

sources in proportion to the amount of water obtained from each source by the irrigation organizations and these figures were added to the acreage irrigated from farm ground and surface sources. In this manner, the total farm acreage irrigated from ground-water sources was determined to be approximately 14.0 million acres or about 45 percent of the total acres irrigated. The total farm acreage irrigated from surface-water sources equaled about 17.2 million acres or about 55 percent of the total acres irrigated.

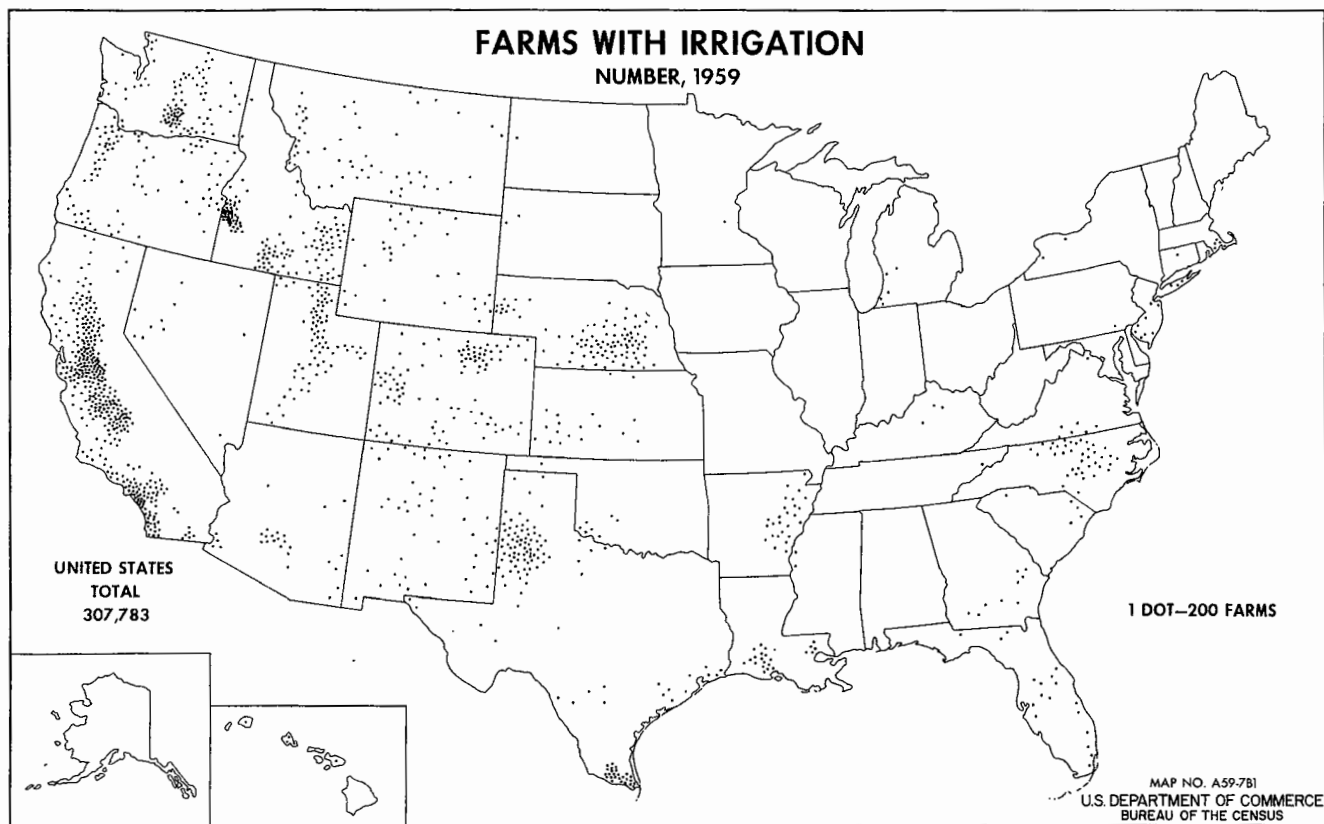
The percentage of the irrigation water which originated from ground or surface sources varied greatly among the 18 States. In Kansas 88.7 percent of the irrigation water was secured from ground sources. The corresponding percentages for North Dakota and Montana were 2 percent. The States with over 50 percent of the irrigation water received from ground sources were the Plains States of Nebraska, Kansas, Oklahoma, and Texas; and Arizona, New Mexico, and Louisiana. In each of the other 10 States, the proportion of the water from ground sources was less than 20 percent.

Irrigated farms.—There were 306,532 farms in the conterminous United States with irrigated land in 1959 according to the 1959 Census of Agriculture. In 1954, irrigated land was reported by 320,236 farms and in 1950 by 305,061 farms. The number of irrigated farms was almost the same in 1959 as in 1950 but the number decreased 4.3 percent between 1954 and 1959. In the 18 States the number of irrigated farms in 1959 was 7.4 percent smaller than in 1950 and 6.8 percent smaller than in 1954. The

number of irrigated farms decreased in all the Mountain States and in California and Louisiana. In each of the Plains States and Washington there was an increase in the number of irrigated farms from 1954 to 1959.

NUMBER OF IRRIGATED FARMS AND PERCENT OF ALL FARMS WITH IRRIGATION: 1959, 1954, AND 1950

Area or State	Number of irrigated farms			Percent of all farms reporting irrigation		
	1959	1954	1950	1959	1954	1950
48 conterminous States, total.....	306,532	320,236	305,061	8.3	6.7	5.7
18 States, total.....	267,431	286,793	288,914	25.6	22.2	20.2
Northern Plains States.....	25,001	16,558	11,957	8.2	4.8	3.2
North Dakota.....	471	399	304	0.9	0.6	0.5
South Dakota.....	1,002	923	807	1.8	1.5	1.2
Nebraska.....	18,936	12,500	9,680	20.9	12.4	9.0
Kansas.....	4,592	2,736	1,166	4.4	2.3	0.9
Southern Plains States.....	30,365	27,935	21,893	9.4	6.8	4.6
Oklahoma.....	2,481	1,620	466	2.6	1.4	0.3
Texas.....	27,884	26,315	21,427	12.3	9.0	6.5
Louisiana.....	4,817	6,897	7,438	6.5	6.2	6.0
Mountain States.....	96,094	112,231	122,280	64.5	62.3	62.8
Montana.....	11,935	13,114	13,457	41.2	39.7	38.4
Idaho.....	25,383	28,218	29,413	75.4	72.8	73.0
Wyoming.....	6,412	7,130	7,831	65.8	62.5	62.1
Colorado.....	20,312	23,355	27,121	60.8	57.3	59.5
New Mexico.....	8,850	11,690	12,691	55.6	55.5	53.8
Arizona.....	5,391	6,809	7,822	74.5	73.1	75.1
Utah.....	15,701	19,406	21,126	88.2	85.0	87.4
Nevada.....	2,110	2,509	2,819	89.6	87.8	90.6
Pacific States (conterminous).....	111,154	123,172	125,346	57.5	50.8	47.0
Washington.....	19,292	18,844	16,928	37.4	28.9	24.2
Oregon.....	17,724	19,826	17,663	41.6	36.4	29.5
California.....	74,138	84,502	90,755	74.7	68.7	66.2



In the areas showing a decrease in the number of irrigated farms, the decline was largely the result of the consolidation of farms into larger operating units. The States with an increase in the number of irrigated farms also showed an increase in irrigated acreage. In the States with an increase in the number of farms with irrigation, irrigation was introduced on some of

the existing farms and in some cases the introduction of irrigation resulted in the division of existing dryland farms into a larger number of smaller irrigated farms. With the exception of Arizona and Nevada, a larger proportion of the farms in each of the 18 States had irrigation in 1959 than in 1950.