

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:

	<i>Million acres</i>
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.

