



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	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.....	5,739,697	1,172,731	25.7	841,201,546	215,373,155	34.6	⁴ 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 ²	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	⁵ 7,444,054,462	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.

¹ Data for Alaska and Hawaii not included.

² 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.

³ Does not include value of land and buildings for Hawaii.

⁴ Does not include value of land and buildings for Alaska.

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