, etc., are given in the Introduction.

Land Area.—The approximate land area includes all land in farms, and land not in farms, including cities, forests, etc. Land not in farms also includes dryland, land temporarily or partially covered by water, grazing land not in farms, forest land not grazed, wasteland, deserts, land occupied by cities, towns, railroads, highways, parks, etc.

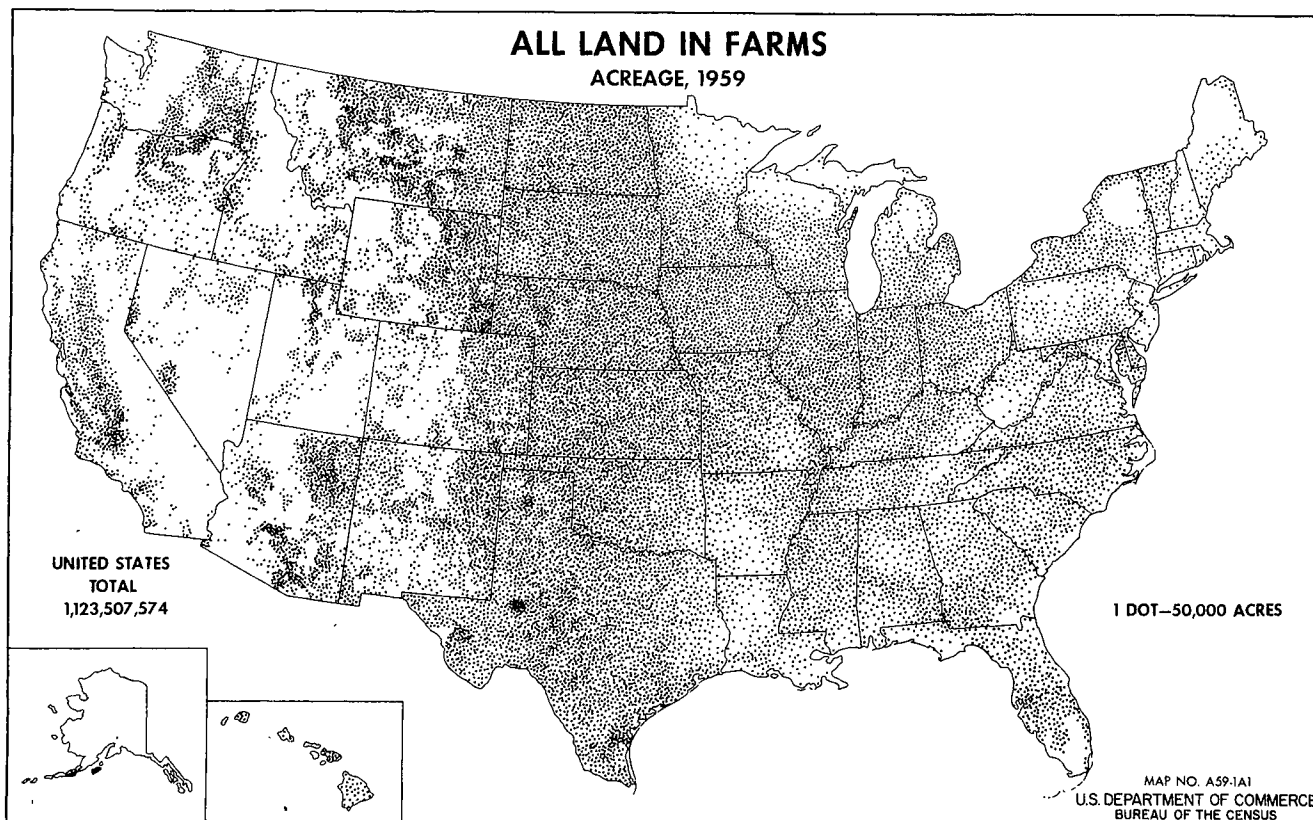
GENERAL REPORT

ACREAGE OF LAND IN FARMS AND NOT IN FARMS, FOR THE UNITED STATES: 1850 TO 1960



Land in Farms.—The land to be included in each farm was determined by inquiries on the questionnaire and by instructions to enumerators and farm operators. For the 1959 Census of Agriculture enumerators and farm operators were instructed to report for the farm operator, the number of acres owned, then the number of acres rented or worked on shares, and, lastly, the number of acres rented to others. This latter entry was subtracted from the sum of the two previous entries. The remainder was designated as "acres in this place" or "acres in the farm." If the place was operated by a hired manager, the enumerator obtained the total acreage managed and the number of acres rented to others, or worked on shares by others. Again, the acres rented to others were subtracted from the gross acres managed to obtain the acres in the place.

The entry in "Acres in this place" often included land not under cultivation and land not used for grazing. Some of it was woodland, wasteland, etc. This acreage was retained as a part of the farm unless it was held for purposes other than agricultural, or the acreage was unusually large. If a farm contained 1,000 or more acres of nonagricultural land and less than 10 percent of the total acreage in the place was used for agricultural purposes, the nonagricultural land in excess of the number of acres used for agricultural purposes was excluded from the farm area during the office processing. In applying this rule, land used for crops, pasture, or grazing, and land rented to others were considered to be used for agricultural purposes. Open range and grazing lands used under Government permit were not included in farms. Grazing lands operated by grazing associations were to be reported in the name of the manager of the association. Land used rent-free was included with land rented from others.



Value of Land and Buildings.—The respondent was asked to report the amount for which the land and the buildings on it would sell. This information was obtained for only a sample of farms for the conterminous United States. For Alaska it was obtained for all farms. Because of difficulties associated with the securing of values for large plantations, no values were obtained for Hawaii. Separate values were obtained for owned land, land rented from others, and for land rented to others (except for Alaska), and for each of these three categories either the value per acre or total value was to be reported. Where value per acre was reported, it was converted to total value during the processing in the central processing office.

The farm operator and the census enumerator were instructed to exclude, when reporting the value of the farm, the value of nonagricultural buildings, such as hospitals, dormitories, stores, filling stations, administrative offices, restaurants, and factories. The value of processing plants, except cotton gins and sugar mills, used to prepare farm produce for sale from the farm was included.

It was not always possible to obtain the value of land and buildings for all the farms for which this value was to be reported. Respondents often were reluctant to estimate the value of their holdings, claiming that they were not in position to make accurate estimates. Some farm operators inherited their farms and others had acquired them in the distant past. Parts of many farms were acquired piecemeal and others have been subdivided since they were purchased. Most inquiries in the agriculture questionnaire required answers based on fact. Land values, however, were largely estimates. Some respondents were willing to estimate the value of the portion of their operation that they owned, but were unwilling to estimate the part rented from others. Since the values of farm land and buildings in a county vary widely, the identification of inaccurate estimates on individual reports is difficult.

Data showing the average value of land and buildings per farm and per acre for 1959 for each county, and average value per acre and per farm for farms classified by size of farm, tenure of operator, economic class, and type of farm, for each State are shown in volume I. These averages were calculated on the basis of those farms in the sample for which the values of land and buildings were reported. The aggregate values of land and buildings are published only for States and only in this chapter.

For the 1959, 1954, and 1950 Censuses of Agriculture, questions regarding the value of land and buildings were asked for a sample of approximately 20 percent of the farms. In order to obtain the total value of land and buildings, it has been necessary to make calculations to provide estimates for the total value of land and buildings for all farms.

For the 1959 census, usable reports regarding the value of land and buildings were obtained for only 81 percent of the farms for which the value of land and buildings was to be reported. The percentage of usable reports was less for large than for small farms. Inasmuch as the average value per acre usually varies by size of farm, the total values of land and buildings have been obtained by calculating total value by size-of-farm groups. Moreover, calculations by size-of-farm groups were made separately for the farms of 1,000 acres or more in size (and farms with a total value of farm products sold of \$100,000 and over) and farms less than 1,000 acres in size.

The actual procedure for calculating the total value of land and buildings for 1959 was as follows: The average value per acre of farms for each size-of-farm group within each State part of an agricultural subregion was calculated for the group of farms that reported value. This average value per acre for each size group was multiplied by the total acres for all the farms in its respective size group in the State part of the agri-

cultural subregion to obtain the estimated total value for all farms in each size group. Estimated value of State parts of agricultural subregions and for States was obtained by adding the estimated value of farms under 1,000 acres in size and of farms 1,000 or more acres in size. The average value for each State was obtained by dividing estimated total value of all farms by the number of farms or the total acres of land in farms.

For the 1954 census, to obtain the total value of farm land and buildings for each State, values were first calculated for each county. For each county, total values were estimated separately for large and for all other farms. Large farms were intended to include all farms of 1,000 acres or more, and for some States, those meeting certain additional criteria of largeness. To estimate the value of the large farms, the average value per acre for those for which value was reported was multiplied by the total land in all large farms in the county. The value of the other farms in each county was obtained by multiplying the average value per acre for those farms in the sample for which value was reported by the total land in all farms which were not classified as large farms. This procedure for calculation of total value of farm lands and buildings was essentially a stratification of the sample into two strata on the basis of size; viz, farms under 1,000 acres and those of 1,000 or more acres.

For 1950, the procedure for estimating the total value of land and buildings, however, differed somewhat from that used for 1954. For 1950, the calculation was made on a State level; the total value for each of 37 States was obtained by multiplying all land in farms by the average value per acre obtained for the farms in the sample reporting value. For the 11 Mountain and Pacific States, the estimate was obtained by calculating separately the value for each size-of-farm group.

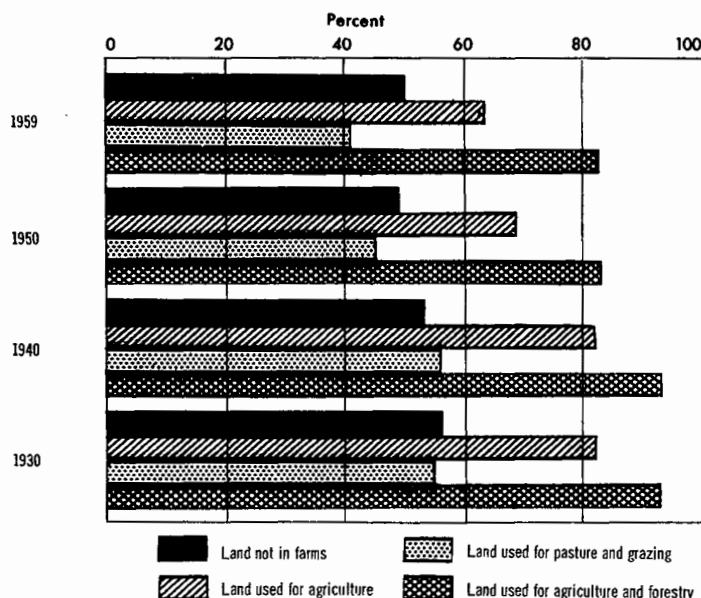
The estimates of total value of land and buildings made for the 1959, 1954, and 1950 Censuses of Agriculture provide the best available data on the total value of land and buildings for farms. The calculations made for areas less than States and for farms classified by size of farm provide somewhat more accurate data than totals calculated by using the average value per acre or per farm for only the farms for which usable values of land and buildings were reported. The differences between the average value of land and buildings as calculated by using the procedures outlined and the average values for farms for the conterminous United States for which the value of land and buildings was reported were as follows:

Item	Average value per farm			Average value per acre		
	1959	1954	1950	1959	1954	1950
Average value of land and buildings for farms for which usable values were reported.....	\$33, 173	\$19, 761	\$13, 911	\$120. 43	\$84. 82	\$66. 75
Calculated average value by size-of-farm group by areas smaller than States.....	\$34, 825	\$20, 405	\$13, 983	\$115. 15	\$84. 25	\$64. 96

The value of land and buildings has been obtained for each census, beginning with 1850. The values shown for 1945 and prior censuses represent totals obtained by adding the value of land and buildings for all farms. The value figures shown for each census presumably represent the market value on the census date, although specific instructions for reporting for the property the amount for which it would sell first appeared for the 1900 census. Prior to that time, the inquiries asked for "cash value" or merely "value," without further qualification. Except for 1870, the values presented in this chapter for each census are the same as are shown in the reports for that census. The 1870 figures are the same as those carried in the reports for 1880 and subsequent censuses and represent an adjustment of the original figures to a gold basis. These figures were approximately one-fifth less than the figures reported in 1870.

Major Uses of Land.—The total land area of the United States and of the several States has been classified by major use, on the basis of census data on land in farms supplemented by estimates of the Land and Water Economics Branch, Economic Research Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture, for land not in farms.

LAND UTILIZATION AS A PERCENT OF TOTAL LAND AREA: 1930 TO 1959



Land not in farms was obtained by subtracting the area of land in farms from the approximate land area. The estimates of "grazing land not in farms" include Federally owned lands administered under the Taylor Grazing Act and grazed under permit, grazing lands included in national forests and grazed under permit, also any other public and privately owned grazing lands which were not included in "land in farms." The livestock carrying capacity of much of the grazing or rangeland not in farms is low and a large proportion of this rangeland provides only seasonal grazing. About half of the total land area in the United States is not in farms. Grazing land not in farms makes up about 14 percent; land in forests not grazed, 19 percent; and other land not in farms, 17 percent of total land area.

"Woodland not grazed" represents only a part of the commercial forest area not in farms, as part of the forest area is grazed and is included in the total for grazing land not in farms.

"Other land not in farms" includes land occupied by cities and towns, roads, railways, airports, parks, reservoirs of less than 40 acres, wildlife refuges, military lands, ungrazed desert, open swamp, rock, and other lands of low surface value.

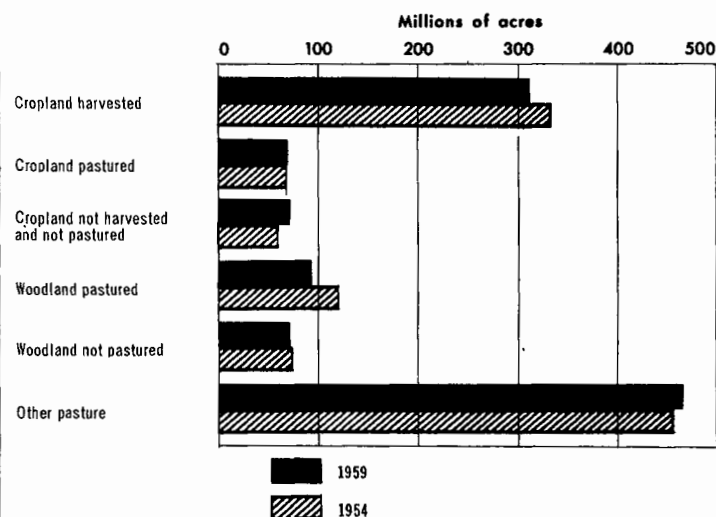
There are millions of acres of additional land not in farms that could be used for agriculture. These include over 100 million acres of grassland; over 20 million acres in abandoned farms, cutover land and wetland; and over 10 million acres in the Western States that could be irrigated.

Land in Farms According to Use.—Land in farms was classified according to the use made of it in 1959. The acreage in each farm was allocated among the various land-use categories only once, and any acreage that had two or more uses during the year was classified according to its most important use.

Cropland Harvested.—This includes land from which crops were harvested; land from which hay (including wild hay) was cut; and land in small fruits, orchards, vineyards, nurseries, and greenhouses. Land from which two or more crops were harvested was to be counted only once. The entry for cropland harvested was obtained directly from the farm operator and then verified by the census enumerator by adding the acreages of each crop reported and subtracting from this total the acres of land from which two or more crops were harvested. This checking was repeated during the office processing for farms with 100 or more acres of cropland harvested. The enumerator was directed to list only under "Cropland harvested" any acreage that had additional uses during

the year. For instance, any land from which hay was cut was classified as cropland harvested, regardless of the use of land for grazing later in the year.

LAND IN FARMS ACCORDING TO USE: 1959 AND 1954



Cropland Used Only for Pasture.—The enumerator was instructed to include all land used only for pasture or grazing that could have been used for crops without additional improvement, and all land planted to crops that were hogged off, pastured, or grazed before reaching maturity. In the Census of 1954 the enumerators were instructed to report rotation pasture and all other cropland used only for pasture as cropland used only for pasture.

Cropland not Harvested and not Pastured.—This class includes cultivated summer fallow, cropland used only for soil-improvement crops, land on which crops failed, land planted to crops for harvest after the year covered by the census and idle cropland. The data for this class for 1959 were obtained through the use of two inquiries in some States and three in other States as follows:

Cultivated Summer Fallow.—This land use was obtained for the 17 Western States in the conterminous United States. The acreage of cultivated summer fallow is negligible in those States where the inquiry was not included on the questionnaire. For the Censuses of 1959, 1954, and 1950, cultivated summer fallow was defined as cropland that was plowed and cultivated but left unseeded to control weeds and conserve moisture. Separate data are not available for 1945 and earlier censuses.

Cropland Used Only for Soil-Improvement Crops.—Only land used for cover crops, to control erosion or to be plowed under for green manure and planted to another crop, fell into this category. A large proportion of this land was covered by contracts of the Soil Bank. The enumerator was cautioned not to include land from which crops were harvested in the census year or land that was pastured or grazed. There was no separate inquiry for Alaska and Hawaii. In these two States cropland used only for soil-improvement purposes was included under other cropland not harvested and not pastured.

Other Cropland not Harvested and not Pastured.—All cropland except cropland harvested, cropland in cultivated summer fallow, cropland pastured, and land used only for soil-improvement crops was included in this land-use class. This total included all acreage on which crops failed because of drought, floods, insects, etc.; acreage not harvested because of low prices or labor shortage; acreage not harvested but occupied by growing crops intended for harvest in later years; acreage which had been plowed, and could be plowed again without first clearing away brush, but which had been idle for one or more years.

In 1954 there was a separate inquiry for idle land for 31 Eastern States. For the 17 Western States in the conterminous United States, idle land was grouped with land in soil-improvement crops and land on which all crops failed.

Woodland Pastured.—This includes all woodland that was used for pasture or grazing during the census year. According to instructions, woodland refers to woodlots and timber tracts, natural or planted.

Woodland not Pastured.—The enumerator was instructed to include in this category land in the Soil Bank planted to trees.

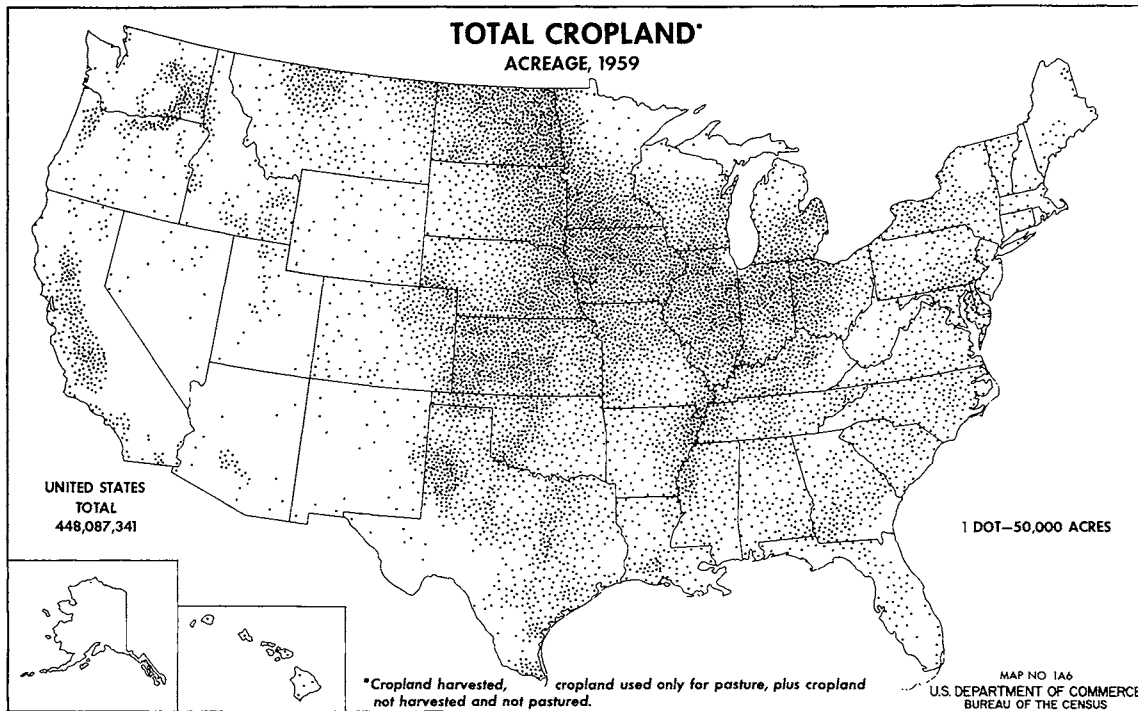
Other Pasture.—All land, other than woodland and cropland, used for pasture or grazing was designated other pasture.

Improved Pasture.—A pasture that had been limed, fertilized, seeded, irrigated, drained, or cleared of weeds or brush was to be considered improved pasture. Data on improved pasture were obtained only for the 1954 and 1959 Censuses. Information on improved pasture is not available for Alaska for either 1954 or 1959.

All Other Land.—This item refers to all land not included in any of the preceding land-use items and includes land occupied by a house or other buildings; lanes, roads, and ditches; and land area of ponds and wasteland. Unusually large tracts of other land held primarily for purposes other than agriculture were excluded from the tabulations.

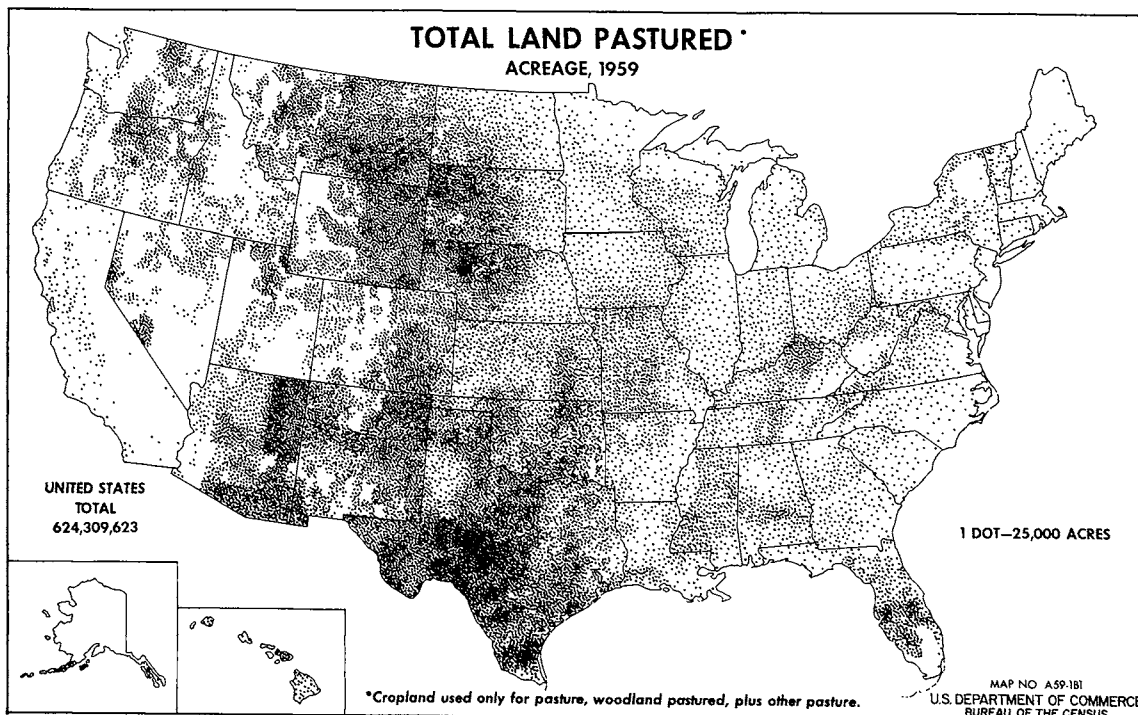
In addition to the classification of land in farms according to use, data for three summary classes are presented as follows:

Cropland, total.—This class includes cropland harvested, cropland used only for pasture, and cropland not harvested and not pastured.



Land pastured, total.—This class includes cropland used only for pasture, woodland pastured, and other pasture.

Woodland, total.—This class includes both woodland pastured and woodland not pastured.



Problems in Reporting Land Use by Farm Operator.—In reporting land in his farm according to the use made of it during the census year, the farm operator was asked to differentiate between some classes of land for which the dividing line was not always clear and could not always be determined on a uniform basis. Although the wording of the questions, the definitions given, and the instructions were aimed toward clarifying the intent of the inquiries, many decisions were left to the judgment of respondents and enumerators.

Land in fruit orchards, for example, was to be reported as cropland harvested, regardless of whether fruit was harvested. Abandoned orchards were to be reported as idle cropland. At what point an unproductive orchard becomes abandoned was left for the respondent or the census enumerator to decide. Land in permanent pasture could be reported as cropland pastured if the decision was made that the land could be used for crops. Pastureland with scattered trees or brush could be reported either as woodland pastured or as other pasture.

Generally, the use of land was accepted as reported by the farm operator and the census enumerator. Changes were made only when there was an obvious error or additional information elsewhere on the questionnaire indicated the report should be corrected.

Land-Use Classification, 1925 to 1959.—Land-use classes similar to those of 1959 have been used for each census from 1925. The principal modifications have been in the classes relating to cropland pasture.

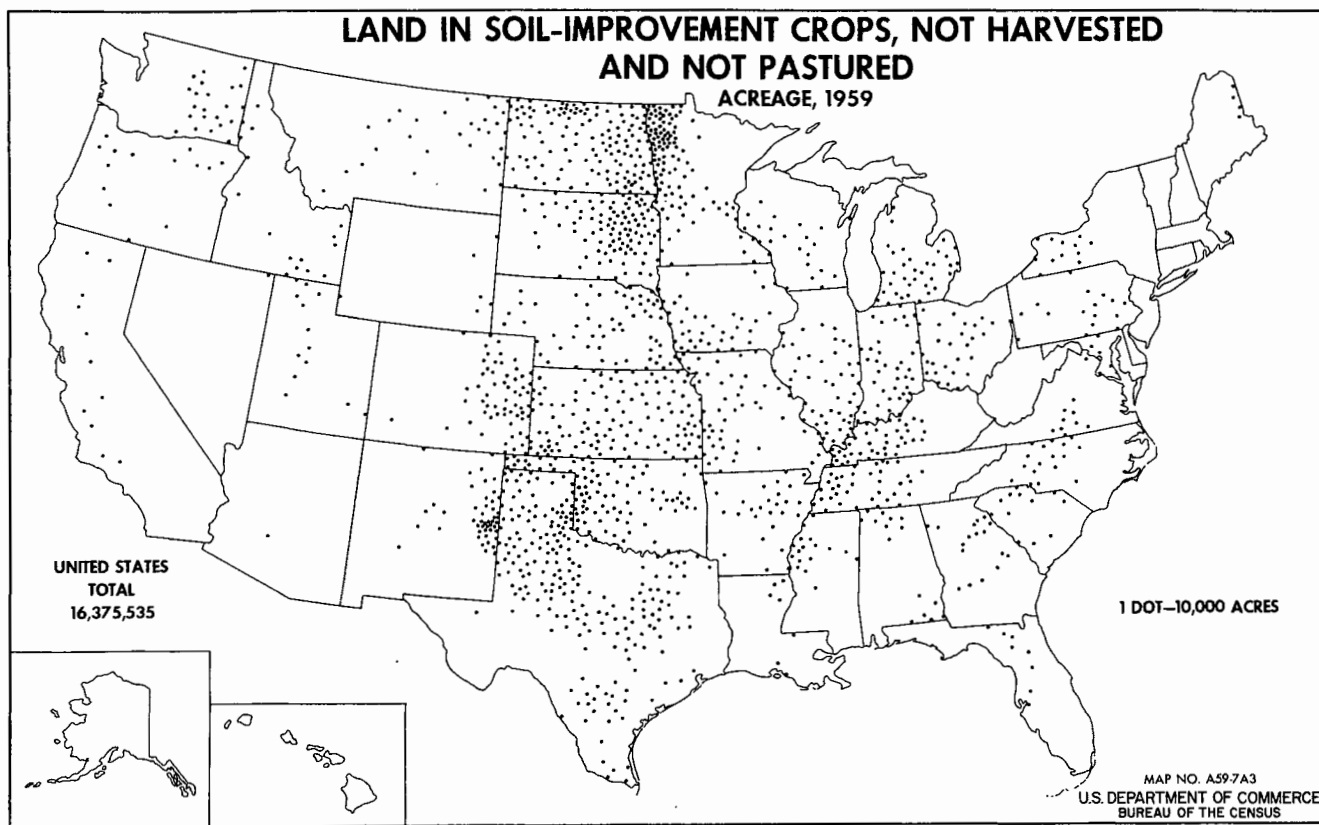
A comparison of the wording of land-use inquiries in 1959 with their counterparts of previous censuses since 1925 is as follows:

Cropland Harvested.—This inquiry was identical for all censuses compared, except for Alaska and Hawaii for 1929. In 1929, for these two States, cropland harvested consisted of total acreage of crops harvested.

Cropland Used Only for Pasture.—This item was identical for the census years 1949 to 1959 for the States of the conterminous United States. It was modified for 1944 to include the qualification, "that was plowed within the last 7 years," and was designated "plowable pasture" in the years 1925 to 1940. For Alaska and Hawaii, data for this class of land were not obtained for censuses prior to 1950.

Summer Fallow.—A separate inquiry was made for this item for the years 1949 to 1959 for the 17 Western States in the conterminous United States. Summer fallow was included with "Cropland idle or fallow" for the years 1924 to 1944.

Cropland in Soil-Improvement Crops.—The agriculture questionnaire contained a separate inquiry for this item for the first time in 1959. In 1954, it was included with "land on which all crops failed" under the heading, "Cropland used only for crops not harvested and not pastured" for the 31 Eastern States and grouped with "Idle land" and "Land on which all crops failed" under the heading "Other cropland," for the 17 Western States in the conterminous United States. It was included with "other cropland" in 1950. For 1924 to 1944, it was included under the heading, "Idle or fallow," or "Other cropland."



Other Cropland Not Harvested and Not Pastured.—In 1959 this item comprised idle cropland and land on which all crops failed. At various times since 1925, these two subdivisions have been either separate inquiries or have been grouped with other land uses.

Crop Failure.—For 1954, crop failure was included under the classification, "Cropland used for crops not harvested and not pastured," and for 1950 with idle land and land in soil-improvement crops under the classification "cropland not accounted for." The agriculture questionnaire contained a separate inquiry for the States in the conterminous United States for this item for the censuses from 1924 to 1944.

Idle land was included with other cropland not harvested and not pastured for 1959; it was a separate land-use classification for 1954. For 1950, idle land was included with crop failure and land in soil-improvement crops under the heading "Cropland not accounted for"; and grouped with fallow land under the heading "Cropland idle or fallow" in the years 1924 to 1944, for the States in the conterminous United States.

Woodland Pastured and Woodland not Pastured.—These classifications were identical for all years 1924 to 1959 except for 1939 when the two classifications were combined as woodland.

Other Pasture.—This item for the States in the conterminous United States was qualified as "not cropland and not woodland," from 1949 to 1959; "not cropland plowed within 7 years and not woodland," for 1944; and "not plowable and not woodland" for 1924 to 1934. For 1939, it was part of "other land." Separate data for other pasture are not available for Alaska prior to 1950, and for Hawaii prior to 1940. Information is presented in table 6 in regard to the combinations of data required for censuses for 1924 to 1959 to obtain comparable data for total cropland, cropland pastured, and other pasture.

Land-Use Classification, 1850 to 1920.—From 1850 to 1920, all land in farms was classified as "improved" and "unimproved." In general, improved land included land in crops; land in pasture that had been cleared or tilled; land lying fallow; land in or-

chards, nurseries, vineyards, and gardens; and land occupied by buildings.

Cropland harvested for 1879 to 1919 was obtained by adding the acreages of the individual crops reported for these censuses.

Irrigation.—Irrigated land is defined as land watered by artificial means for agricultural purposes. These means included subirrigation as well as systems whereby water was applied to the ground surface, either directly or by sprinklers.

The irrigation inquiries on questionnaires for the 17 Western States in the conterminous United States, Louisiana, and Hawaii were more detailed than those for the eastern States. For the Western States, Louisiana, and Hawaii, data were obtained on number of acres irrigated, the acres of cropland irrigated, the acres of crops irrigated, the acres irrigated by sprinklers, and the source of irrigation water.

Data on irrigation in these States may be found in volume I, county table 1a, and in Volume III: "Irrigation of Agricultural Lands." Statistics on the irrigation enterprises which supplied irrigation water also will be found in volume III.

The questionnaire used in the 30 Eastern States contained only one inquiry regarding the total acres irrigated. Additional data for 1960 on irrigation in these 30 States appear in Volume V, Part 2: "Irrigation in Humid Areas."

Irrigated Farms.—These are farms with any land irrigated. The land in irrigated farms includes the entire acreage of land in these farms, whether irrigated or not.

Land Irrigated.—This relates only to that part of the land in farms to which water was applied during the year.

Soil-Conservation Practices.—In 1959, for the second time, the census of agriculture obtained information on soil-conservation practices.

Table 1.—ITEMS NEEDED TO OBTAIN COMPARABILITY OF DATA FOR EARLIER CENSUS YEARS WITH THOSE FOR 1959, FOR TOTAL CROPLAND, CROPLAND PASTURED, AND OTHER PASTURE (NOT CROPLAND AND NOT WOODLAND)

Census year	Most nearly comparable item, each Census (as shown in Table 5)		To obtain more complete comparability with 1959 the following adjustments would be needed	
	Item as shown in this report	United States total (acres)	Add ¹	Subtract ¹
CROPLAND, TOTAL				
1959...	Cropland, total.....	448,087,341	.....	.....
1954 ² ...	Cropland, total.....	459,648,961	.....	.....
1949...	Cropland, total.....	478,315,094	.....	.....
1944 ² ...	Cropland, other than cropland pasture not plowed within 7 years.....	450,694,226	Cropland used only for pasture not plowed within 7 years.....	.....
1939...	Land available for crops.....	530,555,551	.....	Flowable pasture other than cropland pastured (except Alaska).
1934 ² ...	Land available for crops.....	513,913,969	.....	Flowable pasture other than cropland pastured.
1929 ² ...	Land available for crops.....	522,395,804	.....	Flowable pasture other than cropland pastured.
1924 ² ...	Land available for crops.....	505,027,400	.....	Flowable pasture other than cropland pastured.
CROPLAND PASTURED				
1959...	Cropland used only for pasture.....	65,516,598	.....	.....
1954 ² ...	Cropland used only for pasture.....	66,069,838	.....	.....
1949...	Cropland used only for pasture.....	69,487,805	.....	.....
1944 ² ...	Cropland used only for pasture plowed within 7 years.....	47,449,184	Cropland used only for pasture not plowed within 7 years.....	.....
1939 ² ...	Flowable pasture.....	131,379,940	.....	Flowable pasture other than cropland pastured.
1934 ² ...	Flowable pasture.....	98,579,038	.....	Flowable pasture other than cropland pastured.
1929 ² ...	Flowable pasture.....	109,159,914	.....	Flowable pasture other than cropland pastured.
1924 ² ...	Flowable pasture.....	113,567,498	.....	Flowable pasture other than cropland pastured.
OTHER PASTURE (NOT CROPLAND AND NOT WOODLAND)				
1959...	Other pasture, not cropland and not woodland.....	466,224,802	.....	.....
1954 ² ...	Other pasture, not cropland and not woodland.....	459,878,925	.....	.....
1949...	Other pasture, not cropland and not woodland.....	416,802,416	.....	.....
1944 ² ...	Other pasture not cropland plowed within 7 years and not woodland.....	481,016,668	.....	Cropland used only for pasture not plowed within 7 years.
1939 ² ...	Other land; house lots, roads, wasteland, etc., and pasture other than plowable and woodland.....	393,543,673	Flowable pasture other than cropland pastured.....	House lots, roads, wasteland, etc.
1934 ² ...	Other pasture, not plowable and not woodland.....	311,225,652	Flowable pasture other than cropland pastured.....	.....
1929 ² ...	Other pasture, not plowable and not woodland.....	269,672,710	Flowable pasture other than cropland pastured.....	.....
1924 ² ...	Other pasture, not plowable and not woodland.....	217,687,145	Flowable pasture other than cropland pastured.....	.....

¹No Census data available for these items.

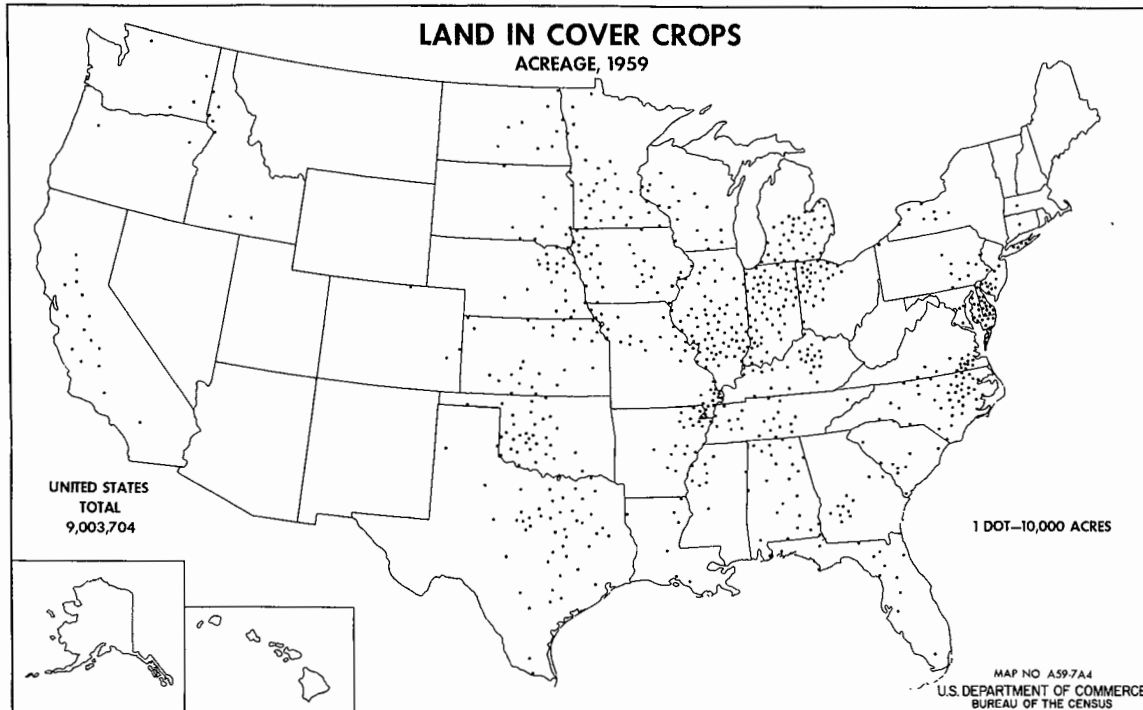
²Data for Alaska and Hawaii not included.

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Cropland in Cover Crops Turned Under for Green Manure.—A cover crop is grown as a means of enriching and protecting soil resources. The land on which the cover crop was turned under for green manure was to be then planted to another crop. The entire acreage of cover crops sowed was to be reported even if the crop planted following the cover crops, failed. In the conterminous United States, cropland used for cover crops was reported for approximately one-tenth of all farms and the acres

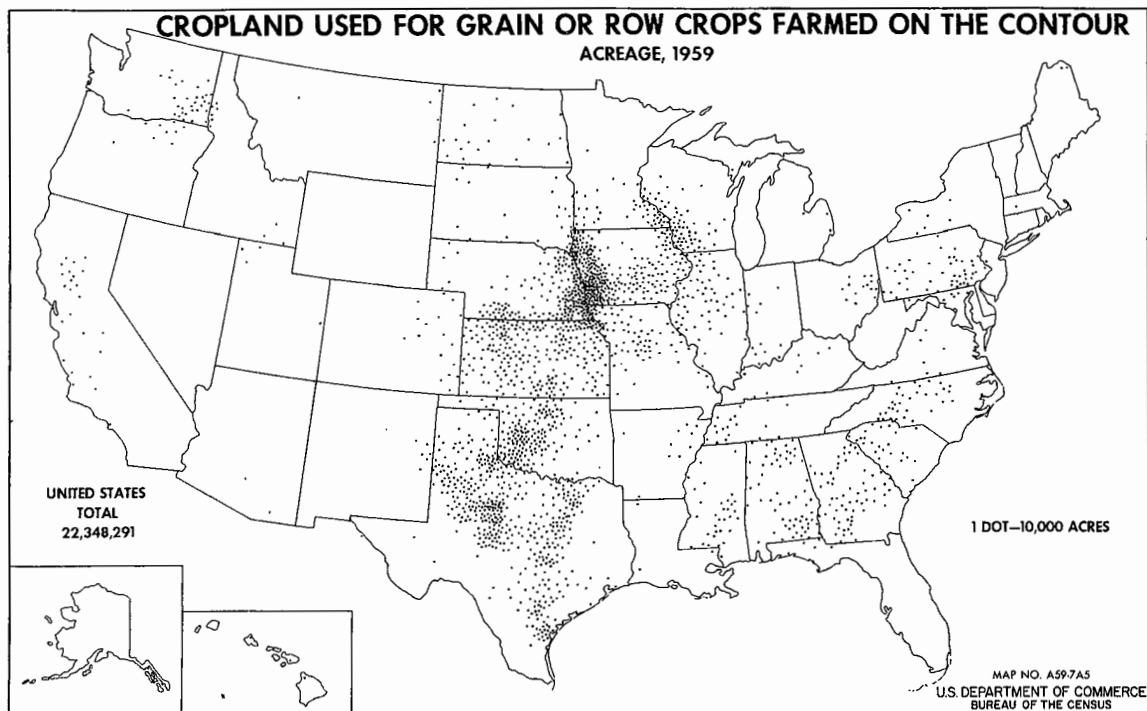
represented 2.0 percent of total cropland. In 1954 the question on cropland in cover crops turned under for green manure was asked only in 31 States and the eastern part of Texas. The comparative data for the same area for 1959 and 1954 are as follows:

	1959	1954
Farms reporting-----	323,932	488,240
Acres-----	6,957,592	9,278,572



Most of the cropland in cover crops turned under for green manure was in the Central and South Atlantic States. The 11 States (Ohio, Indiana, Illinois, Michigan, Minnesota, Iowa, Mis-

souri, North Carolina, Kentucky, Oklahoma, and Texas) having 300,000 acres or more, had 54 percent of the total acres in the conterminous United States.



Cropland Used for Grain or Row Crops Farmed on the Contour.—

The inquiry regarding cropland used for grain or row crops farmed on the contour was included in both the 1959 and the 1954 Census (except for Florida) for all States in the conterminous United States. Crops are planted on the contour when the rows or strips are laid out at right angles to the natural slope of the land. Generally, alternate strips or rows of different crops are used to retard soil and water losses. The usual arrangement is to alternate row crops with close seeded crops.

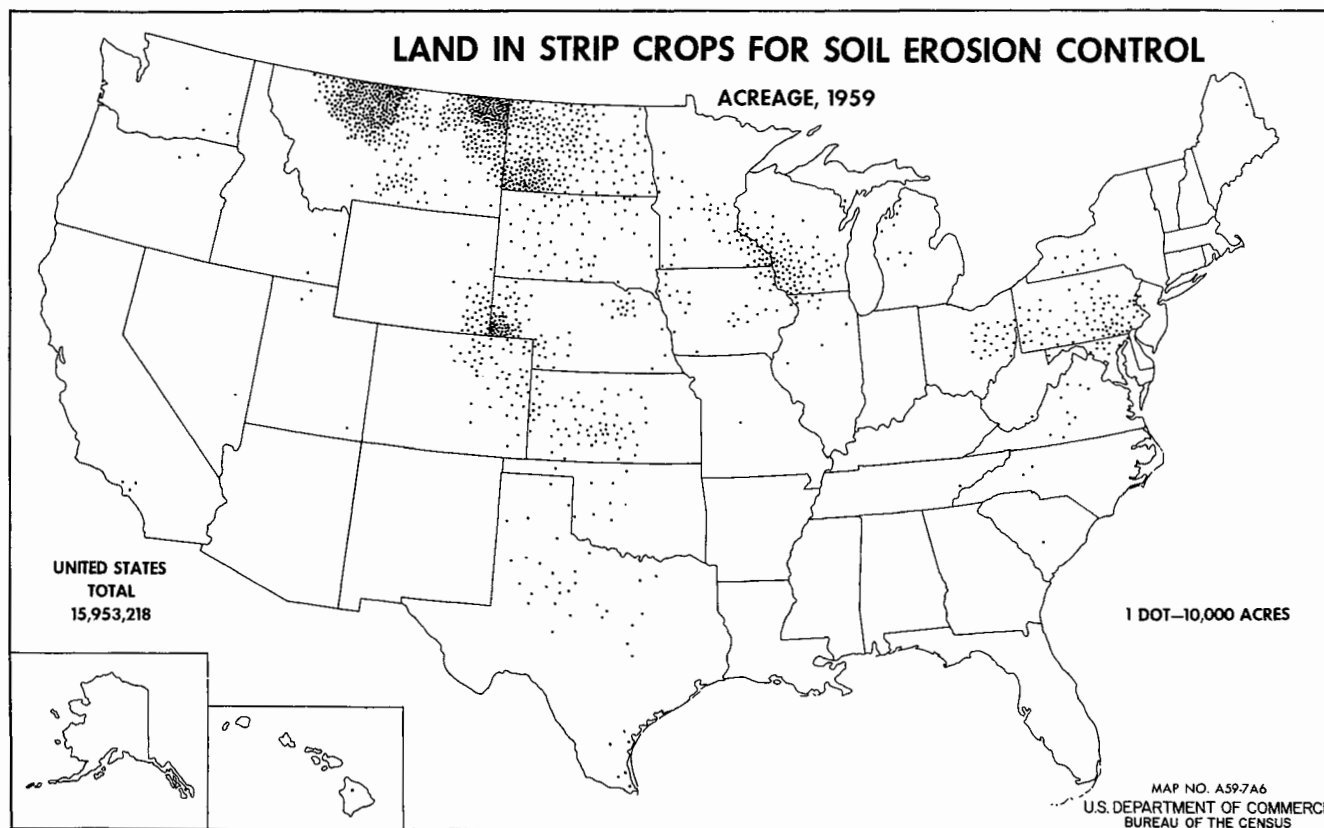
Cropland used for grain or row crops farmed on the contour was reported for approximately one-tenth of the farms in the 48 conterminous States and totaled 22 million acres or 5.0 percent of total cropland. The acreage in 1959 was approximately the same as in 1954. (The acreage was not obtained for the State of Florida for 1954; however, the acreage in that State was negligible.)

Growing of crops on the contour is a widely used practice in the central and southern Great Plains States, some of the more rolling parts of the Corn Belt, Pennsylvania, and in parts of the cotton-producing area of the South.

Land in Stripcropping Systems for Soil-Erosion Control.—Stripcropping was defined as a practice of alternating close grown crops with strips or bands of row crops or of alternating either close grown crops or row crops with bands of cultivated fallow land. Wind stripcropping, stubble mulching, and other conservation practices help control soil blowing. Wind stripcropping involves the planting of crops in strips of uniform width, which are arranged at right angles to the direction of prevailing winds. Small grain crops and cultivated summer fallow often occupy alternating strips. The data for stripcropping for 1959 relate to all 48 States in the conterminous United States. The comparable data for 1954 are for 14 States and the western part of Texas. The comparative data for the 14 States and the western part of Texas for 1959 and 1954 are as follows:

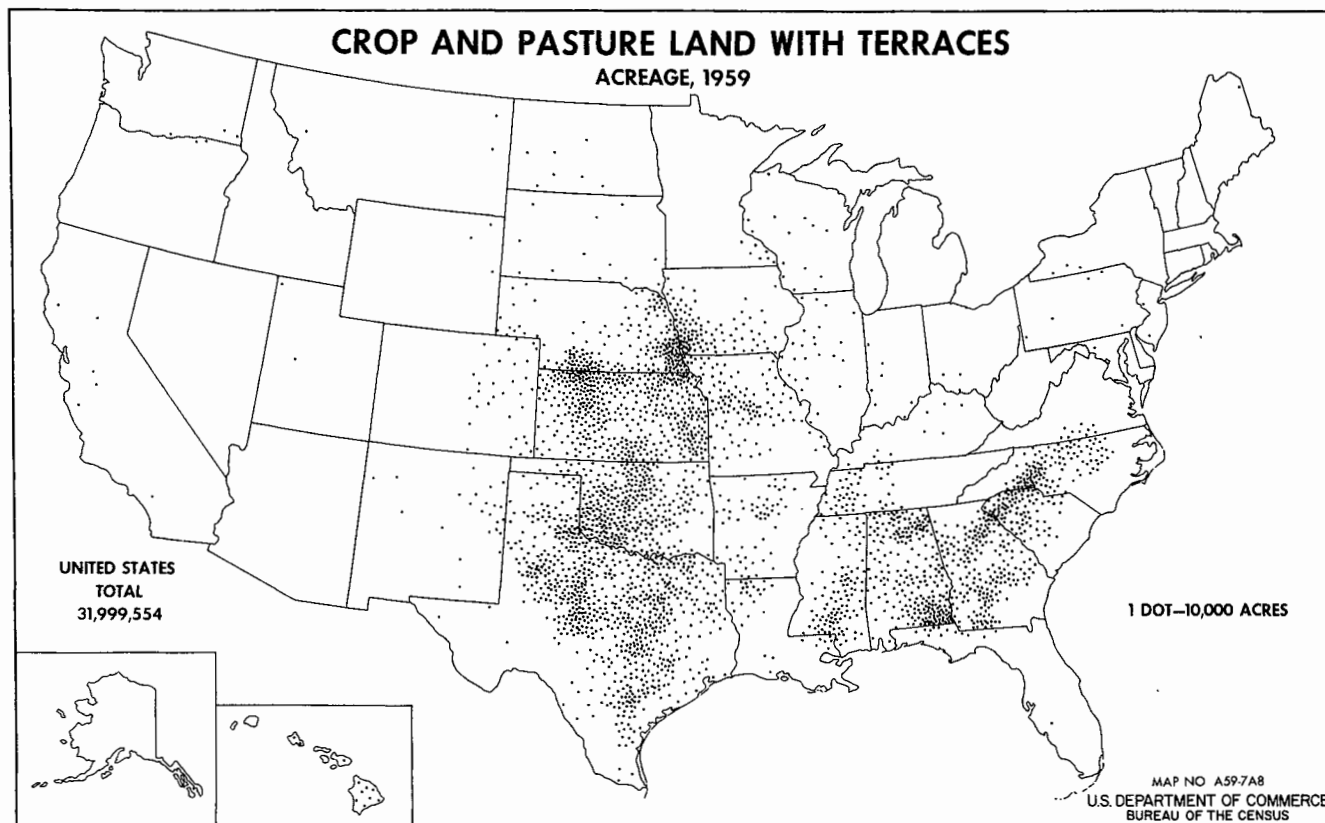
	1959	1954
Farms reporting.....	38,211	26,972
Acres.....	11,927,550	5,218,112

This conservation practice is concentrated chiefly in the western wheat-producing area, where wheat is being grown on land that is subject to wind erosion, particularly during the drier years.



Systems of Terraces on Crop and Pasture Land.—This item relates to the acreage in ridge-type or channel-type terraces constructed on sloping cropland and pastureland. Terraced land was reported for approximately one-eighth of all farms and

totalled almost 32 million acres. Terraced land was concentrated in the southern part of the Great Plains and in the Southern States.



Population.—Data for decennial census years are based on the decennial censuses with adjustments to obtain comparability; data for other years are estimates. Totals for 1910 to 1959 relate to April 1; those for earlier years, to June 1.

Rural and Urban Population.—Rural population is that part of the population not classed as urban. According to the definition adopted for use in the 1960 census, the urban population comprises all persons living in (a) places of 2,500 inhabitants or more incorporated as cities, boroughs, villages, and towns (except towns in New York, New England, and Wisconsin); (b) the densely settled urban fringe, whether incorporated or unincorporated, of urbanized areas; (c) towns in New England and townships in New Jersey and Pennsylvania which contain no incorporated municipalities as subdivisions and have either 25,000 inhabitants or more or a population of 2,500 to 25,000 and a density of 1,500 persons or more per square mile; (d) counties in States other than the New England States, New Jersey, and Pennsylvania that have no incorporated municipalities within their boundaries and have a density of 1,500 persons per square mile; and (e) unincorporated places of 2,500 or more inhabitants.

This definition of urban is substantially the same as that used in 1950; the major difference between 1950 and 1960 is the designation in 1960 of urban towns in New England and of urban townships in New Jersey and Pennsylvania. The effect on population classification arising from this change was small.

In censuses prior to 1950 the urban population comprised all persons living in incorporated places of 2,500 inhabitants or more and areas classified as urban under somewhat different special rules relating to population size and density. This definition excluded a number of densely settled places merely because they are not incorporated places.

Farm Population.—Prior to 1960, persons living outside urban areas were included as part of the farm population if the respondent for a household replied "Yes" to the inquiry, "Is this house on a farm?" In 1960, persons living in rural areas were counted in the farm population if the house in which the person was living was reported as being (1) on a place of less than 10 acres from which sales of farm products amounted to \$250 or more or (2) on a place of 10 or more acres from which the sale of farm products amounted to \$50 or more. The number of farms has declined more than 3 million since 1935. The operators of some of these farms moved off their farms when they discontinued their agricultural operations while others continued to use their farmhouses as residences after they became employed at nonfarm jobs. A considerable number of these persons living in houses that were once operated farms, reported in the census of population and similar surveys that their house was on a farm, even though agricultural operations had been discontinued on the place or the scale of agricultural production was inadequate to qualify the place as a farm according to the criteria for a census farm as used in the census of agriculture. The change in the basis for classifying a part

of the rural population as farm population accounted for, on the basis of small-scale tests, 4.5 million of the 9.9 million decrease in farm population from 1950 to 1960. Also the small-scale surveys showed that the 1960 farm population was between 15 and 16 million. The data for farm population for 1960 do not include persons living on farms in cities and other territory classified as urban. The total number of persons living on farms in those urban areas probably does not exceed half a million.

The peak of the farm population since 1910 was reached in the 1930's when more than 32 million persons were counted as living on farms. Since the 1930's the farm population has declined significantly. Less than half as many persons were counted as living on farms in 1960 as in 1940. The decline of 9.9 million from 1950 to 1960, was greater than during any other decade, even when allowance is made for the change in definition. However, even the 1960 farm population of 13.4 million includes a considerable number of persons who are not engaged in farm operations as well as many persons who

work at nonfarm jobs and secure the major part of their livelihood from nonfarm sources.

While both total population and food requirements have been increasing, the farm population has been decreasing. The proportion of the population living on farms in 1960 was less than half that of 1950 and one-third that of 1940.

The acres of land in farms and cropland harvested have been declining. The average acreage of cropland per person is now about half that of 1920. On the other hand, the average acreages of land in farms and cropland harvested per person living on farms in 1960 were more than twice the corresponding averages for 1940. With the increasing mechanization, increased use of power and electricity on farms, advances in farm technology, the increased use of inputs from nonfarm sources, the increasing substitution of capital for labor, increasing commercialization and specialization in agricultural production, and increasing technical and managerial know-how of farm operators, fewer and fewer people living on farms have been able to provide increasing quantities of food and fiber for a growing population.

Table 2.—TOTAL, RURAL, AND FARM POPULATION, FOR THE UNITED STATES: 1850 TO 1959

Item and year	Number of persons ¹	Percent of total population	Increase or decrease (-)	
			Number	Percent
Total population ².....1960...	179,323,175	100.0	NA	NA
1954 ³ ..	161,763,000	100.0	NA	NA
1950...	151,325,798	100.0	NA	NA
1945 ³ ..	139,583,000	100.0	NA	NA
1940...	132,164,569	100.0	NA	NA
1935 ³ ..	127,057,000	100.0	NA	NA
1930...	123,202,624	100.0	NA	NA
1925 ³ ..	115,402,000	100.0	NA	NA
1920...	106,021,537	100.0	13,793,041	15.0
1910...	92,228,496	100.0	16,016,328	21.0
1900...	76,212,168	100.0	15,232,402	21.0
1890...	62,979,766	100.0	12,790,557	25.5
1880...	50,189,209	100.0	11,630,838	30.2
1870...	38,558,371	100.0	7,115,090	22.6
1860...	31,443,321	100.0	8,251,445	35.6
1850...	23,191,876	100.0	...	...
Rural population: ⁴				
Current urban definition ⁵....1960...	54,054,425	30.1	-424,556	-0.8
1950...	54,478,981	36.0	NA	NA
Previous urban definition....1960...	66,266,822	37.0	5,069,238	8.3
1950...	61,197,604	40.4	3,738,373	6.5
1940...	57,459,231	43.5	3,417,206	6.3
1930...	54,042,025	43.9	2,273,770	4.4
1920...	51,768,255	48.8	1,603,760	3.1
1910...	50,164,495	54.4	4,167,159	8.3
1900...	45,997,336	60.4	NA	NA
1890 ³ ..	40,841,449	64.9	4,815,401	13.4
1880 ³ ..	36,026,048	71.8	7,370,038	25.7
1870 ³ ..	28,656,010	72.0	3,429,207	13.6
1860 ³ ..	25,226,803	80.2	5,578,643	28.4
1850 ³ ..	19,648,160	84.7	...	...
Farm population ⁶.....1960...	13,444,898	7.5	-8,445,102	-38.6
1954 ³ ..	21,890,000	13.5	-1,441,738	-6.2
1950...	23,331,738	15.4	-1,963,262	-7.8
1945 ³ ..	25,295,000	18.1	-5,251,911	-17.2
1940...	30,546,911	23.1	-1,614,089	-5.0
1935 ³ ..	32,161,000	25.3	1,715,650	5.6
1930...	30,445,350	24.7	-744,650	-2.4
1925 ³ ..	31,190,000	27.0	-424,269	-1.3
1920...	31,614,269	29.8	-462,731	-1.4
1910...	32,077,000	34.9	...	...

NA Not available.

¹Figures for 1910 to 1959 relate to April 1, those for earlier years to June 1. Figures for decennial years are based on the decennial Censuses with adjustments to obtain comparability; those for other years are estimates.

²Figures for 1940 to 1959 include members of the Armed Forces overseas, for the earlier years the number of persons in the Armed Forces overseas was not available but was probably negligible. Figures for 1870 include adjustments for underenumeration in Southern States.

³Data for Alaska and Hawaii not included.

⁴Figures shown for rural population exclude members of Armed Services overseas; the percent of total population for 1959, 1954, 1950, and 1940, respectively, is based on the civilian population.

⁵The data for 1960 and 1950 for the current urban definition are not comparable with those for earlier years because of change in definition. See text.

⁶The figures shown for farm population in the quinquennial Censuses are estimates roughly comparable with the current estimates of the farm population obtained from the Census Bureau's Current Population Survey. These estimates differ substantially from the farm population as tabulated from the 1945, 1935, and 1925 Censuses of Agriculture.

Table 3.—AVERAGE NUMBER OF PERSONS PER FARM, WITH PER CAPITA DATA FOR LAND IN FARMS, CROPLAND HARVESTED, AND VALUE OF FARM PRODUCTS SOLD, FOR THE UNITED STATES: CENSUSES OF 1850 TO 1959

Item and year	Average number of persons per farm	Average per capita		
		Land in farms (acres)	Cropland ¹ harvested (acres)	Value of farm products sold (dollars)
Total population.....1960...	48.33	6.3	1.7	170
1954 ² ..	33.82	7.2	2.1	152
1950...	28.08	7.7	2.3	147
1945 ² ..	23.82	8.2	2.5	116
1940...	21.66	8.1	2.4	² 51
1935 ² ..	18.65	8.3	2.3	NA
1930...	19.57	8.0	² 2.9	² 90
1925 ² ..	18.11	8.0	3.0	NA
1920...	16.43	9.0	² 3.3	NA
1910...	14.49	9.6	² 3.4	NA
1900...	13.28	11.0	² 3.7	NA
1890 ² ..	13.79	9.9	3.5	NA
1880 ² ..	12.51	10.7	3.3	NA
1870 ² ..	14.97	10.2	NA	NA
1860 ² ..	15.38	13.0	NA	NA
1850 ² ..	16.00	12.7	NA	NA
Farm population.....1960...	3.62	83.6	23.2	2,268
1954 ² ..	4.58	52.9	15.2	1,126
1950...	4.34	49.7	14.8	945
1945 ² ..	4.32	45.1	14.0	642
1940...	5.01	34.7	10.5	219
1935 ² ..	4.72	32.8	9.2	NA
1930...	4.84	32.4	11.8	316
1925 ² ..	4.90	29.6	11.0	NA
1920...	4.90	30.2	11.0	NA
1910 ² ..	5.04	27.4	9.7	NA

NA Not available.

¹Prior to 1924, based on total acreage of crops. See Table 5.

²Data for Alaska and Hawaii not included.

USE OF LAND IN 1959

The land area of the 50 States is 2,271 million acres. The total land in farms in the United States in 1959 was 1,123 million acres or 49.5 percent of the land area. If no division is made between land in farms and land not in farms then the total land in each of the major uses in 1959 would be as follows:

	Million acres
Cropland, including cropland used only for pasture.....	448
Pasture and grazing land (including woodland and forest land pastured or grazed).....	887
Forest and woodland not pastured or grazed....	500
Other land, total.....	436

Data on land use refer only to area. There are great variations in the quality of land having various uses. The quality of the various kinds of cropland varies from use to use and area by area, and also within areas. The cropland used only for pasture supplies much more feed per acre than other pasture and grazing land. There are similar variations in the productivity of woodland and forest land.

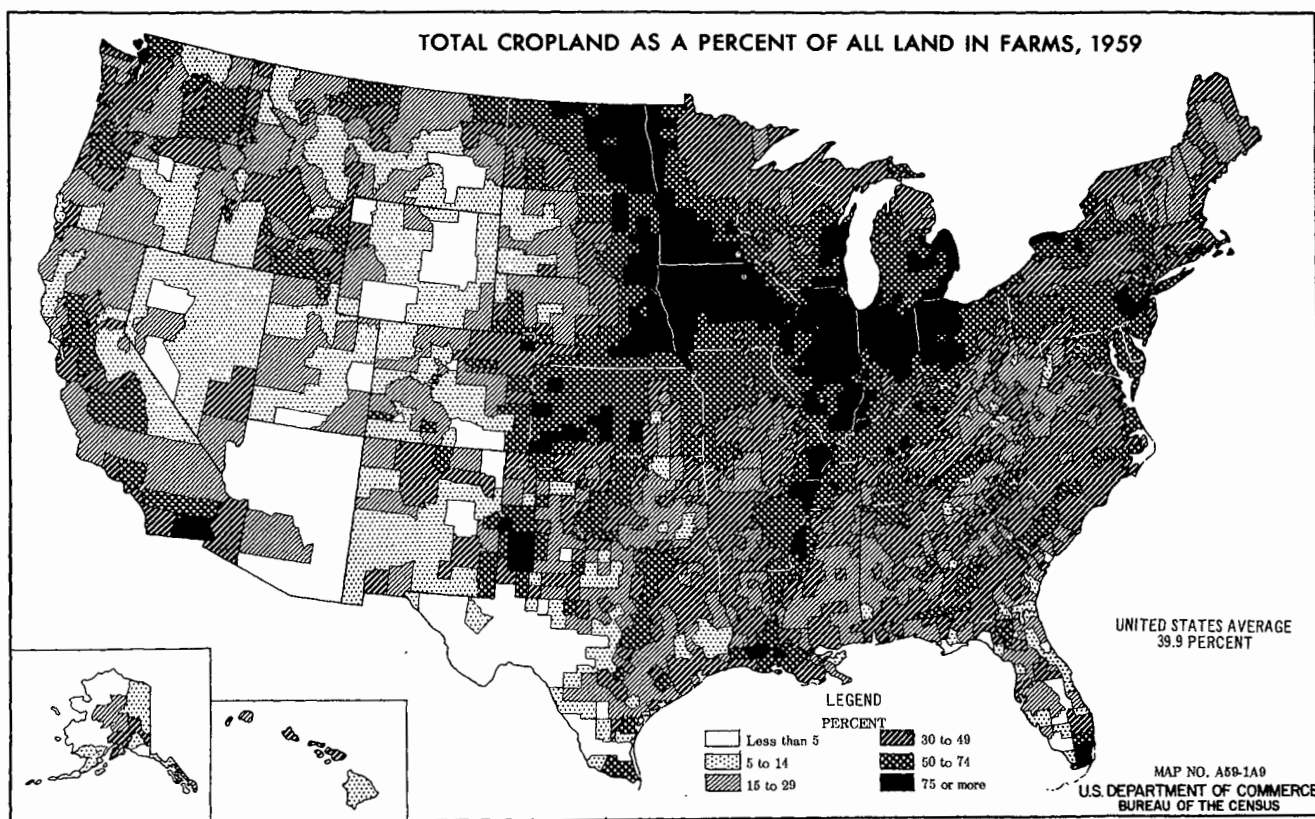
Cropland comprises 311 million acres of cropland harvested, 66 million acres of cropland used only for pasture, and 71 million acres of cropland not harvested and not pastured. The cropland not harvested includes 31 million acres of cultivated summer fallow, and 40 million acres of idle land, land on which crops failed, and land planted in crops for future harvest.

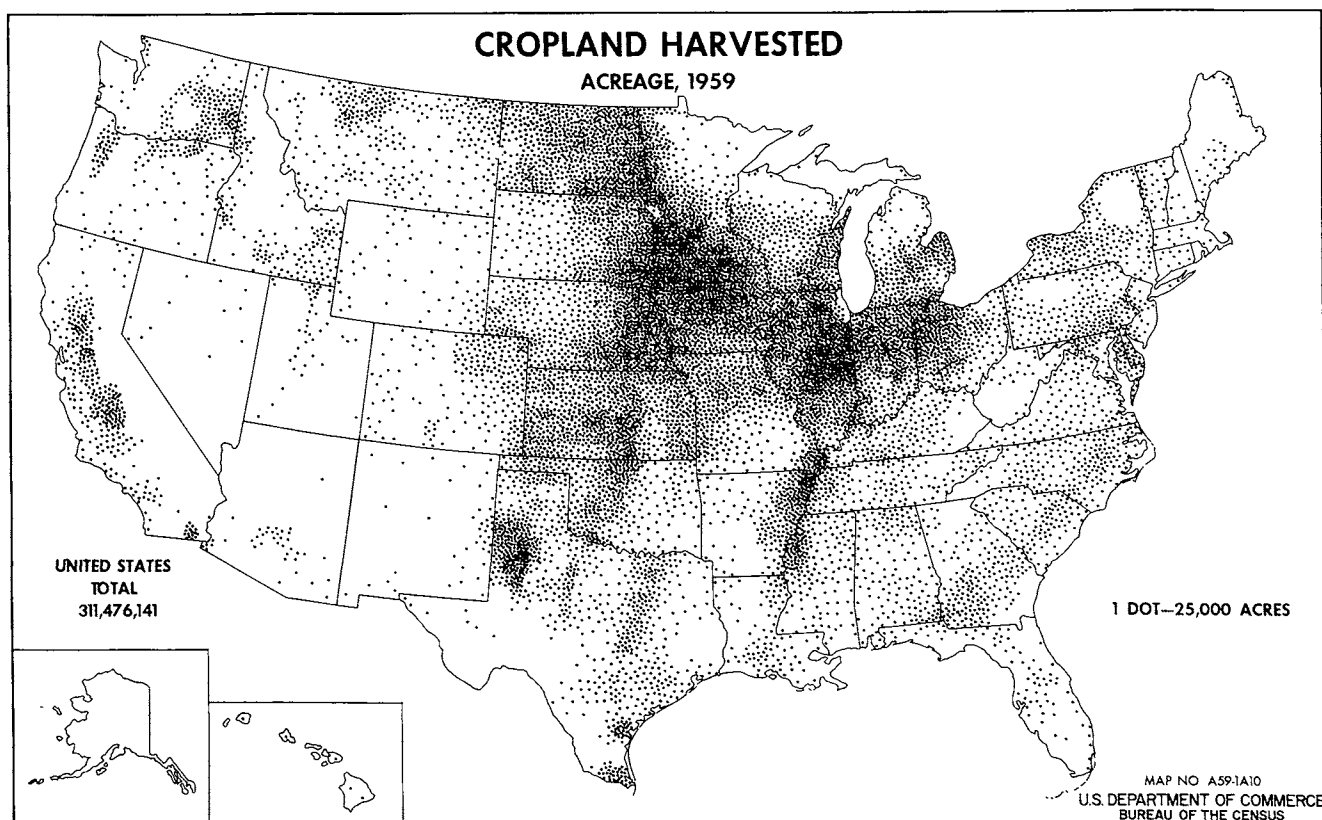
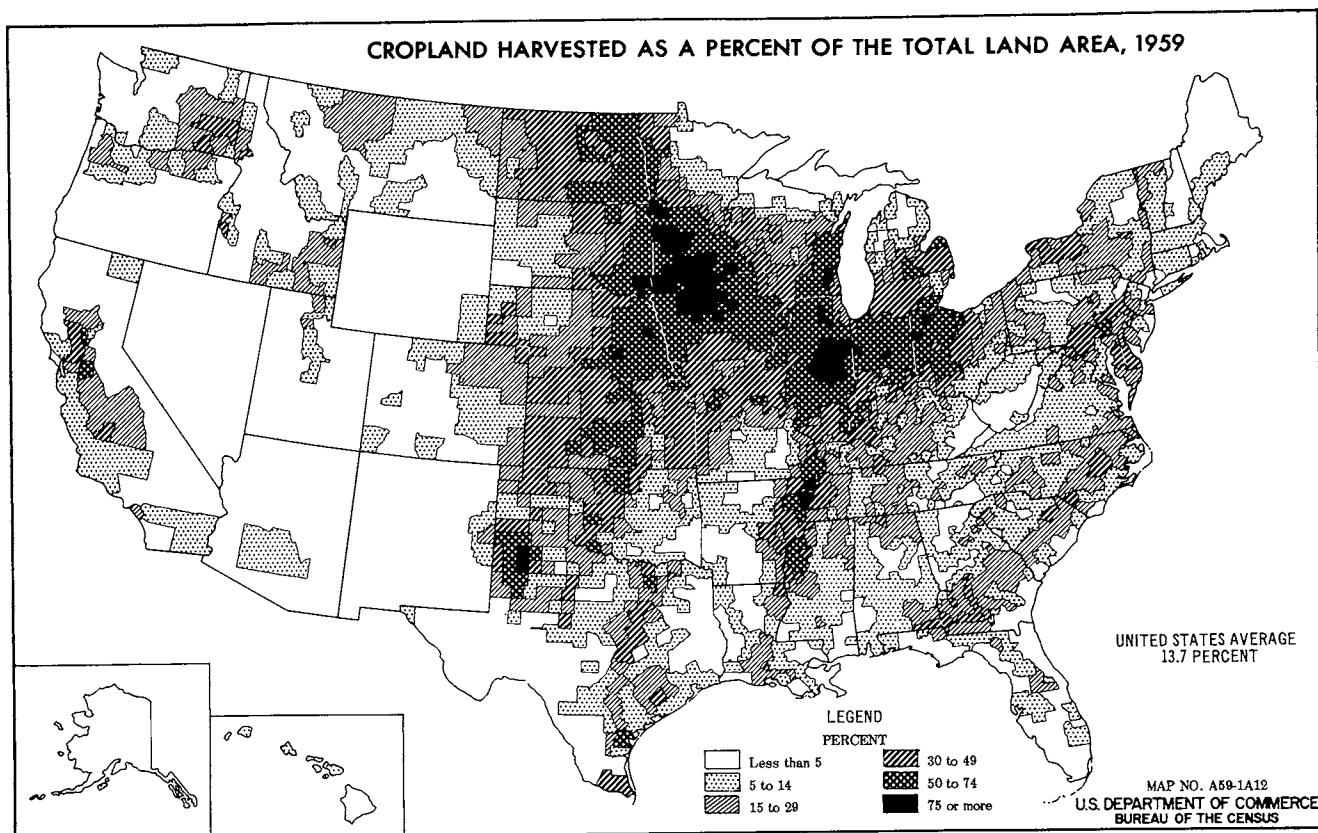
The total acreage of all pasture and grazing land was 953 million acres. This total includes 66 million acres of cropland used only for pasture and 887 million acres of other pasture and grazing lands. Pasture and grazing lands in farms total 625 million acres and grazing lands not in farms account for the remaining 328 million acres.

The total woodland and forest land amounts to 593 million acres and includes 93 million acres of woodland and forest land pastured and grazed and 500 million acres not pastured or grazed. Woodland in farms totals 164 million acres while woodland and forest land not in farms totals 429 million acres. The 593 million acres of woodland and forest land do not include forest land in parks, wildlife refuges, etc.

A large part of the Nation's agricultural production comes from the land used for crop production. The total cropland in 1959 amounted to 448 million acres and cropland comprised one-fifth of the total land area. The total cropland includes the area of cropland used only for pasture.

Total cropland is heavily concentrated in the Corn Belt and the eastern part of the Great Plains. Eleven Corn Belt and Great Plains States have more than half of the Nation's total cropland, yet the land area of these 11 States comprises only one-fifth of the total land area of the 50 States. There are other concentrations of cropland along the lower Mississippi River and along the States bordering the Great Lakes. In the 11 Western States of the conterminous United States, the area of cropland is very closely associated with irrigation or the production of wheat.

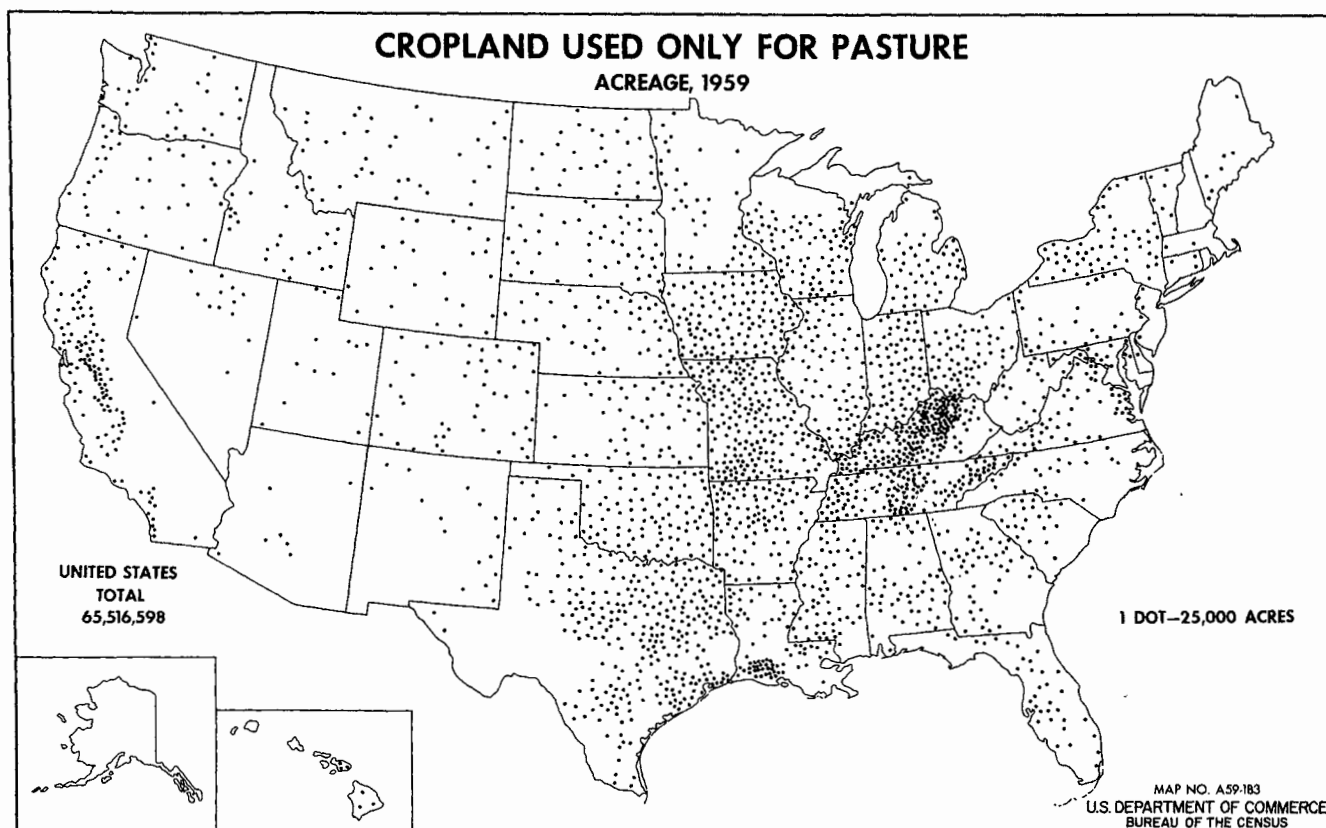




Cropland harvested comprised 70 percent of total cropland in 1959. The distribution of cropland harvested is very similar to that of total cropland. Extensive land area with relatively small

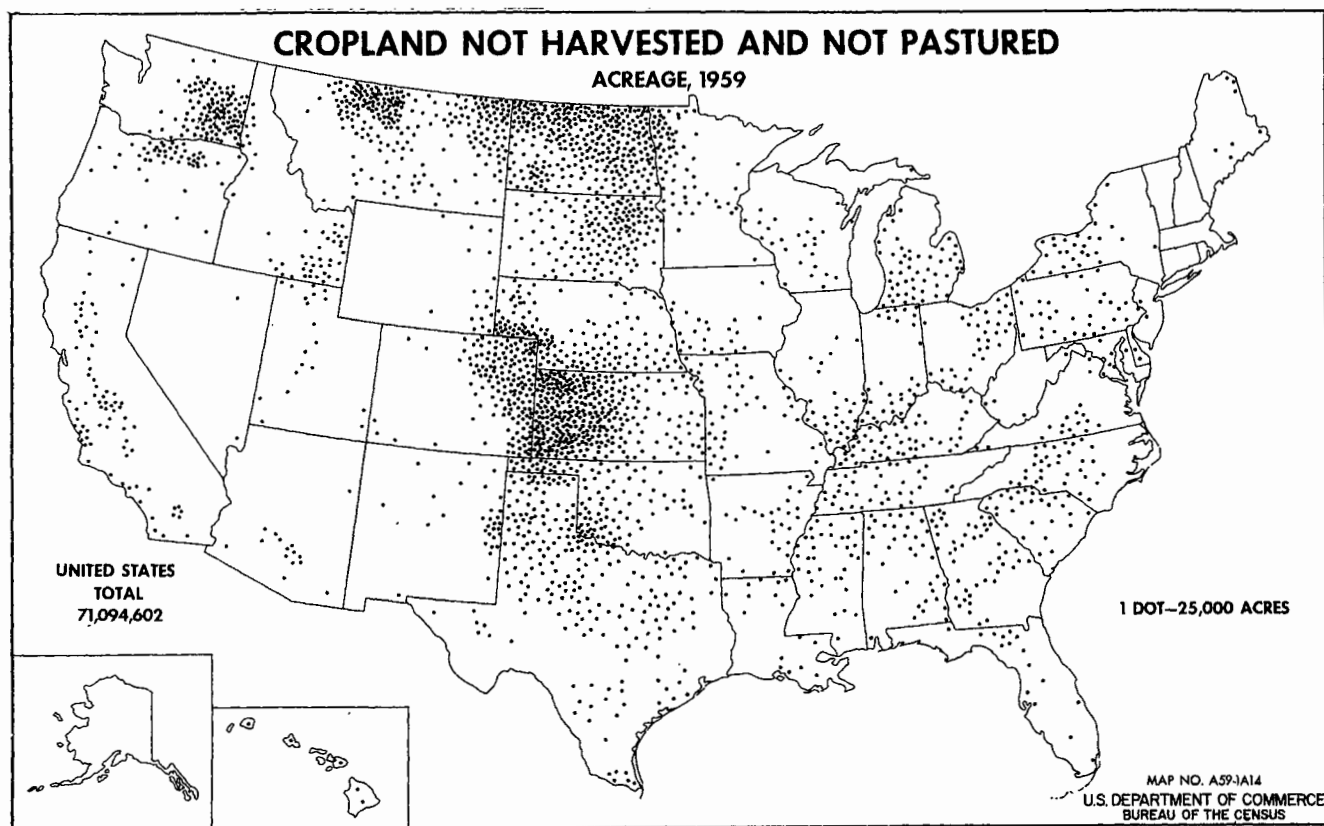
amounts of cropland harvested include areas in the West that are too dry and areas in the East that are too rough, too wet, or with soils too unproductive for profitable use.

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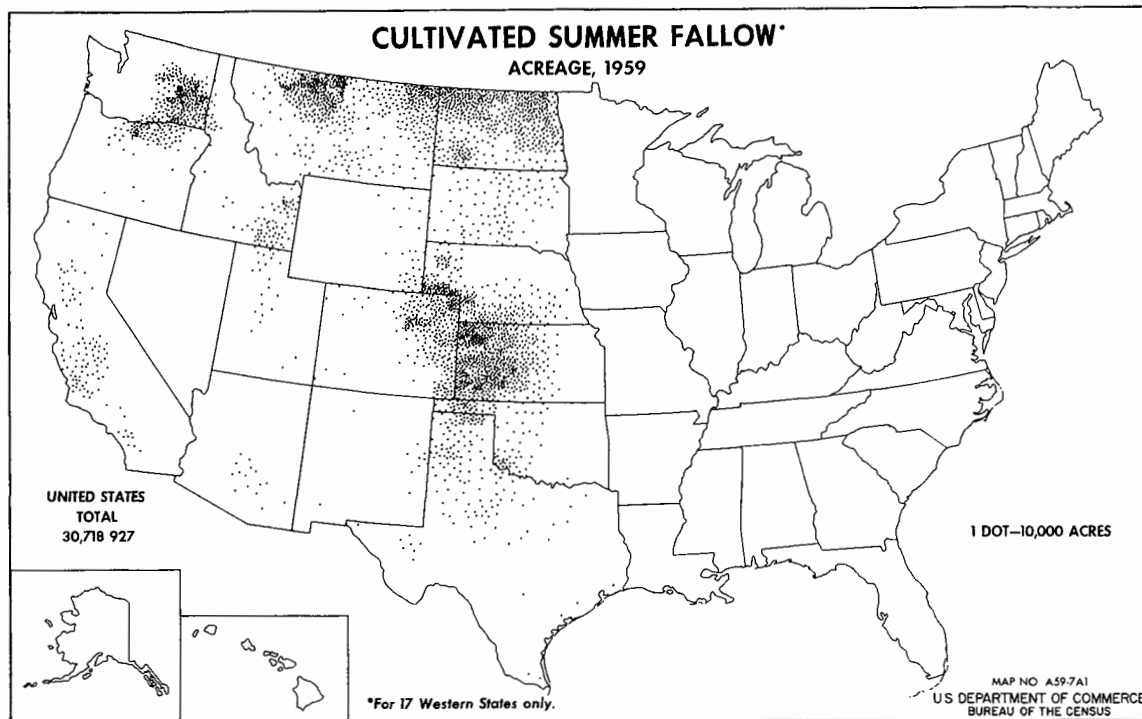
Cropland used only for pasture totaled 66 million acres in 1959 and comprises land used mostly in rotation with crops. Some cropland used for pasture may be in transition between its

use for crops and a state of idleness, which may be followed by reversion to other pasture or to woodland.



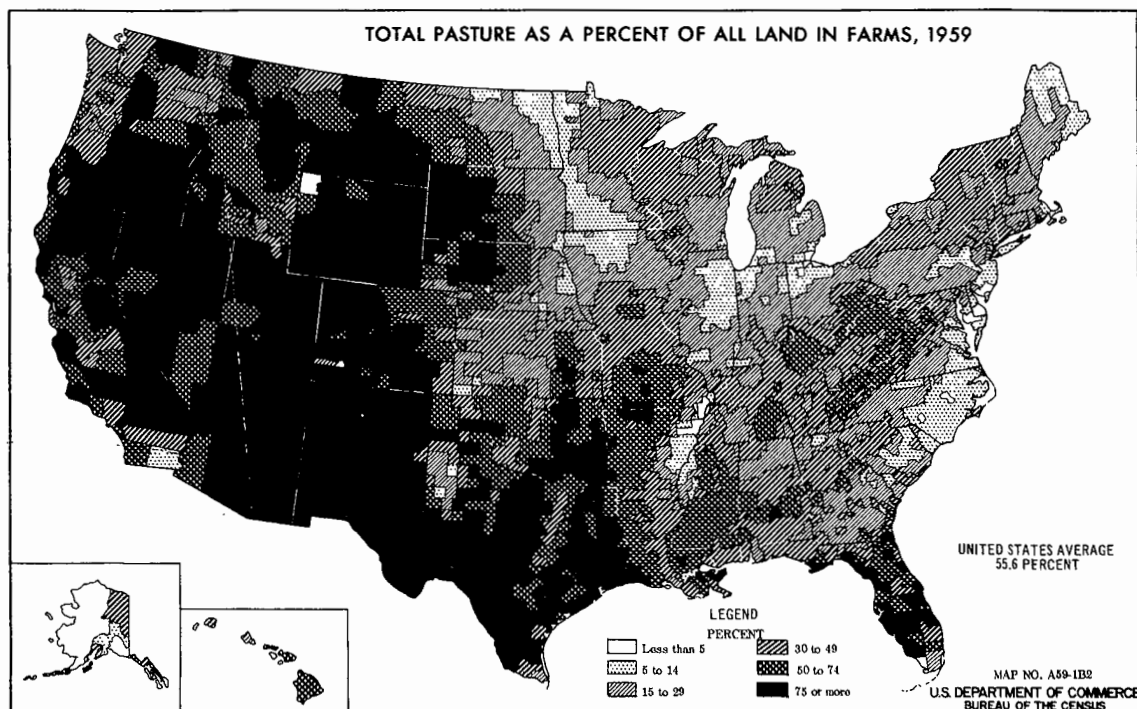
Cropland not harvested and not pastured in 1959 comprised 31 million acres of cultivated summer fallow; 16 million acres in soil-improvement crops; and 24 million acres of idle cropland,

land on which all crops failed, and land on which crops were planted for harvest after 1959.



Cultivated summer fallow accounts for approximately three-sevenths of the cropland not harvested and not pastured. The practice of summer fallowing is closely associated with the growing of wheat in the drier parts of the major wheat-producing areas. The accumulation of soil moisture and the consequent

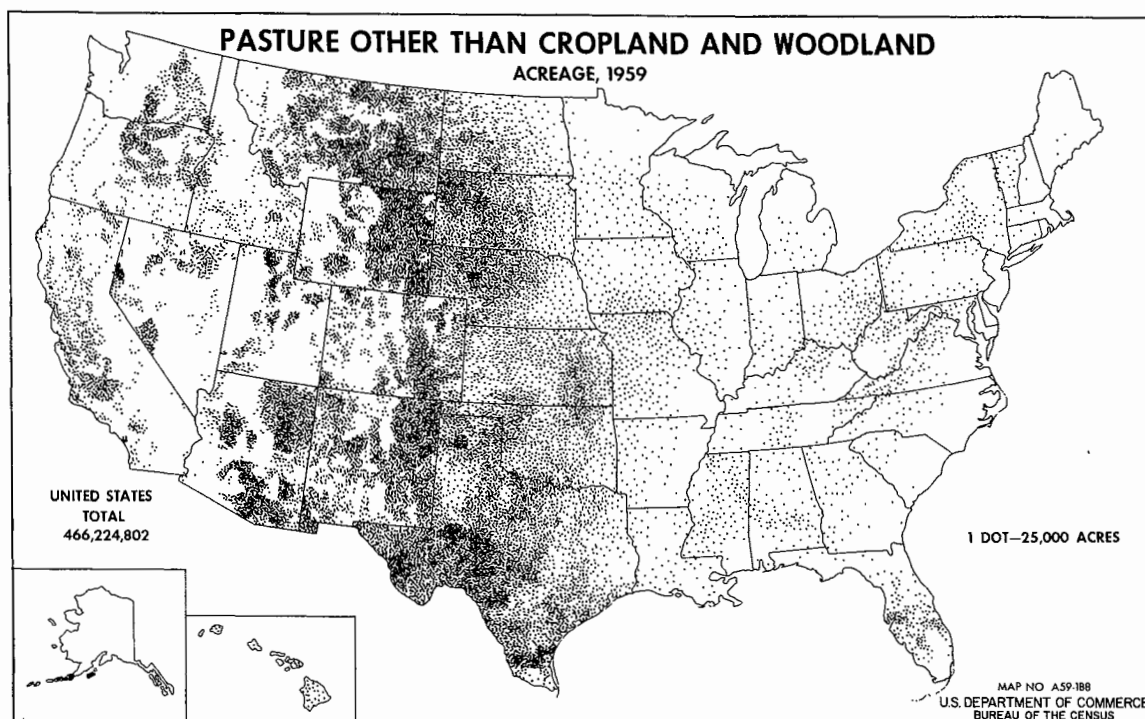
improvement in yields per acre results from letting the land lie idle for a crop season and by cultivating it to keep it free from weeds. Cultivated summer fallow is confined almost entirely to the West and to the spring and winter wheat producing areas.



Every part of the United States has some pastureland. The total acreage of pastureland in 1959 was 625 million acres. If the 328 million acres of grazing lands not in farms are added to the acres of pasture and grazing lands in farms, the total acreage of pasture and grazing lands is 953 million acres. Cropland used only for pasture comprises the most productive part

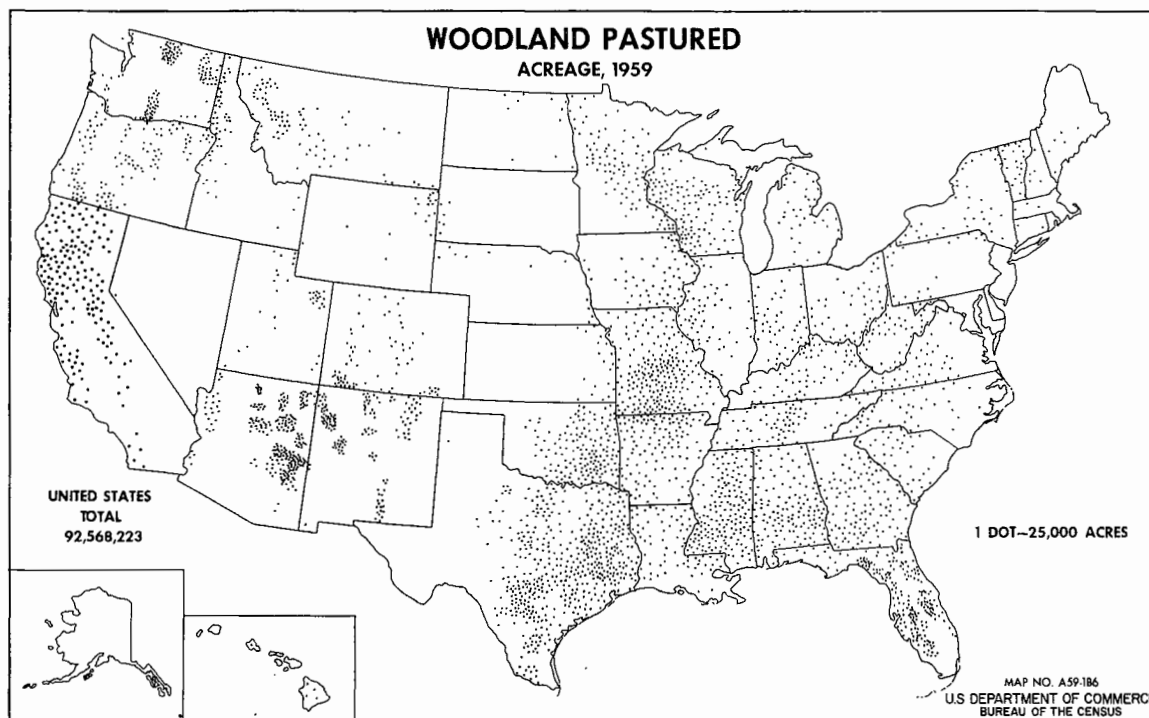
of the Nation's pasture and grazing lands. Generally, it is land used for pasture in rotation with crops. This kind of pastureland is concentrated in the Corn Belt, the Mississippi Delta, the Southern Plains, and the western part of the Appalachian Mountain States.

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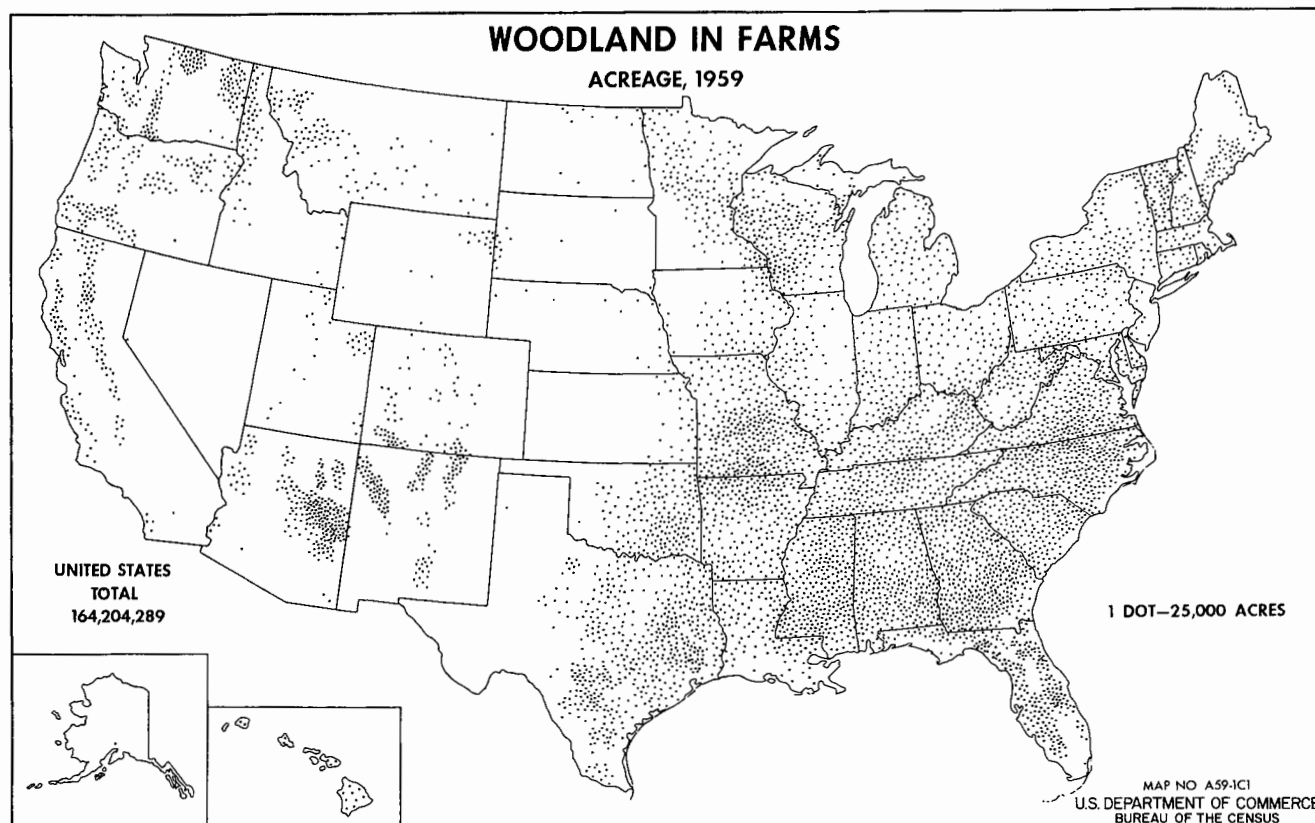
Pastureland other than cropland and woodland varies greatly in quality. In 1959, the total area of this kind of pasture was 466 million acres. Approximately 23 million acres or 5 percent

of this class of land has been improved by liming, fertilizing, irrigating, draining, or reseeding.



Woodland pasture in farms totaled 93 million acres in 1959. The productivity of this kind of pasture varies greatly. The area includes cutover forests, land once used for crops or open pasture in the process of reverting to forest land, arid woodland, brush and scrub land, etc.

Woodland in farms totaled 164 million acres and accounted for nearly one-sixth of land in farms. Much of the woodland in farms is located in the Appalachian Mountain and Southeastern States.



CHANGES IN FARMS

Change in the Number of Farms.—In 1959, there were nearly 1.1 million fewer farms than in 1954. The 3.7 million farms in 1959 was the lowest number recorded at any census since 1870. In 1850, the first census for which a count of farms was taken, there were 1,449,073 farms, or one farm for each 16 persons liv-

ing in the United States. With the growth of population and westward migration, the number of farms increased along with the growth in population. By 1880, the number of farms had increased to over 4 million, and by 1910, the number was more than 6½ million, or one farm for each 14.5 persons. In this period from 1880 to 1910, the number of farms increased with the settlement of new lands.

Table 4.—NUMBER OF FARMS, ALL LAND IN FARMS, AND VALUE OF FARMS, FOR THE UNITED STATES:
1850 TO 1959

[Data for value of farms in the conterminous United States for 1959, 1954, and 1950 are based on reports for only a sample of farms. See text. Figures for regions, divisions, and States in Tables 9 and 21.]

Year	Number of farms		All land in farms				Value of farms (land and buildings)				Approximate land area	
	Total	Increase or decrease (-) from previous census ¹		Acres	Increase or decrease (-) from previous census ¹		Total (dollars)	Increase or decrease (-) from previous census ¹ (percent)	Average per farm (dollars)	Average per acre (dollars)	Acres ²	Percent in farms
		Number	Percent		Acres	Percent						
1959.....	3,710,503	-1,078,522	-22.6	1,123,507,574	-38,033,722	-3.3	128,987,659,000	32.2	34,825	115.15	2,271,343,360	49.5
1954 ¹	4,782,416	-599,746	-11.1	1,158,191,511	-374,341	(2)	97,582,918,000	29.7	20,405	84.25	1,903,824,640	60.8
1950.....	5,388,437	-477,007	-8.1	1,161,419,720	16,950,488	1.5	75,462,427,000	62.2	14,005	64.97	2,273,406,080	51.1
1945 ¹	5,859,169	-237,630	-3.9	1,141,615,364	80,762,990	7.6	46,388,925,560	37.9	7,917	40.63	1,905,361,920	59.9
1940.....	6,102,417	-715,551	-10.5	1,065,113,774	6,337,263	0.6	33,758,367,972	2.4	5,532	31.69	2,274,943,360	46.8
1935 ¹	6,812,350	523,702	8.3	1,054,515,111	67,744,095	6.9	32,858,844,012	-31.4	4,823	31.16	1,903,216,640	55.4
1930.....	6,295,103	-82,992	-1.3	990,111,984	62,451,664	6.8	47,994,475,975	-3.2	7,624	48.47	2,272,798,720	43.6
1925 ¹	6,371,640	-76,703	-1.2	924,319,352	-31,564,363	-3.3	49,467,647,287	-25.4	7,764	53.52	1,903,216,640	48.6
1920.....	6,453,991	86,841	1.4	958,676,612	77,085,390	8.8	66,446,345,611	90.6	10,295	69.31	2,272,824,320	42.2
1910.....	6,366,044	624,130	10.9	881,431,469	40,206,551	4.8	34,884,925,036	109.5	5,480	39.58	2,272,898,560	38.8
1900.....	5,739,657	1,172,731	25.7	841,201,546	215,373,155	34.6	16,674,677,447	25.1	2,905	19.82	2,273,070,720	37.0
1890 ²	4,564,641	555,734	13.9	623,218,619	87,136,784	16.3	13,279,252,649	30.2	2,909	21.31	1,903,337,600	32.7
1880 ³	4,008,907	1,348,922	50.7	536,081,835	128,346,794	31.5	10,197,096,776	37.0	2,544	19.02	1,903,337,600	28.2
1870 ¹	2,659,985	615,908	30.1	407,735,041	522,503	0.1	37,444,054,462	12.0	2,799	18.26	1,903,337,600	21.4
1860 ¹	2,044,077	595,004	41.1	407,212,538	113,651,924	38.7	6,645,045,007	103.1	3,251	16.32	1,903,337,600	21.4
1850 ¹	1,449,073	...	...	293,560,614	...	...	3,271,575,426	...	2,258	11.14	1,884,375,680	15.6

² Less than 0.05 percent.

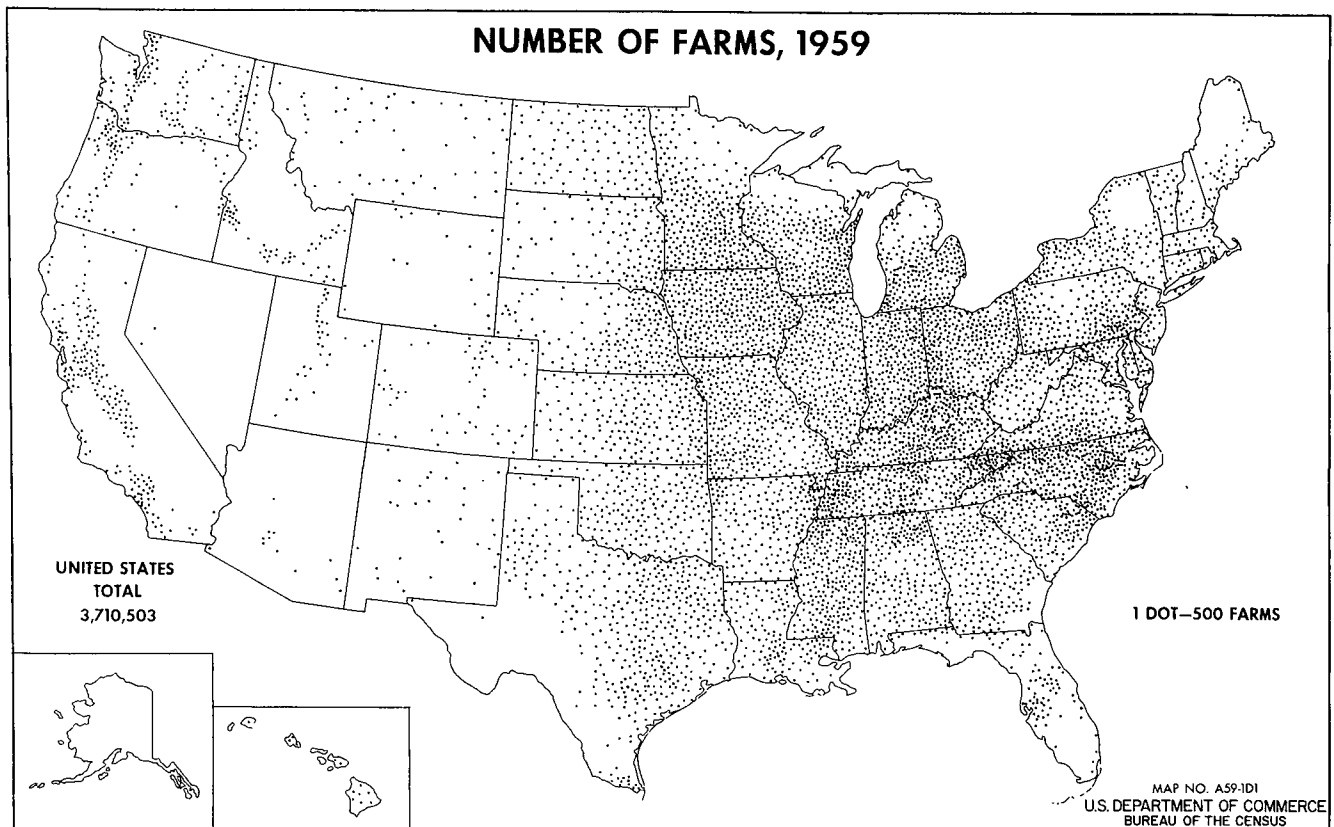
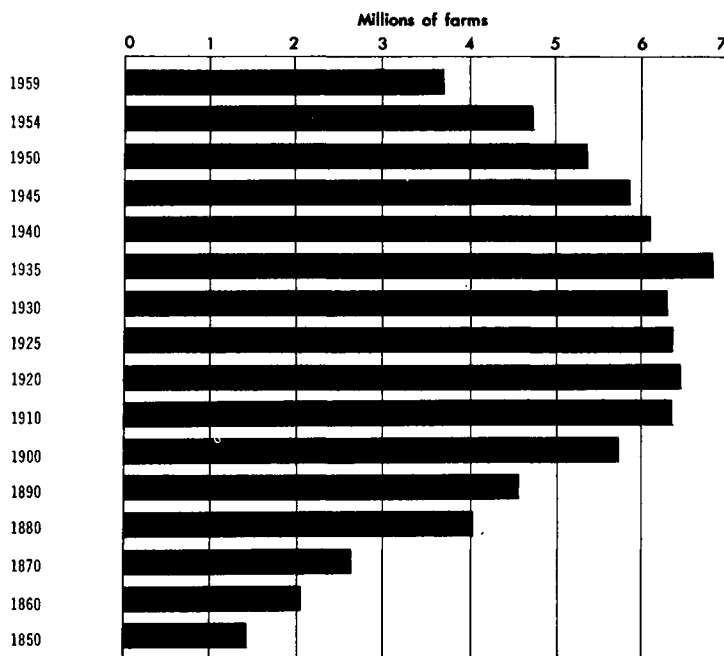
³ Data for Alaska and Hawaii not included.

⁴ Changes in land area represent changes in boundaries, changes due to construction of reservoirs, to drainage of lakes and swamps, etc., except for 1940 when a complete re-measurement of the United States was made.

⁵ Does not include value of land and buildings for Hawaii.

⁶ Does not include value of land and buildings for Alaska.

⁷ Value of gold—approximately 1/5 less than reported currency values published in the 1870 report.

**NUMBER OF FARMS IN THE UNITED STATES: 1850 TO 1959**

During the next two decades, 1910 to 1930, the number of farms and land in farms remained relatively stationary. From 1910 to 1920, the number of farms increased 1.4 percent, as compared with a 10.9 percent increase during the preceding decade. Land in farms increased 8.8 percent between 1910 and 1920, as compared with 4.8 percent increase between 1900 and 1910. In 1920, there were nearly $6\frac{1}{2}$ million farms in the United States, and by 1930, the number of farms had dropped to a level slightly below that of 1910.

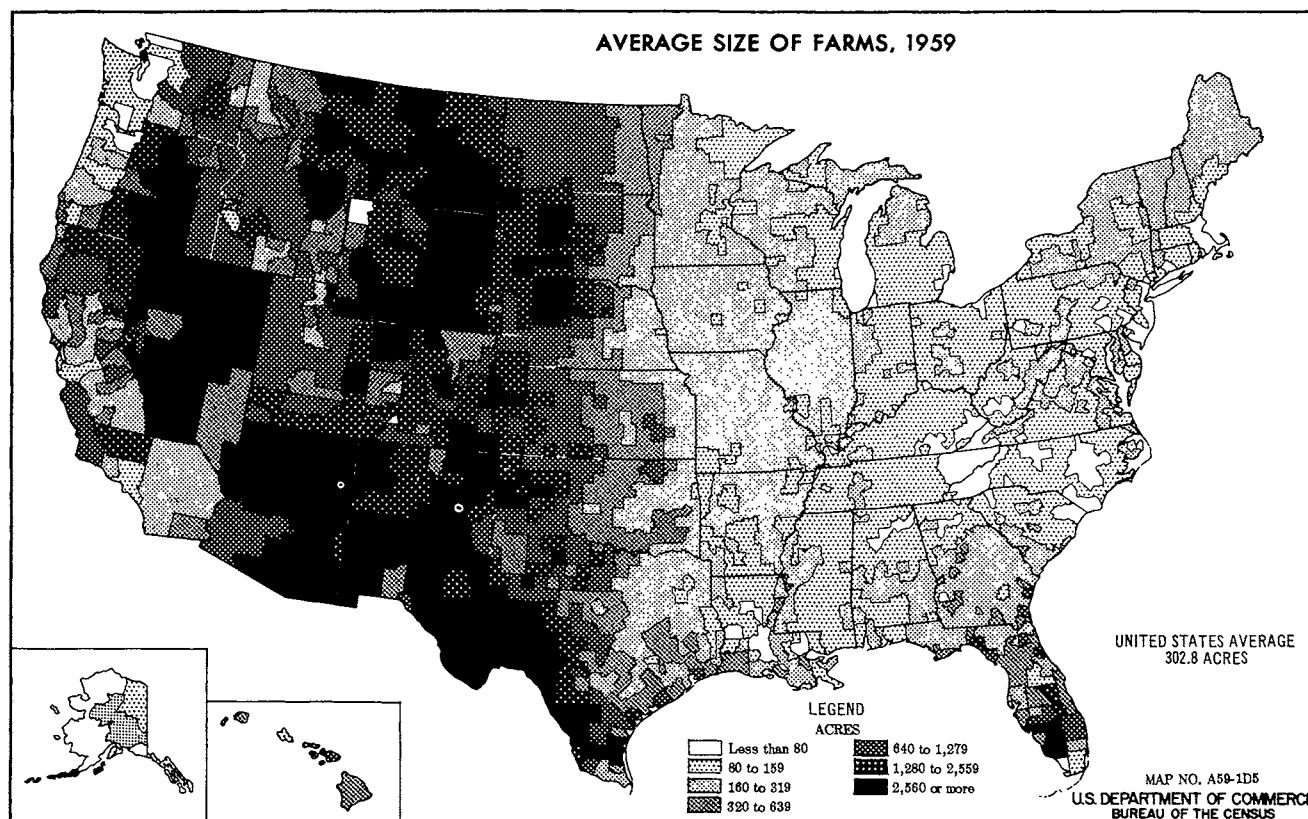
Since 1920, the trend in number of farms has been downward, except for a brief increase during the depression years when many people turned to the land for subsistence. The 1935 census recorded an alltime high of 6.8 million farms. The back-to-the-land movement, however, was short-lived. By 1940, there were 3.1 percent fewer farms than in 1930. This downward trend in the number of farms has continued at an accelerated rate, with a decline of nearly 4 percent between 1940 and 1945, slightly more than 8 percent between 1945 and 1950, over 11 percent from 1950 to 1954, and 22.6 percent from 1954 to 1959. By 1959 the number of farms was 2.7 million fewer than in 1920 and more than 3.1 million fewer than the peak reached in 1935. In 1959 the number of farms relative to the total population was only about one-third that of 1920—one farm per 48.3 persons in 1959 as compared with one farm per 16.4 persons in 1920.

In the East, abandonment of some of the poorer agricultural lands, particularly in the more mountainous and hilly areas, and the diversion of farmlands to other uses, have resulted in a substantial decline in the number of farms. In the Northeast, consistent decreases in the number of farms have occurred since 1880. The growth of cities, suburban development, factory sites, new highways, and the like, have eliminated numerous farms. By 1959 there were about 76 million fewer acres of land in farms east of the Mississippi River than in 1900. Between 1954 and 1959, the net loss of land in farms in this area was 34 million acres.

Although the trend in total number of farms generally has been down since 1920 there have been some increases because of the development of new lands and shifts in some areas to more intensive types of farming. Many of the increases in the West are associated with the development of irrigation projects. In the 17 Western States, there were 262,614 irrigated farms in 1959, or 22.1 percent more than the 215,152 irrigated farms reported in the 1920 census. The clearing and draining of land continued to be factors in scattered areas, particularly in parts of the South.

Consolidation of smaller farms into larger operating units has been an important factor contributing to the large net decrease in the number of farms since 1920. In 1920, the average farm was 148 acres in size with 54 acres of cropland harvested. By 1959, the average size of farm had increased to 303 acres with 84 acres of cropland harvested. From 1954 to 1959 the average size of farm increased by 61 acres, for each 5-year intercensal period from 1935 to 1950, by approximately 20 acres, and about 27 acres from 1950 to 1954 or a total gain of 148 acres, or 95 percent in the 25-year period, 1935 to 1959.

Mechanization of farming has made it possible for farm operators to handle increasingly larger acreages with the same labor. Also, the full and efficient utilization of modern farm machinery and equipment favors larger farm units. Combination of farms has been encouraged by more attractive opportunities of employment at nonfarm jobs in cities and in industry. Many farmers discontinued or curtailed their farming operations and provided additional land for those farmers who desired and were able to increase the size of their operations.



Farmers and farm families have been leaving the farm in large numbers. The farm population, except for brief periods, has been declining since 1910. By 1960, the farm population was down to 13,445,000 persons and represented only 7.5 percent of the total population. In 1910, more than one-third of the total population lived on farms. From 1935 to 1960, the farm population decreased by nearly three-fifths. A significant part of this decrease resulted from a change in definition.

This decrease in farm population was accompanied by an increase in both the rural nonfarm and the urban populations. All net losses in the farm population are not due to actual movement of persons from rural to urban areas.

But not all farmers who accept employment at nonfarm jobs give up their farm operations entirely. The number of part-time farms has been increasing. In 1929, farm operators working off their farms 100 or more days accounted for 11.5 percent of all farm operators. By 1939, this ratio had increased to 15.5 percent; by 1949, to 23.3 percent; by 1954, to 27.9 percent; and by 1959 to 29.9 percent. In addition to farm operators who were formerly full-time farmers, these part-time farmers include persons engaged primarily in nonfarm activities, who have moved into rural areas and engaged in agriculture sufficiently for their places to qualify as farms under the census definition.

This development has been stimulated by the automobile, better roads, and the widespread availability of facilities such as electricity and the telephone. There is an increasing number of non-

farm rural population relative to the farm population and the large number of part-time and of part-retirement farms relative to the number of commercial farms. These part-time and part-retirement farms comprised 34.8 percent of all farms in 1959. Although large in number, these part-time and part-retirement farms contribute only a negligible portion of the total agricultural production.

These part-time and part-retirement farms are generally small in size. More than one-half are under 50 acres (51.3 percent in 1959). They account for two-thirds of the farms under 10 acres and more than three-fifths of the farms 10 to 49 acres.

From 1954 to 1959, the number of farms decreased in all conterminous States, and in all except 42 of the 3,067 counties in the 48 conterminous States.

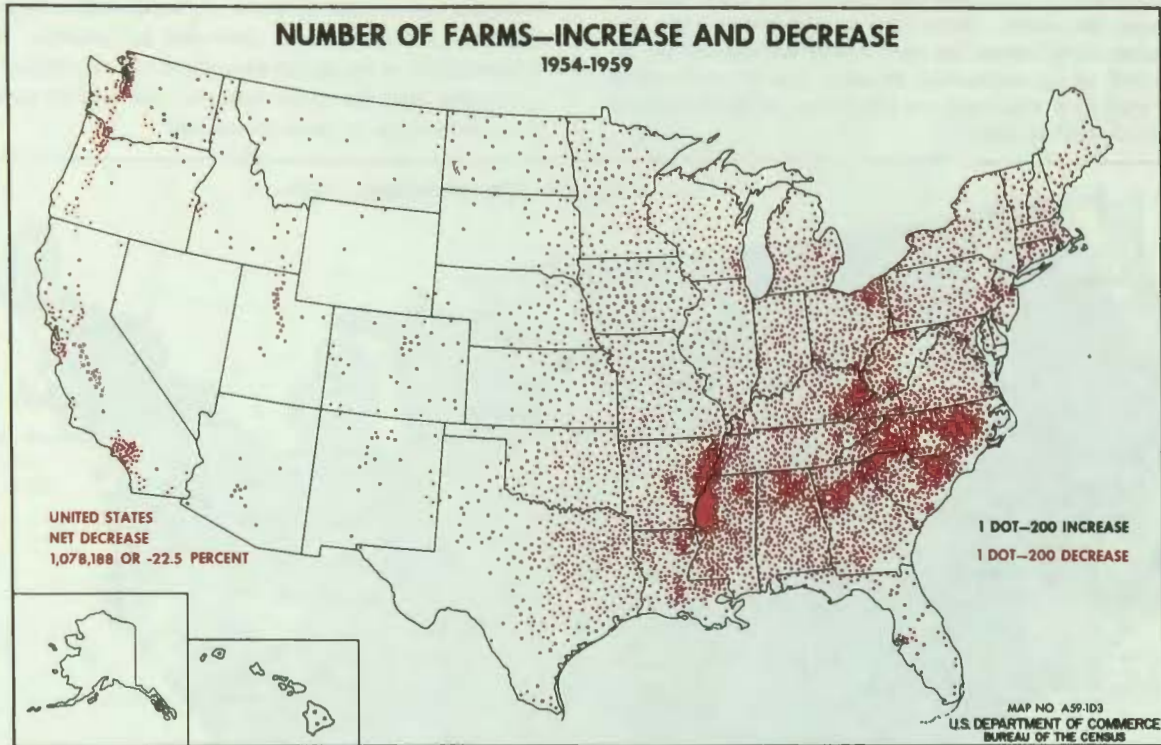
The largest decreases in number of farms from 1954 to 1959 were in the South, with two-thirds million fewer farms in 1959 than in 1954, a loss of more than one-fourth of the farms in the South. Much of the loss was attributable to the disappearance of share-tenant and cropper farms with the land absorbed into larger operating units. In 1959, there were 315,216 fewer tenants in the South than in 1954. There were 146,625 fewer croppers and 101,984 fewer share tenants in 1959 than in 1954.

The largest percentage losses in number of farms were in the South Atlantic and New England areas. In those areas, there

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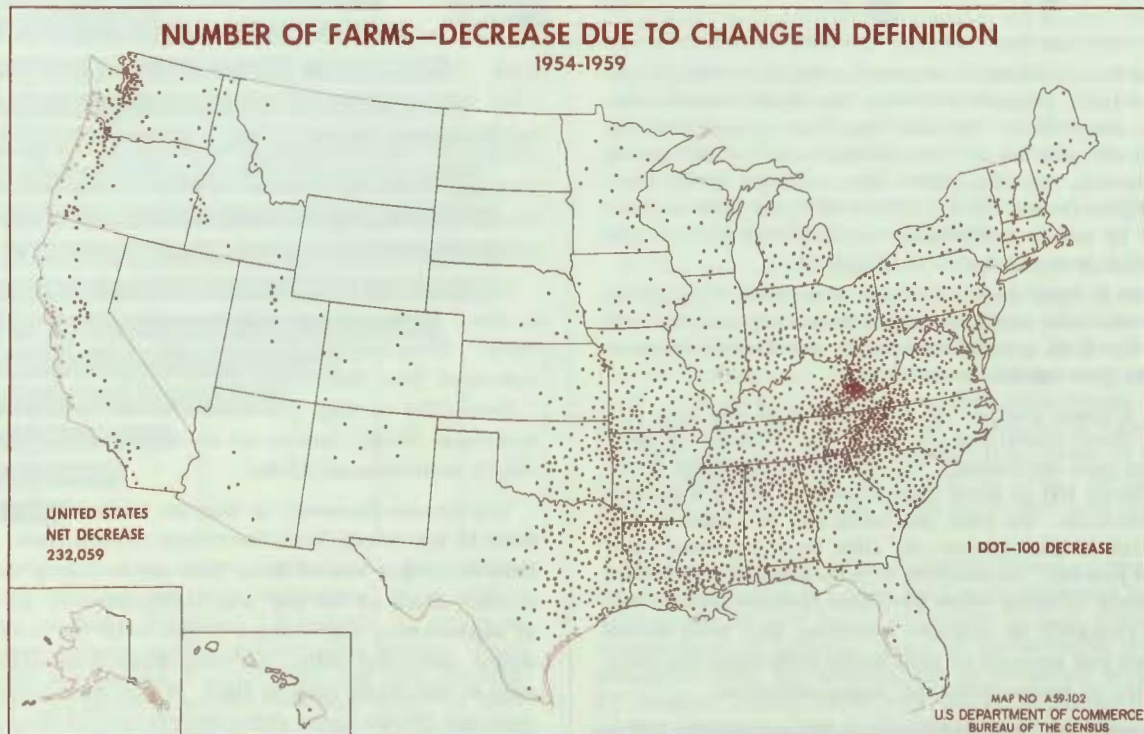
were nearly one-third fewer farms in 1959 than in 1954. Throughout much of the South and the Northeast, the decline in marginal farms and part-time farms accounted for a large part of the decrease in all farms.

Much of the increase and decrease in number of farms can be attributed to changes in the number of farms with sales of farm products of less than \$2,500.



Effect of Definitions and Procedures on Number of Farms.—Changes in the total number of farms from census to census have been affected by changes in definitions and procedures. The change in definition accounted for 232,000 of the 1,078,000 de-

crease in number of farms from 1954 to 1959. (For a more detailed discussion on the effect of the change in the definition of a farm for 1959 on the number of farms, see page XXXII of the Introduction.) For 1950, the definition of a farm was changed



both for places of less than 3 acres and places of 3 or more acres. For several censuses prior to 1950, places of less than 3 acres were counted as farms, if the value of agricultural products for home use and for sale amounted to \$250 or more. For 1950 and 1954, places of less than 3 acres were not counted as farms unless the value of agricultural products sold amounted to \$150 or more. The more restricted definition used for 1950 and 1954 resulted in the inclusion of fewer farms of less than 3 acres than would have been the case if the definition of a farm had not been changed in 1950. In the 48 conterminous States the number of farms of less than 3 acres was 98,966 in 1945; 76,606 in 1950; 99,896 in 1954; and 77,562 in 1959.

Places of 3 or more acres were counted as farms in censuses prior to 1950 if there were farm products produced during the year preceding the census (other than only a small home garden, a few fruit trees, or a very small flock of chickens, etc.). For the 1950 and 1954 censuses, places of 3 or more acres were counted as farms only if the annual value of agricultural products, exclusive of home-garden products, amounted to \$150 or more. The agricultural products could have been either for home use or sale. This more restricted definition for places of 3 or more acres, likewise, resulted in the inclusion of fewer farms in the 1950 and 1954 censuses than would have been included had there been no change in the definition for farms of 3 or more acres. The smaller size farms were most affected by this change. (In the 48 conterminous States in 1945 there were 2,149,999 farms of 3 to 49 acres; in 1950, the number was 1,886,158; in 1954 it was 1,597,226; and in 1959 it was 974,373.)

The more restrictive definition of a farm in 1950 resulted in the elimination in the office processing of 247,000 enumerated places, most of which would have been counted as farms if the same criteria had been used in 1950 as in prior censuses. Had the 1950 criteria been used in 1945, the number of places eliminated would have been appreciably less than the 247,000 places eliminated in 1950. The number of part-time farms and country homes with meager agricultural production was increasing during this period. A decrease of an estimated 150,000 to 170,000 farms between 1945 and 1950 was attributable to the change in the census definition.

By 1945, the number of small farms, marginal in respect to the census definition, had reached significant proportions. A part of this situation was the result of the increasing importance of part-time farms and country homes, and part to increasing price levels. Numerous places were included in the count of farms only because of the reported value of products for family use was sufficient to qualify the place as a farm. In some instances, the only agricultural production was a home garden. In 1945, there were nearly 100,000 farms of under 3 acres, or two and three-fourths times as many as in 1940. This situation led to the adoption of the more rigid definition used in 1950 and 1954, and to the determination of marginal cases during the office processing instead of providing the enumerator with the definition of a farm and permitting him to make the determination of which places were to be enumerated as farms.

Census procedures sometimes have had an appreciable effect on county data for the number of farms without necessarily affecting significantly the totals for a State or the United States. For example, a part of the increase in number of farms in some of the citrus-growing counties in Florida, in 1954 as compared with 1950, was the result of the improvement in enumeration procedures. In 1954, the enumerators were provided with a list of known citrus growers to assist them in accounting for all farms in their districts. An effort was made to obtain reports directly from each owner. In 1950 and earlier censuses, the enumeration depended largely on getting information for groves of nonresident

owners from caretakers, often with one questionnaire filled in the name of the caretaker as manager covering all groves under his care.

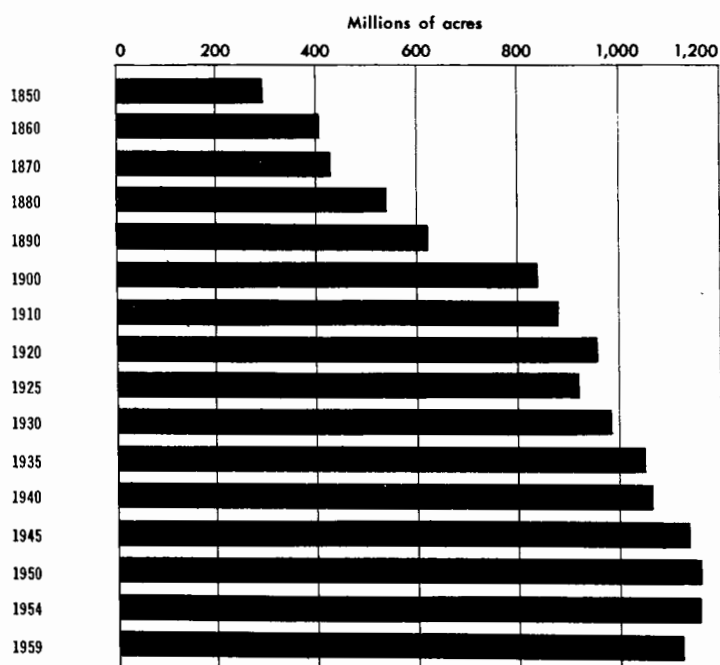
Much of the variation in number of farms in some counties with Indian reservations occurred because of differences in enumeration procedures. For 1959, 1954, and 1950, the instructions called for filling questionnaires for every individual Indian having allotted or owned lands. Land in Indian reservations not reported by individual Indians or not rented to non-Indians was to be reported in the name of the cooperative group using the land. Enumerators had difficulty in determining which Indians required separate questionnaires and frequently reported the entire reservation on one questionnaire.

In 1945, a procedure which differed from that previously followed, was adopted for the enumeration of Indian reservations. It permitted much of the Indian agriculture to be reported for cooperative groups whereas previous censuses required a report for each Indian. Largely as a result of this procedure the reported number of nonwhite farm operators in 24 counties in 4 Western States was about 11,000 fewer in 1945 than in 1940. (See page 16, chapter 1, of Volume II: General Report, 1945 Census of Agriculture.)

CHANGES IN LAND USE

The changes in the major uses of land in the United States were significantly different during the period prior to 1920 and the period since 1920. The period prior to 1920 was marked by the settlement and development of lands west of the Mississippi River and the clearing of forest lands. From 1890 to 1920, cropland other than that used for pasture increased from 248 to 402 million acres. This significant expansion of cropland was accompanied by decreases in grazing land. Grazing land not in farms was reduced about 107 million acres from 1900 to 1920. Part of this grazing land was converted to cropland and part of it has since been included as land in farms. Clearing of forest lands continued during this period as cropland and nonwooded pastureland increased in the Eastern States and in parts of the Pacific Northwest.

ALL LAND IN FARMS IN THE UNITED STATES: 1850 TO 1959



GENERAL REPORT

Table 5.—MAJOR USES OF LAND IN THE UNITED STATES: 1890 TO 1959

[Figures for regions, divisions, and States in Table 13]

Item	1959	1954 ¹	1950	1945 ¹	1940	1930	1920	1910	1900	1890 ¹
Approximate land area ².....acres...	2,271,343,360	1,903,824,640	2,273,406,080	1,905,361,920	2,274,943,360	2,272,798,720	2,272,824,320	2,272,898,560	2,273,070,720	1,903,337,600
Land in farms.....acres...	1,123,507,574	1,158,191,511	1,161,419,720	1,141,615,364	1,065,113,774	990,111,984	958,676,612	881,431,469	841,201,546	623,218,619
Land not in farms.....acres...	1,147,835,786	745,633,129	1,111,986,360	763,746,556	1,209,829,586	1,282,686,736	1,314,147,708	1,391,467,091	1,431,869,174	1,280,118,981
Proportion of total land area.....percent...	50.5	39.2	48.9	40.1	53.2	56.4	57.8	61.2	63.0	67.3
Grazing land ³.....acres...	327,803,000	4352,639,000	342,150,000	6428,129,000	1504,000,000	1578,000,000	1661,000,000	1739,000,000	1768,000,000	NA
Woodland and forest land not grazed ⁴.....acres...	428,893,000	238,310,000	334,804,000	185,733,000	1219,000,000	1208,000,000	NA	NA	NA	NA
Other land ⁵.....acres...	391,140,000	154,684,000	375,033,000	149,885,000	1121,000,000	1132,000,000	NA	NA	NA	NA
Land used for agriculture, total ⁷.....acres...	1,451,310,574	1,510,830,511	1,563,569,720	1,569,744,000	1,565,000,000	1,565,000,000	1,617,000,000	1,618,000,000	1,607,000,000	NA
Proportion of total land area.....percent...	63.9	79.4	68.8	82.4	82.1	82.2	85.0	85.0	84.4	NA
Cropland other than used only for pasture.....acres...	382,570,743	393,579,123	408,827,289	403,245,042	1398,751,103	1415,334,931	1402,000,000	1347,000,000	1319,000,000	248,000,000
Proportion of total land area.....percent...	16.8	20.7	18.0	21.2	20.9	21.8	21.1	18.2	16.8	13.0
Land used for pasture and grazing.....acres...	952,112,623	999,740,000	1,023,573,813	1,051,670,000	1,065,000,000	1,042,000,000	1,066,000,000	1,121,000,000	1,131,000,000	NA
Proportion of total land area.....percent...	41.9	52.5	45.0	55.2	55.9	54.7	56.0	58.9	59.4	NA
Land used for agriculture and forestry ⁸.....acres...	1,880,203,574	1,749,140,511	1,898,373,720	1,755,477,000	1,784,000,000	1,773,000,000	1,777,000,000	1,780,000,000	1,782,000,000	NA
Proportion of total land area.....percent...	82.8	91.9	83.5	92.1	93.6	93.2	93.4	93.5	93.6	NA

NA Not available.

¹Data for Alaska and Hawaii not included.²Changes in land area represent changes in boundaries, changes due to the construction of reservoirs, to drainage of lakes and swamps, etc., except for 1940 when a complete remeasurement of the United States was made.³Estimates of Economic Research Service, U. S. Department of Agriculture. Grazing land not in farms consists of land used chiefly for grazing and includes open or nonforested grazing land, idle grassland in first decades, forest and woodland and shrub and brush grazing land in all years.⁴Includes some public and private land usable for grazing which is not necessarily grazed every year, but excludes areas of grass and other forage of value for grazing in military reservations, national parks, natural wild life areas, etc., for which permits were not issued for grazing livestock.⁵In addition to the estimated nonfarm acreage grazed, there were probably 15 to 20 million acres of nonfarm land having some forage value not used for grazing for various reasons.⁶Includes areas containing forage suitable for grazing (not legally closed to grazing), whether actually grazed or not in 1944.⁷Land in farms and grazing land not in farms.⁸Land in farms, grazing land not in farms, and woodland and forests not in farms.

In the period since 1920, there have not been large changes in major land uses. Cropland other than that used for pasture has fluctuated from about 380 to 410 million acres. Land development and improvement through drainage, irrigation, and clearing of forests have counterbalanced reversion of cropland to woodland and the conversion to such nonagricultural uses as cities, highways, parks, airports, etc. Land used for pasture and grazing has declined about 114 million acres. Grazing lands not in farms have become part of the pastureland in farms, as more public lands have been included in farms. (If grazing lands are leased by farm operators, they are included as land in farms; if they are used under permit, they are not included in the Census land in farms.)

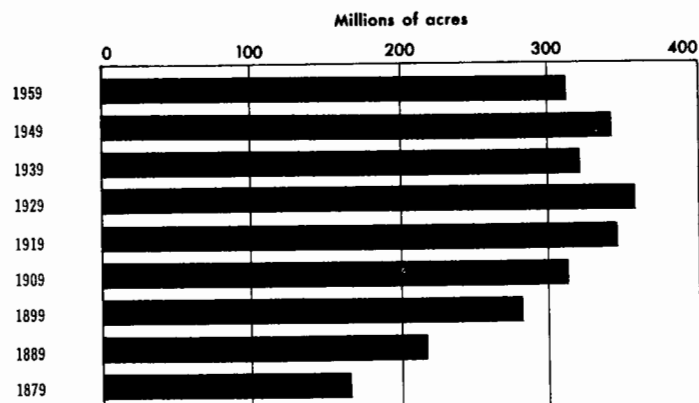
Since 1890 all land in farms has increased 500 million acres. Most of this increase resulted from the transfer of grazing lands not in farms to farms. Most of the increase in land in farms since 1890 has occurred in the 17 Western States of the conterminous United States, except for an appreciable increase in Florida during recent censuses. New settlements which continued until about 1920 account for a part of the increase. Since 1920, a half or more of the increase has resulted from the adding of approximately 100 million acres of Federal, State, and Indian reservation land to the area reported as census farms. Most of the remaining net increase occurred in privately owned lands. Changes in method of controlling grazing rights and modifications of census definitions and procedures rather than the expansion of undeveloped lands account for most of the increase of privately owned land in farms.

The decrease of approximately 12 million acres in total cropland between 1954 and 1959, resulted, in part, from the placing of entire farms in the Soil Bank, the conversion of cropland to pastureland, the conversion and reversion of some cropland to woodland and other noncropland uses, and in the abandonment or nonoperation of some farms with their included cropland, and in

the conversion of some cropland to such nonfarm uses as highways, cities, parks, suburban homesites, etc. Much of the decrease occurred in the Great Plains States in the areas where there was a significant reduction in the acreage of wheat and in the Southern and Eastern States, where there were large decreases in the number of farms.

Land in farms in 1959 was 38 million acres or 3.3 percent less than in 1954. About two-thirds of the decrease occurred in the South and resulted largely from the transfer of land in farms to forest land or to lands to be used for forest purposes, the placing of entire farms in the Soil Bank, and the discontinuance of farm operations. About one-third of the decrease in land in farms from 1954 to 1959 was in the North. This decrease resulted largely from the discontinuance of farm operations, the placing of entire farms in the Soil Bank, and the transfer of land in farms to nonfarm uses.

CROPLAND HARVESTED FOR THE UNITED STATES: 1879 TO 1959



FARMS AND LAND IN FARMS

25

Table 6.—ALL LAND IN FARMS AND SPECIFIED USES OF LAND, FOR THE UNITED STATES:
CENSUSES OF 1850 TO 1959

[Figures for regions, divisions, and States in Tables 9 to 21]

Item and year	Farms reporting					Acres				
	Number	Percent of all farms	Increase or decrease (-) from preceding census ¹		Total	Percent of all land in farms	Increase or decrease (-) from preceding census ¹		Average	
			Number	Percent			Number	Percent	Per farm (based on all farms)	Per farm reporting
Land in farms.....	U. S. 1959....	3,710,503	100.0	NA	1,123,507,574	100.0	NA	NA	302.8	302.8
	conterminous U. S. 1959....	3,703,894	100.0	-1,078,522	-22.6	1,120,157,789	100.0	-38,033,722	-3.3	302.4
	conterminous U. S. 1954....	4,782,416	100.0	-599,746	-11.1	1,158,191,511	100.0	-374,341	(2)	242.2
	U. S. 1950....	5,388,437	100.0	-477,007	-8.1	1,161,419,720	100.0	16,950,488	1.5	215.5
	conterminous U. S. 1945....	5,859,169	100.0	-237,630	-3.9	1,141,615,364	100.0	80,762,990	7.6	194.8
	U. S. 1940....	6,102,417	100.0	-715,551	-10.5	1,065,113,774	100.0	6,337,263	0.6	174.5
	conterminous U. S. 1935....	6,812,350	100.0	523,702	8.3	1,054,515,111	100.0	67,744,095	6.9	154.8
	U. S. 1930....	6,295,103	100.0	-82,992	-1.3	990,111,984	100.0	62,451,664	6.8	157.3
	conterminous U. S. 1925....	6,371,640	100.0	-76,703	-1.2	924,319,352	100.0	-31,564,363	-3.3	145.1
	U. S. 1920....	6,453,991	100.0	86,841	1.4	958,676,612	100.0	77,085,390	8.8	148.5
	U. S. 1910....	6,366,044	100.0	624,130	10.9	881,431,469	100.0	40,206,551	4.8	138.5
	U. S. 1900....	5,739,657	100.0	1,172,731	25.7	841,201,546	100.0	215,373,155	34.6	146.6
	conterminous U. S. 1890....	4,564,641	100.0	555,734	13.9	623,218,619	100.0	87,136,784	16.3	136.5
	U. S. 1880....	4,008,907	100.0	1,348,922	50.7	536,081,835	100.0	128,346,794	31.5	133.7
	conterminous U. S. 1870....	2,659,985	100.0	615,908	30.1	407,735,041	100.0	522,503	0.1	153.3
	U. S. 1860....	2,044,077	100.0	595,004	41.4	407,212,538	100.0	113,651,924	38.7	199.2
	conterminous U. S. 1850....	1,449,073	100.0	...	...	293,560,614	100.0	...	...	202.6
Cropland harvested ²	U. S. 1959....	3,201,315	86.3	NA	311,476,141	27.7	NA	NA	83.9	97.3
	conterminous U. S. 1959....	3,196,900	86.3	-907,341	-22.1	311,285,249	27.8	-21,585,230	-6.5	84.0
	U. S. 1954....	4,104,241	85.8	-630,157	-13.3	332,870,479	28.7	-11,528,101	-3.3	81.1
	conterminous U. S. 1949....	4,738,230	87.9	-629,092	-11.7	344,564,497	29.7	-8,467,251	-2.4	63.9
	U. S. 1944....	5,363,490	91.5	-349,765	-6.1	352,865,765	30.9	31,623,335	9.8	60.2
	conterminous U. S. 1939....	5,713,255	103.7	-655,933	-10.3	321,434,288	30.2	25,618,254	8.7	52.7
	U. S. 1934....	6,369,188	93.5	407,496	6.8	295,624,176	28.0	-63,617,915	-17.7	43.4
	conterminous U. S. 1929....	5,961,692	94.8	NA	NA	359,242,091	36.4	14,692,824	4.3	57.1
	U. S. 1924....	NA	NA	NA	NA	344,549,267	37.3	-4,054,462	-1.2	54.1
	conterminous U. S. 1919....	NA	NA	NA	NA	348,603,729	36.5	37,310,347	12.0	54.1
	U. S. 1909....	NA	NA	NA	NA	311,293,382	35.4	28,075,102	9.9	48.9
	conterminous U. S. 1899....	NA	NA	NA	NA	283,218,280	33.8	63,512,716	28.9	49.4
	U. S. 1889....	NA	NA	NA	NA	219,705,564	35.3	53,518,980	32.2	48.1
	conterminous U. S. 1879....	NA	NA	...	...	166,186,584	31.0	...	...	41.5
Cropland pastured:										
Cropland used only for pasture.....	U. S. 1959....	1,507,614	40.6	NA	65,516,598	5.8	NA	NA	17.7	43.5
	conterminous U. S. 1959....	1,506,787	40.7	-335,784	-18.2	65,344,894	5.8	-724,944	-1.1	17.6
	U. S. 1954....	1,842,661	38.5	-272,339	-12.9	66,069,838	5.7	-3,262,000	-4.7	13.8
	conterminous U. S. 1949....	2,115,708	39.3	3,470,465	328.6	69,487,805	6.0	3,218,882,660	346.1	12.9
Cropland used only for pasture plowed within 7 years.....	conterminous U. S. 1944....	1,644,535	28.1	3-1,646,052	3-50.0	47,449,184	4.2	3-83,930,756	3-63.9	8.1
Plowable pasture.....	conterminous U. S. 1939....	3,290,587	54.0	425,793	14.9	131,379,940	12.4	32,800,902	33.3	21.5
	conterminous U. S. 1934....	2,864,794	42.1	159,818	5.9	98,579,038	9.3	-10,580,876	-9.7	14.5
	conterminous U. S. 1929....	2,704,976	43.0	140,457	5.5	109,159,914	11.1	-4,407,584	-3.9	17.4
	conterminous U. S. 1924....	2,564,519	40.2	...	...	113,567,498	12.3	...	...	17.8
Cropland not harvested and not pastured.....	U. S. 1959....	1,096,726	29.6	NA	71,094,602	6.3	NA	NA	19.2	64.8
	conterminous U. S. 1959....	1,094,949	29.6	-194,725	-15.0	70,933,575	6.3	10,224,931	16.8	19.2
	U. S. 1954....	1,289,674	27.0	-262,538	-16.9	60,708,644	5.2	-3,398,900	-5.3	12.7
	conterminous U. S. 1949....	1,552,212	28.8	NA	NA	64,262,792	5.5	13,728,267	27.2	11.9
	U. S. 1944....	NA	NA	NA	NA	50,379,277	4.4	-27,129,396	-35.0	8.6
	conterminous U. S. 1939....	NA	NA	NA	NA	77,508,673	7.3	-42,202,082	-35.3	12.7
	U. S. 1934....	NA	NA	NA	NA	119,710,755	11.4	65,716,956	121.7	17.6
	conterminous U. S. 1929....	NA	NA	NA	NA	53,993,799	5.5	7,083,164	15.1	8.6
	U. S. 1924....	NA	NA	...	...	46,910,635	5.1	...	...	7.4
Cultivated summer fallow ⁴	17 States 1959....	195,655	20.2	-18,756	-8.7	30,718,927	4.4	2,087,524	7.3	31.7
	17 States 1954....	214,411	18.2	7,370	3.6	28,631,403	4.1	3,016,860	11.8	24.3
	17 States 1949....	207,041	15.9	NA	NA	25,614,543	3.7	NA	NA	19.6
	17 States 1944....	2,934	3.0	-3,115	-51.5	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
	17 States 1934....	6,049	0.5	631	11.6	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
	17 States 1924....	5,418	0.4	NA	NA	NA	NA	...	...	NA
Other cropland not harvested and not pastured.....	U. S. 1959....	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
	conterminous U. S. 1959....	NA	NA	NA	NA	40,214,648	3.6	8,137,407	25.4	10.9
	U. S. 1954....	1,140,171	23.8	-269,646	-19.1	32,077,241	2.8	-6,415,760	-16.7	6.7
	conterminous U. S. 1949....	1,409,817	26.2	NA	NA	38,493,001	3.3	NA	NA	7.2
	31 States 1954....	902,370	25.0	-232,148	-20.5	18,411,700	4.0	-6,101,255	-24.9	5.1
	31 States 1949....	1,134,518	27.8	NA	NA	24,512,955	5.2	NA	NA	6.0
Land used only for crops not harvested and not pastured (soil-improvement crops, new seedings, and crop failure) ⁵	31 States 1954....	305,850	8.5	NA	NA	4,953,061	1.1	NA	NA	1.4
	31 States 1954....	19,991	0.6	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Idle cropland ⁵	31 States 1954....	696,498	19.3	NA	NA	13,458,639	3.0	NA	NA	3.7
Soil-improvement crops.....	U. S. 1959....	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
	conterminous U. S. 1959....	330,191	8.9	NA	NA	16,375,535	1.5	NA	NA	4.4
Other cropland.....	U. S. 1959....	738,489	19.9	NA	NA	24,000,140	2.1	NA	NA	6.5
	conterminous U. S. 1959....	736,712	19.9	NA	NA	23,839,113	2.1	NA	NA	6.4
Crop failure.....	conterminous U. S. 1944....	385,727	6.6	-218,677	-36.2	10,297,172	0.9	-10,282,845	-50.0	1.8
	conterminous U. S. 1939....	604,404	9.9	-644,848	-51.6	20,580,017	1.9	-43,101,760	-67.7	3.4
	conterminous U. S. 1934....	1,249,252	18.3	697,930	126.6	63,681,777	6.0	50,975,194	401.2	9.3
	conterminous U. S. 1929....	551,322	8.8	NA	NA	12,706,583	1.3	-311,366	-2.4	2.0
	conterminous U. S. 1924....	NA	NA	...	...	13,017,949	1.4	...	...	2.0
Cropland, idle or fallow ⁶	conterminous U. S. 1944....	1,107,224	18.9	-544,995	-33.0	40,082,105	3.5	-16,846,551	-29.6	6.8
	conterminous U. S. 1939....	1,652,219	27.1	-379,747	-18.7	56,928,056	5.4	899,678	1.6	9.3
	conterminous U. S. 1934....	2,031,966	29.8	647,374	46.8	56,028,978	5.3	14,741,762	35.7	8.2
	conterminous U. S. 1929....	1,384,592	22.0	NA	NA	41,287,216	4.2	7,394,530	21.8	6.6
	conterminous U. S. 1924....	NA	NA	...	...	33,892,686	3.7	...	...	5.3
Woodland pastured.....	U. S. 1959....	1,099,730	29.6	NA	92,568,223	8.2	NA	NA	24.9	84.2
	conterminous U. S. 1959....	1,099,361	29.7	-401,040	-26.7	92,410,700	8.2	-28,740,935	-23.7	24.9
	U. S. 1954....	1,500,401	31.4	-196,041	-11.6	121,151,635	10.5	-13,563,340	-10.1	25.3
	conterminous U. S. 1949....	1,696,910	31.5	179,612	11.8	135,133,592	11.6	39,639,729	41.7	25.1
	conterminous U. S. 1944....	1,516,830	25.9	NA	NA	95,075,246	8.3	NA	NA	16.2
	conterminous U. S. 1934....	2,186,106	32.1	254,738	13.2	108,095,711	10.3	22,773,811	26.7	15.9
	conterminous U. S. 1929....	1,931,368	30.7	153,484	8.6	85,321,900	8.6	8,617,954	11.2	13.6
	conterminous U. S. 1924....	1,777,884	27.9	...	...	76,703,946	8.3	...	...	12.0
Woodland not pastured.....	U. S. 1959....	1,186,735	32.0	NA	71,636,066	6.4	NA	NA	19.3	60.4
	conterminous U. S. 1959....	1,186,165	32.0	-191,486	-13.9	71,273,545	6.4	-4,547,227	-6.0	19.2
	U. S. 1954....	1,377,651	28.8	-272,213	-16.5	75,820,772	6.5	-9,278,663	-10.9	15.9
	conterminous U. S. 1949....	1,650,882	30.6	-39,328	-2.3	85,426,913	7.4	13,838,252	19.4	15.9
	conterminous U. S. 1944....	1,689,192	28.8	NA	NA	71,261,183	6.2	NA	NA	12.2
	conterminous U. S. 1934....	1,909,067	28.0	297,869	18.5	77,379,254	7.3	12,755,429	19.7	11.4
	conterminous U. S. 1929....	1,611,198	25.6	-25,442	-1.6	64,623,825	6.5	-2,443,390	-3.6	10.3
	conterminous U. S. 1924....	1,636,640	25.7	...	...	67,067,215	7.3	...	...	10.5

See footnotes at end of table.

GENERAL REPORT

Table 6.—ALL LAND IN FARMS AND SPECIFIED USES OF LAND, FOR THE UNITED STATES:
CENSUSES OF 1850 TO 1959—Continued

[Figures for regions, divisions, and States in Tables 9 to 21]

Item and year	Farms reporting				Acres						
	Number	Percent of all farms	Increase or decrease (-) from preceding census ¹		Total	Percent of all land in farms	Increase or decrease (-) from preceding census ¹		Average		
			Number	Percent			Number	Percent	Per farm (based on all farms)	Per farm reporting	
Other pasture:											
Not cropland and not woodland.....	U. S. 1959....	1,614,942	43.5	NA	NA	466,224,802	41.5	NA	NA	125.7	288.7
	conterminous U. S. 1959....	1,613,720	43.6	-383,129	-19.2	464,783,483	41.5	4,904,558	1.1	125.5	288.0
	conterminous U. S. 1954....	1,996,849	41.8	-65,594	-3.2	459,878,925	39.7	44,229,405	10.6	96.2	230.3
	U. S. 1949....	2,063,076	38.3	-865,370	-29.6	416,802,416	35.9	-65,367,148	-13.6	77.4	202.0
Improved pasture.....	U. S. 1959....	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
	conterminous U. S. 1959....	350,949	9.5	-36,242	-9.4	23,245,097	2.1	5,909,820	34.1	6.3	66.2
	conterminous U. S. 1954....	387,191	8.1	...	...	17,335,277	1.5	...	...	(2)	44.7
Not cropland plowed within 7 years and not woodland.....	conterminous U. S. 1944....	2,927,813	50.0	NA	NA	481,016,668	42.1	NA	NA	82.1	164.3
Not plowable and not woodland.....	conterminous U. S. 1934....	2,019,431	29.6	254,428	14.4	311,225,652	29.5	41,552,942	15.4	45.7	154.1
	conterminous U. S. 1929....	1,765,003	28.1	153,078	9.5	269,672,710	27.3	51,985,565	23.9	42.9	152.8
	conterminous U. S. 1924....	1,611,925	25.3	...	...	217,687,145	23.6	...	...	34.2	135.0
Other land:											
House lots, roads, wasteland, etc.....	U. S. 1959....	NA	NA	NA	NA	44,991,142	4.0	NA	NA	12.1	NA
	conterminous U. S. 1959....	NA	NA	NA	NA	44,126,343	3.9	2,435,125	5.8	11.9	NA
	conterminous U. S. 1954....	4,276,159	89.4	-415,429	-8.9	41,691,218	3.6	-3,572,766	-7.9	8.7	9.7
	U. S. 1949....	4,695,184	87.1	-599,185	-11.3	45,741,705	3.9	1,695,943	3.9	8.5	9.7
	conterminous U. S. 1944....	5,290,773	90.3	NA	NA	43,568,041	3.8	NA	NA	7.4	8.2
	conterminous U. S. 1934....	6,003,964	88.1	1,252,653	26.4	43,900,525	4.2	-856,252	-1.9	6.4	7.3
	conterminous U. S. 1929....	4,751,311	75.6	NA	NA	44,756,777	4.5	-13,076,869	-22.6	7.1	9.4
	conterminous U. S. 1924....	NA	NA	...	...	57,833,646	6.3	...	...	9.1	NA
House lots, roads, wasteland, etc., and pasture other than plowable and woodland ⁷	conterminous U. S. 1939....	5,222,744	85.7	...	...	393,543,673	37.1	38,417,496	10.8	64.5	75.4
Cropland:											
Total ⁸	U. S. 1959....	3,431,544	92.5	NA	NA	448,087,341	39.9	NA	NA	120.8	130.6
	conterminous U. S. 1959....	3,426,311	92.5	-992,604	-22.5	447,563,718	40.0	-12,085,243	-2.6	120.8	130.6
	conterminous U. S. 1954....	4,418,915	92.4	-627,748	-12.4	459,648,961	39.7	-18,188,977	-3.8	96.1	104.0
	U. S. 1949....	15,046,663	193.8	-521,155	-3.4	478,315,094	41.2	327,143,712	36.0	88.8	194.7
Cropland other than cropland pasture not plowed within 7 years ⁹	conterminous U. S. 1944....	5,567,818	95.0	-423,485	-7.1	450,694,226	39.5	-79,436,817	-15.0	76.9	80.9
Land available for crops ¹⁰	U. S. 1939....	15,991,303	198.3	NA	NA	530,555,551	49.8	16,217,074	3.2	86.9	188.5
	conterminous U. S. 1934....	NA	NA	NA	NA	513,913,969	48.7	-8,481,835	-1.6	75.4	NA
	conterminous U. S. 1929....	NA	NA	NA	NA	522,395,804	52.9	17,368,404	3.4	83.1	NA
	conterminous U. S. 1924....	NA	NA	...	...	505,027,400	54.6	...	...	79.3	NA
Land pastured, total.....	U. S. 1959....	2,845,788	76.7	NA	NA	624,309,623	55.6	NA	NA	168.3	219.4
	conterminous U. S. 1959....	2,843,800	76.8	-753,151	-20.9	622,539,077	55.6	-24,561,321	-3.8	168.1	218.9
	conterminous U. S. 1954....	3,596,951	75.2	-448,973	-11.1	647,100,398	55.9	27,404,059	4.4	135.3	179.9
	U. S. 1949....	14,045,924	175.2	-388,962	-8.8	621,423,813	53.5	-3,844,759	-0.6	115.3	153.2
	conterminous U. S. 1944....	4,434,886	75.7	NA	NA	623,641,098	54.6	NA	NA	106.4	140.6
	conterminous U. S. 1934....	NA	NA	NA	NA	517,900,401	49.1	53,745,877	11.6	76.0	NA
	conterminous U. S. 1929....	NA	NA	NA	NA	464,134,524	47.0	56,195,935	13.8	73.8	NA
	conterminous U. S. 1924....	NA	NA	...	...	407,958,589	44.1	...	...	64.0	NA
Woodland, total.....	U. S. 1959....	1,878,560	50.6	NA	NA	164,204,289	14.6	NA	NA	44.3	87.4
	conterminous U. S. 1959....	1,877,701	50.7	-510,555	-21.4	163,684,245	14.6	-33,288,162	-16.9	44.2	87.2
	conterminous U. S. 1954....	2,388,256	49.9	-347,505	-12.7	196,972,407	17.0	-22,842,003	-10.4	41.2	82.5
	U. S. 1949....	12,735,761	150.8	56,018	2.1	220,560,505	19.0	53,477,981	32.2	40.9	180.3
	conterminous U. S. 1944....	2,679,743	45.7	-222,413	-7.7	166,336,429	14.6	29,158,771	21.3	28.4	62.1
	conterminous U. S. 1939....	2,902,156	47.6	NA	NA	137,177,658	12.9	-48,297,307	-26.0	22.5	47.3
	conterminous U. S. 1934....	NA	NA	NA	NA	185,474,965	17.6	35,529,240	23.7	27.2	NA
	conterminous U. S. 1929....	NA	NA	NA	NA	149,945,725	15.2	6,174,564	4.3	23.8	NA
	conterminous U. S. 1924....	NA	NA	NA	NA	143,771,161	15.6	-23,959,633	-14.3	22.6	NA
	conterminous U. S. 1919....	NA	NA	NA	NA	167,730,794	17.5	-23,134,759	-12.1	26.0	NA
	conterminous U. S. 1909....	NA	NA	NA	NA	190,865,553	21.7	NA	NA	30.0	NA
	conterminous U. S. 1879....	NA	NA	NA	NA	190,255,744	35.5	30,945,567	19.4	33.2	NA
	conterminous U. S. 1869....	NA	NA	...	...	159,310,177	39.1	...	...	34.9	NA
Improved land ¹¹	conterminous U. S. 1920....	NA	NA	NA	NA	503,073,007	52.6	24,621,257	5.1	78.0	NA
	conterminous U. S. 1910....	NA	NA	NA	NA	478,451,750	54.4	63,953,263	15.4	75.2	NA
	conterminous U. S. 1900....	NA	NA	NA	NA	414,451,487	49.4	56,881,732	15.9	72.2	NA
	conterminous U. S. 1890....	NA	NA	NA	NA	357,616,755	57.4	72,845,713	25.6	78.3	NA
	conterminous U. S. 1880....	NA	NA	NA	NA	284,771,042	53.1	95,849,943	50.7	71.0	NA
	conterminous U. S. 1870....	NA	NA	NA	NA	188,921,099	46.3	25,810,379	15.8	71.0	NA
	conterminous U. S. 1860....	NA	NA	NA	NA	163,110,720	40.1	50,078,106	44.3	79.8	NA
	conterminous U. S. 1850....	NA	NA	...	...	113,032,614	38.5	...	...	78.0	NA
Irrigated land in farms ¹²	U. S. 1959....	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
	conterminous U. S. 1959....	306,532	8.3	-13,704	-4.3	33,021,799	2.9	3,469,644	11.7	8.9	107.7
	conterminous U. S. 1954....	320,236	6.7	15,175	5.0	29,552,155	2.6	3,764,713	14.6	6.2	92.3
	conterminous U. S. 1949....	305,061	5.7	16,866	5.9	25,787,455	2.2	5,247,985	25.6	4.8	84.5
	conterminous U. S. 1944....	288,195	4.9	-11,409	-3.8	20,539,470	1.8	2,566,640	14.2	3.5	71.3
	conterminous U. S. 1939....	299,604	4.9	13,704	13.2	17,982,830	1.7	13,948,656	13.8	2.9	60.0
	conterminous U. S. 1934....	296,189	4.3	14,632	14.9	13,034,174	1.2	14,159,078	14.0	1.9	44.0
	conterminous U. S. 1929....	265,147	4.2	42,358	19.0	14,633,252	1.5	NA	NA	2.3	55.2
	conterminous U. S. 1919....	222,789	3.5	60,066	36.9	NA	(15)	NA	NA	(15)	NA
	conterminous U. S. 1909....	162,723	2.6	48,874	43.0	NA	(15)	NA	NA	(15)	NA
	conterminous U. S. 1899....	113,849	2.0	59,713	110.3	7,744,492	0.9	4,028,547	108.4	1.4	68.0
	conterminous U. S. 1889....	54,136	1.2	...	...	3,715,945	0.6	...	...	0.8	68.6

See footnotes at end of table.

FARMS AND LAND IN FARMS

27

Table 6.—ALL LAND IN FARMS AND SPECIFIED USES OF LAND, FOR THE UNITED STATES:
CENSUSES OF 1850 TO 1959—Continued

[Figures for regions, divisions, and States in Tables 9 to 21]

Item and year	Farms reporting				Acres					
	Number	Percent of all farms	Increase or decrease (-) from preceding census ¹		Total	Percent of all land in farms	Increase or decrease (-) from preceding census ¹		Average	
			Number	Percent			Number	Percent	Per farm (based on all farms)	Per farm reporting
Cropland in cover crops.....U. S. 1959....	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
conterminous U. S. 1959....	368,465	9.9	NA	NA	9,003,704	0.8	NA	NA	2.4	24.4
U. S. 1954 ¹⁶ ..	488,240	12.8	NA	NA	9,278,572	1.8	NA	NA	2.4	19.0
Cropland used for grain or row crops farmed on the contour .....U. S. 1959....	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
conterminous U. S. 1959....	355,987	9.6	NA	NA	22,320,810	2.0	NA	NA	6.0	62.7
U. S. 1954 ¹⁷ ..	434,899	9.2	NA	NA	22,434,812	2.0	NA	NA	4.7	51.6
Land in strip-cropping systems for soil-erosion control.....U. S. 1959....	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
conterminous U. S. 1959....	124,547	3.4	NA	NA	15,947,586	1.4	NA	NA	4.3	128.0
U. S. 1954 ¹⁸ ..	26,972	3.2	NA	NA	5,218,112	0.9	NA	NA	6.1	193.5
System of terraces on crop and pasture land.....U. S. 1959....	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
conterminous U. S. 1959....	444,815	12.0	NA	NA	31,960,006	2.9	NA	NA	8.6	71.9

NA Not available.

² Less than 0.05 percent.

³ Data for Alaska and Hawaii not included.

⁴ Prior to 1924, the total acreage of crops for which figures are available, except for 1919 when 14,502,932 acres of corn cut for forage were excluded as most of this was probably duplicated in the acreage of corn harvested for grain.

⁵ Much of the change from 1944 to 1949 and from 1939 to 1944 due to change in definition. See text.

⁶ Data are for 17 States for which a separate inquiry was included on the questionnaire. Cultivated summer fallow is negligible in other States. See table 18 for States included.

⁷ Data are for 31 States for which separate inquiry was carried for land used only for crops not harvested and not pastured.

⁸ Much of the change from 1944 to 1949 due to change in definition. See text.

⁹ Includes pasture other than plowable and woodland; also wasteland, house lots, barnyards, feed lots, lanes, roads, etc.

¹⁰ Cropland harvested, cropland used only for pasture, and cropland not harvested and not pastured.

¹¹ Cropland harvested, cropland used only for pasture plowed within 7 years, and cropland not harvested and not pastured.

¹² Cropland harvested; crop failure; cropland, idle or fallow; and plowable pasture.

¹³ Nominally includes all land regularly tilled or mowed; land in pasture that has been cleared or tilled; land lying fallow; land in gardens, orchards, vineyards, and nurseries; and all land occupied by buildings, yards, barnyards, etc. See text.

¹⁴ Data not strictly comparable. See text.

¹⁵ Increase or decrease 1934 to 1939, based on farms reporting and acreage of irrigated cropland harvested only.

¹⁶ Increase or decrease 1930 to 1935 based on reports for 19 States only.

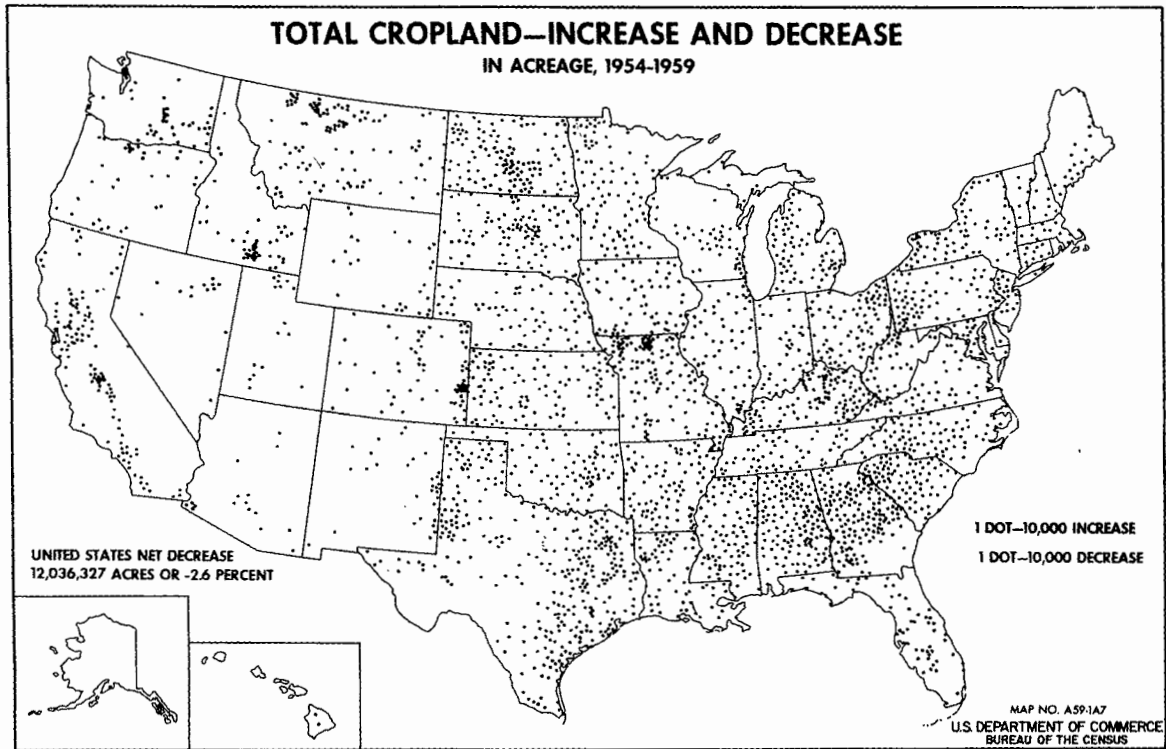
¹⁷ The total acreage of irrigated crops harvested for 1919 was 9,831,368 (includes some duplication and excludes land in orchards and vineyards), and for 1909 was 7,241,561. The reports for crops grown under irrigation for these years, however, were not considered complete.

¹⁸ Data are for 31 States and East Texas for which this inquiry was carried.

¹⁹ Data are for all States except Florida, Alaska, and Hawaii. Land farmed on the contour is negligible in Florida.

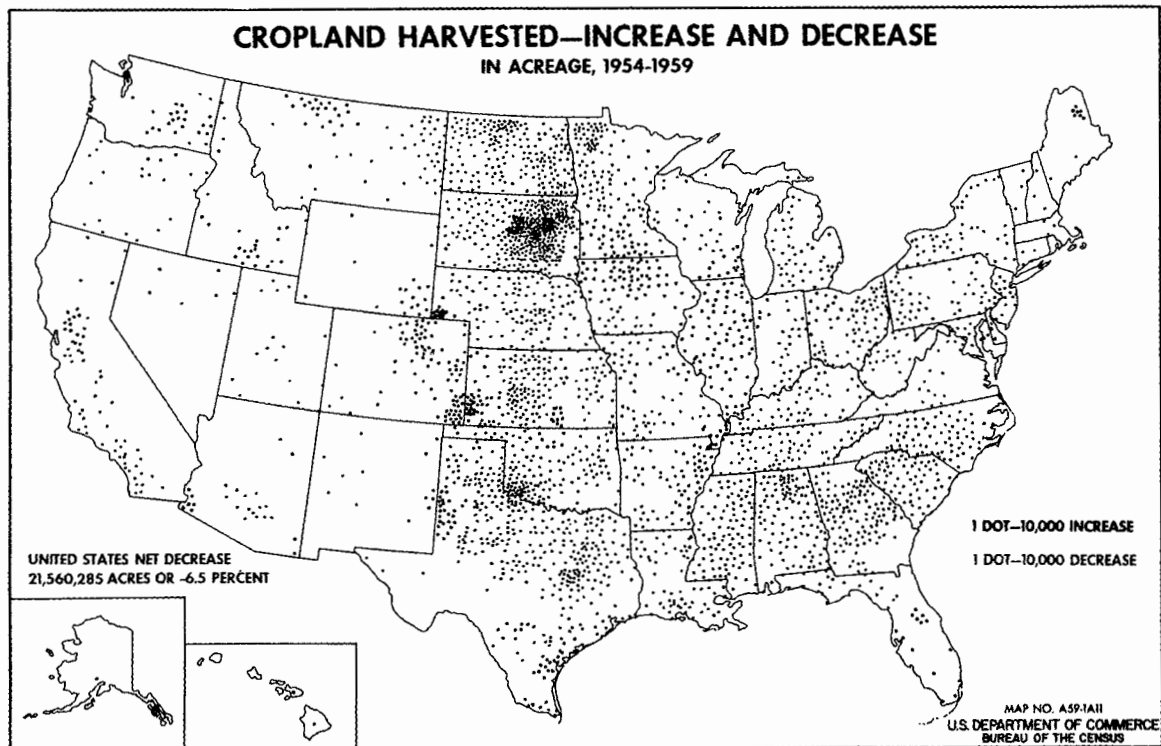
²⁰ Data are for 14 States and West Texas for which this inquiry was carried.

GENERAL REPORT



The acreage of cropland harvested in 1959 was the same as in 1910, and 37 million acres less than at the end of World War I, and 41 million acres less than at the end of World War II. The acreage of cropland harvested in the South in 1959 was about one-third less than at the end of World War I and World War II. The decline in cotton acreage, because of the shift of cotton acreage westward and the increase in cotton yields; the decrease

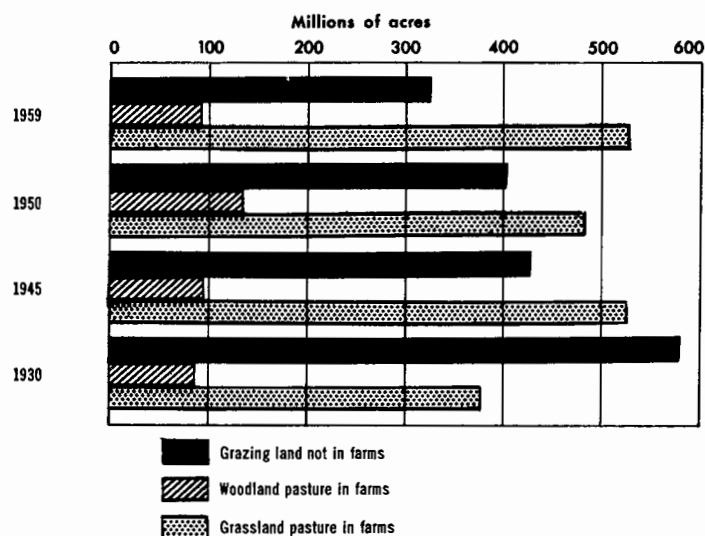
in corn acreage; and the abandonment of marginal farms have accounted for a large part of the decrease in cropland harvested in the South. The acreage of cropland harvested has declined about half in South Carolina, Georgia, and Alabama. The acreage of cropland harvested was less in 1959 than at the end of World War I and World War II in every State in the South except Florida.



The decline of cropland harvested in the North occurred largely in the Northeastern States, Missouri, Michigan, and Ohio. The abandonment of cropland in the face of competition from more productive midwestern areas and the industrial expansion into agricultural areas have contributed significantly to the decline of cropland harvested in the North. The acreage of cropland harvested in the more productive areas of the Corn Belt has remained unchanged since World War I.

In the West, the acreage of cropland harvested was 10 million acres or 36 percent more in 1959 than at the end of World War II. Much of this increase was the result of increase in irrigated land. In Montana and Arizona, the acreage of cropland harvested in 1959 was more than twice as large as at the end of World War I.

PASTURE AND GRAZING LAND FOR THE UNITED STATES: 1930 TO 1959



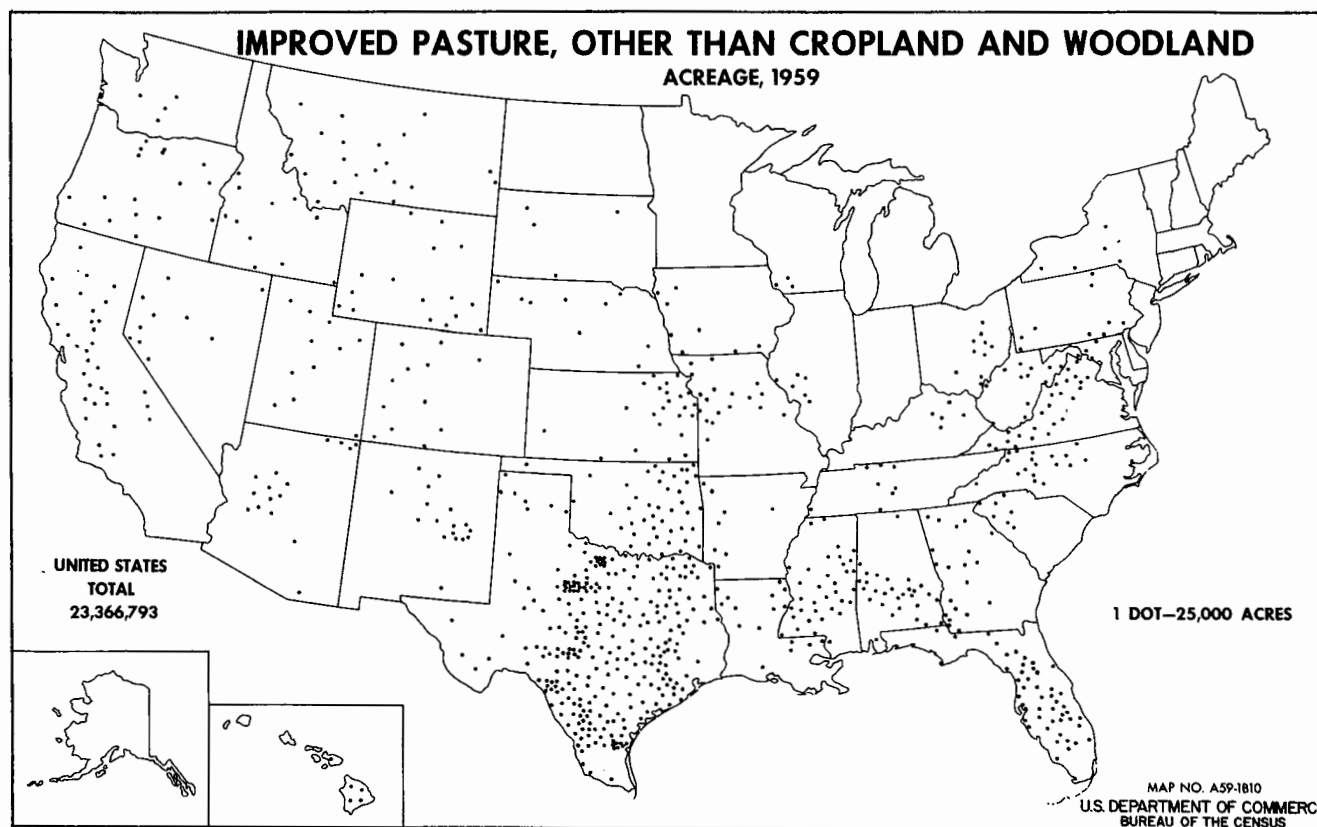
Since 1900, the total area (farm and nonfarm) used for pasture and grazing has declined 180 million acres or about 16 percent. Since 1920, the decline has been 114 million acres or 11 percent.

At each successive census, more of the rangeland in the Western and Southern States has been included as land in farms. This accounts to a large extent for the decrease of grazing lands not in farms and the increase of pastureland in farms.

For the 48 conterminous States, the acreage of pastureland in farms was 25 million acres less in 1959 than in 1954. There was a decrease of three-fourths of a million acres of cropland used for pasture, and 29 million acres of woodland used for pasture. Pasture that was not cropland and not woodland increased 5 million acres. Most of the increase in pasture that was not cropland and not woodland resulted largely from the reporting of woodland pasture, in Texas and other parts of the Southwest in 1954, as other pasture in 1959. About two-thirds of the decrease in pastureland was in the Eastern and Southern States, where a considerable acreage of land was taken out of agriculture.

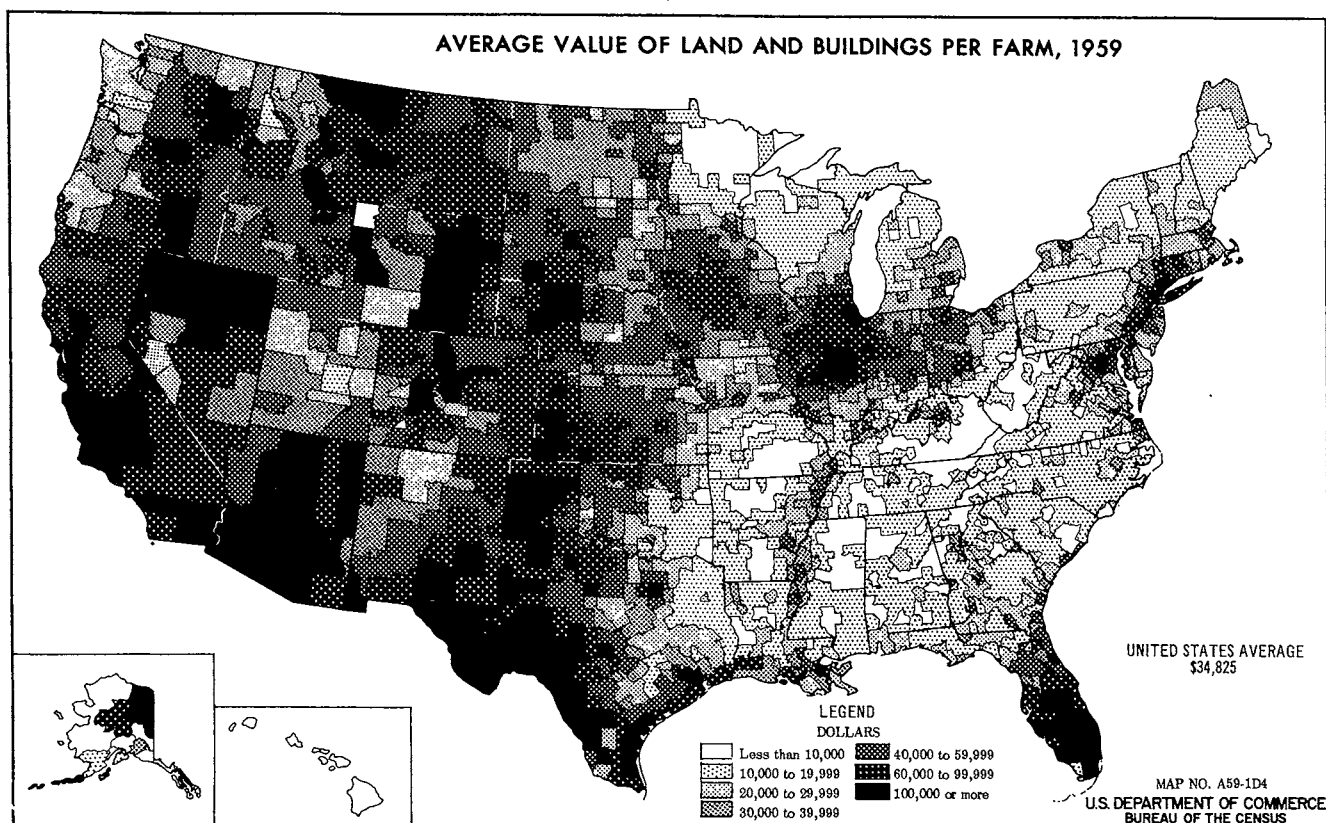
For the conterminous United States, there was a decrease of 33 million acres or 17 percent in the acreage of woodland in farms from 1954 to 1959. Nearly three-fourths of this decrease occurred in Northeastern and Southern States where, over the last three decades, there has been a reversion of considerable acreage of pastureland and cropland to forest lands. About one-fifth of the decrease in woodland in farms occurred in Texas where more of the brushland area was reported as other pasture, not cropland and not woodland. The decline of land in farms in the forested regions during the 5-year period resulted from the transfer of an appreciable amount of woodland in farms to forest lands not in farms.

The acreage of improved pasture increased nearly 6 million acres or 34 percent from 1954 to 1959. More than three-fifths of the increase occurred in Texas and Oklahoma, where pasturelands were improved largely through brush control and reseeding.



Changes in the Value of Farms.—The total value of farm land and buildings in 1959 was almost \$129 billion, or an average of \$34,825 per farm. The total value in 1959 was three times

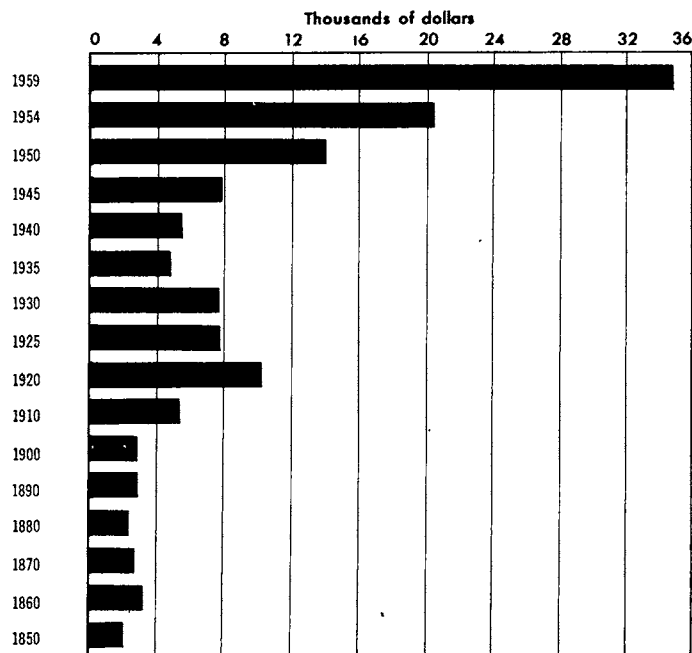
the total value in 1940 and 8 times the total value in 1900. On a per-farm basis, the average value of land and buildings in 1959 was more than 2 times that of 1950 and 6 times that of 1940.



The total value of farm land and buildings declined in the 1920's and the 1930's. These declines were largely the result of falling prices. Since 1935 the total value of farm land and buildings has risen significantly with the sharpest increases occurring after 1940.

In the 50 years after 1870, value of land and buildings increased slightly as settlement pushed westward and the lengthening railway network brought vast new land areas within the reach of farm product markets.

AVERAGE VALUE OF LAND PER FARM: 1850 TO 1954



The changes in the total value of land and buildings and the average value per farm and per acre from census to census are affected by changes in price level as well as changes in the physical assets themselves. No fully satisfactory index is available to use for removing the entire effect of the change in price level from census to census. The following table indicates the approximate level of the value of farm land and buildings at 1959 prices for 1910 to 1959. The value at 1959 prices has been calculated by dividing the value of farm land and buildings by the index of wholesale prices (1959=100).

The computed value of land and buildings at constant (1959) prices indicates more accurately the growth and change in the value of farm land and buildings than the values reported in current prices in the census.

VALUE OF LAND AND BUILDINGS AT 1959 PRICES AND AS REPORTED BY THE CENSUS, FOR THE CONTERMINOUS UNITED STATES: 1850 TO 1959

Census year	Value at 1959 prices			Value as reported by the Census			
	Total value (millions of dollars)	Average value per farm (dollars)	Average value per acre (dollars)	Total value (millions of dollars)	Average value per farm (dollars)	Average value per acre (dollars)	Index of wholesale prices (1959=100)
1959	128,988	34,825	115.15	128,988	34,825	115.15	100
1954	106,068	22,179	91.58	97,583	20,405	84.25	92
1950	87,512	16,259	75.53	75,261	13,983	64.96	86
1945	79,981	13,650	70.05	46,389	7,917	40.63	58
1940	78,237	12,833	73.74	33,642	5,518	31.71	43
1935	74,679	10,961	70.82	52,859	4,823	31.16	44
1930	101,872	16,200	103.23	47,880	7,614	48.52	47
1925	88,335	13,864	95.67	49,468	7,764	53.52	56
1920	78,948	12,243	82.60	66,316	10,284	69.38	84
1910	89,234	14,028	101.54	34,801	5,471	39.60	39
1900	53,596	9,342	63.90	16,615	2,896	19.81	31
1890	42,836	9,384	68.74	13,279	2,909	21.31	31
1880	28,325	7,067	52.83	10,197	2,544	19.02	36
1870	15,938	5,955	38.85	7,444	2,799	18.26	47
1860	20,137	9,852	49.45	6,645	3,251	16.32	33
1850	9,622	6,641	32.76	3,272	2,258	11.14	34

The change in the value of farm land and buildings has proceeded at different rates, in the various regions and States. Regional and State figures indicate the steady western movement, characterizing the expansion of agriculture during the last 100 years. By 1870, the settlement of the West had hardly begun and the Southern States had not recovered from the Civil War nor changed from the hand-labor system of cotton production. Hence, in 1870, a large proportion of the value of farm land and buildings was concentrated in the eastern part of the United States. For example, in 1870, the Corn Belt States had more than two-fifths of the total value of land and buildings in the

United States; by 1959, the share of these States had been reduced to a third. In 1870, the West accounted for less than 2.4 percent of the value of land and buildings; by 1959, the West accounted for one-fifth of the total for the 48 conterminous States. Variations in the rate of growth in the different parts of the country have been large. The extent of settlement, the type of agriculture, the scale of farming, the availability of credit, the development of irrigation, the ratio of workers to farmland, industrialization, and price fluctuations for various farm products have affected the rate of growth among regions and among States.

