Maps showing irrigated areas by drainage basins.—There is a series of maps available for each of the 17 Western States and Louisiana. These maps are approximately 3 feet by 4 feet in size and were prepared on a scale of about 16 miles on the ground to 1 inch on the map. These show the location of irrigated land by counties and by drainage basins and the acres irrigated by source of water, either ground or surface. One overall map, showing similar data for all of the 18 States, is also available. The acreage shown as irrigated within a drainage basin may have received all of its water from sources within that basin as water from one basin may have been diverted and used in another basin.

The data used in the preparation of the maps for 1959 were obtained from both the census of irrigation and the census of agriculture. All figures for acreage are from the census of agriculture. The allocation of the acreage irrigated from organization sources between surface- and ground-water sources was made on the basis of the percentage of the water received in the drainage basin, by all organizations, which came from ground and surface sources.

The number of dots for the State maps were calculated for each minor civil division or other county subdivision. The dots were plotted within the subdivision after an examination of United States Geological Survey topographic maps, maps of the Bureau of Reclamation projects, enumerator maps, and any other available information indicating the location of the irrigated land. After plotting, the dots were counted by drainage basins to determine the irrigated acreage from each water source for each drainage basin.

The acreage irrigated for counties having less than 500 acres irrigated is not shown on the maps. However, the table printed on the map does provide totals for the irrigated acreage in each drainage basin even though the data are not shown on the map for all counties.