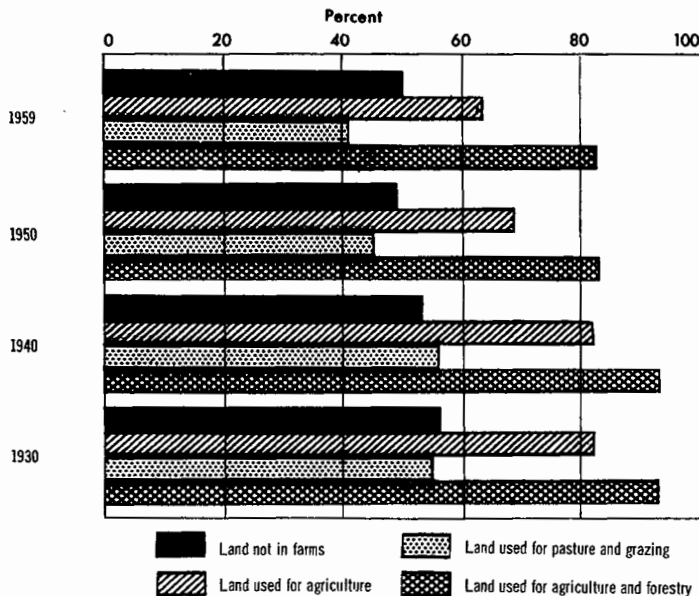


Major Uses of Land.—The total land area of the United States and of the several States has been classified by major use, on the basis of census data on land in farms supplemented by estimates of the Land and Water Economics Branch, Economic Research Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture, for land not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

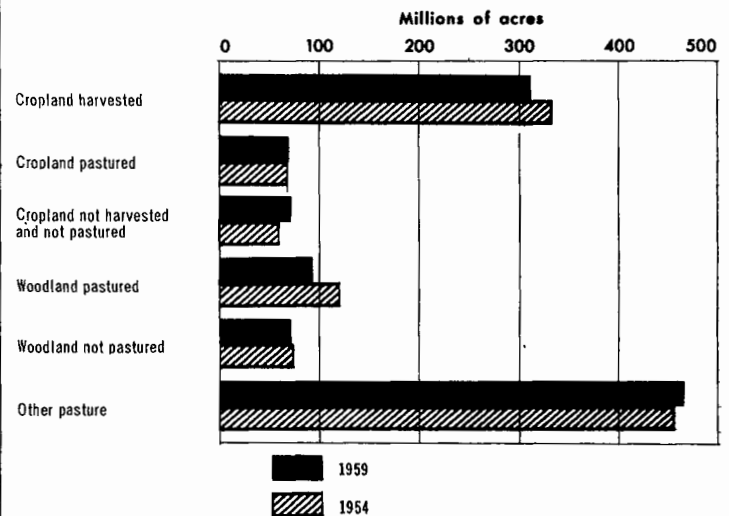
There are millions of acres of additional land not in farms that could be used for agriculture. These include over 100 million acres of grassland; over 20 million acres in abandoned farms, cutover land and wetland; and over 10 million acres in the Western States that could be irrigated.

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.