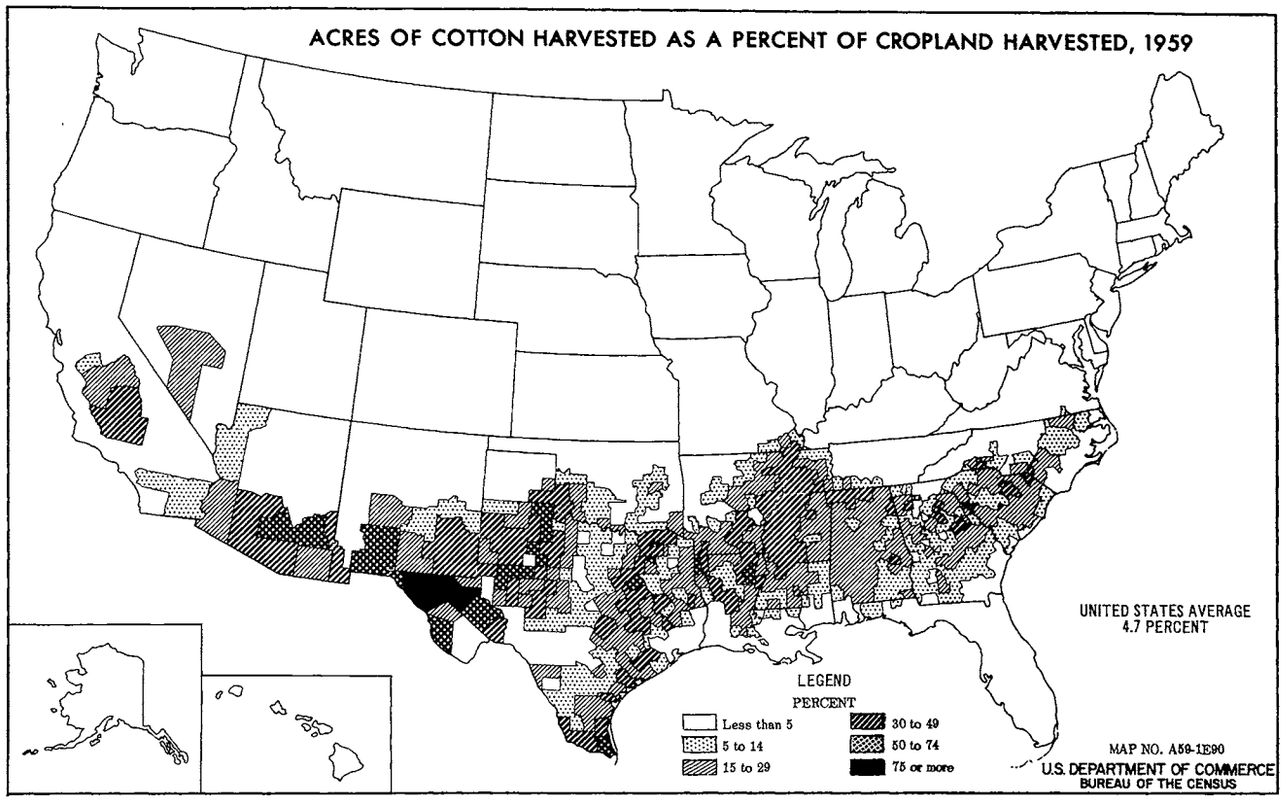
Significant changes have occurred in the number of farms which harvested corn, the acreage harvested, and the production of corn for grain during the last 30 years. Corn was grown on less than half as many farms in 1959 as in 1929. More than half of the decrease in the number of farms growing corn occurred during the last 10 years. Of the 1.3 million decrease from 1949 to 1959 in the number of farms growing corn, more than three-fifths was accounted for by the decrease in the number of farms growing 10 acres or less.

The 79.6 million acres of corn harvested for all purposes in 1959 were 40.8 percent less than the 97.7 million acres harvested in 1929.

Approximately 90 percent of the corn acreage is harvested for grain. The production of corn for grain for the two census years 1959 and 1954, was 91 percent greater than for the two census years 1929 and 1934, although the 1959 and 1954 acreage was less than the 1929 and 1934 acreage. The weighted average yield per acre for the two census years 1954 and 1959, was 46.1 bushels compared with the weighted average of 22.7 bushels per acre for 1929 and 1934. The increased use of hybrid seed, fertilizers, improved tillage and harvesting equipment, and the discontinuance of corn production on small farms and less productive lands account for the significant increase in corn yield.

On the basis of value, cotton is the second most important crop harvested in the United States. While cotton accounts for almost 15 percent of the value of all field crops harvested, the acreage of cotton harvested in 1959 represented less than 5 percent of the acreage of land from which crops were harvested.

Cotton was harvested from 14.6 million acres in 1959, the smallest acreage reported for any census since 1879, and 4.2 million below the acreage harvested in 1954. However, the 1959 crop of 14 million bales was 8 percent above the production of 1954. The



average yield of 0.95 bale per acre was the highest ever recorded for any census. This record high yield per acre was primarily due to better production practices, the diversion of land under governmental control programs, and the shift of cotton acreage from nonirrigated to irrigated areas.

All of the cotton is grown in the southern and western part of the United States. Approximately 22 percent of the acreage is irrigated; however, the production on irrigated land accounts for approximately 38 percent of the total.

Large-scale changes have occurred in the number of farms reporting cotton, acreage, and average yield per acre during the last 30 years. In 1929, cotton was grown on almost 2 million farms; in 1959, cotton was reported on only 509,000 farms. In 1929, cotton was harvested from 43.2 million acres; in 1959, 14.6 million acres were harvested. Notwithstanding the large reduction in acreage, the production of cotton in 1959 was only 4.5 percent less than in 1929. The increased use of fertilizers and insecticides, the use of improved seed, improved cultural and harvesting practices, and the shift of cotton production from nonirrigated to irrigated lands have contributed greatly to the maintenance of cotton production at a level of 12 to 15 million bales while the cotton acreage has declined from more than 43 million to less than 15 million acres.

COTTON—FARMS REPORTING BY ACRES HARVESTED: 1959 AND 1949

Farms with acres harvested of—	Farms reporting	
	1959	1949
Total	508,502	1,110,876
Under 5 acres	98,138	172,364
5 to 24 acres	289,668	718,208
25 to 49 acres	54,446	116,730
50 to 99 acres	34,132	56,677
100 to 199 acres	21,191	29,743
200 acres and over	10,927	17,154