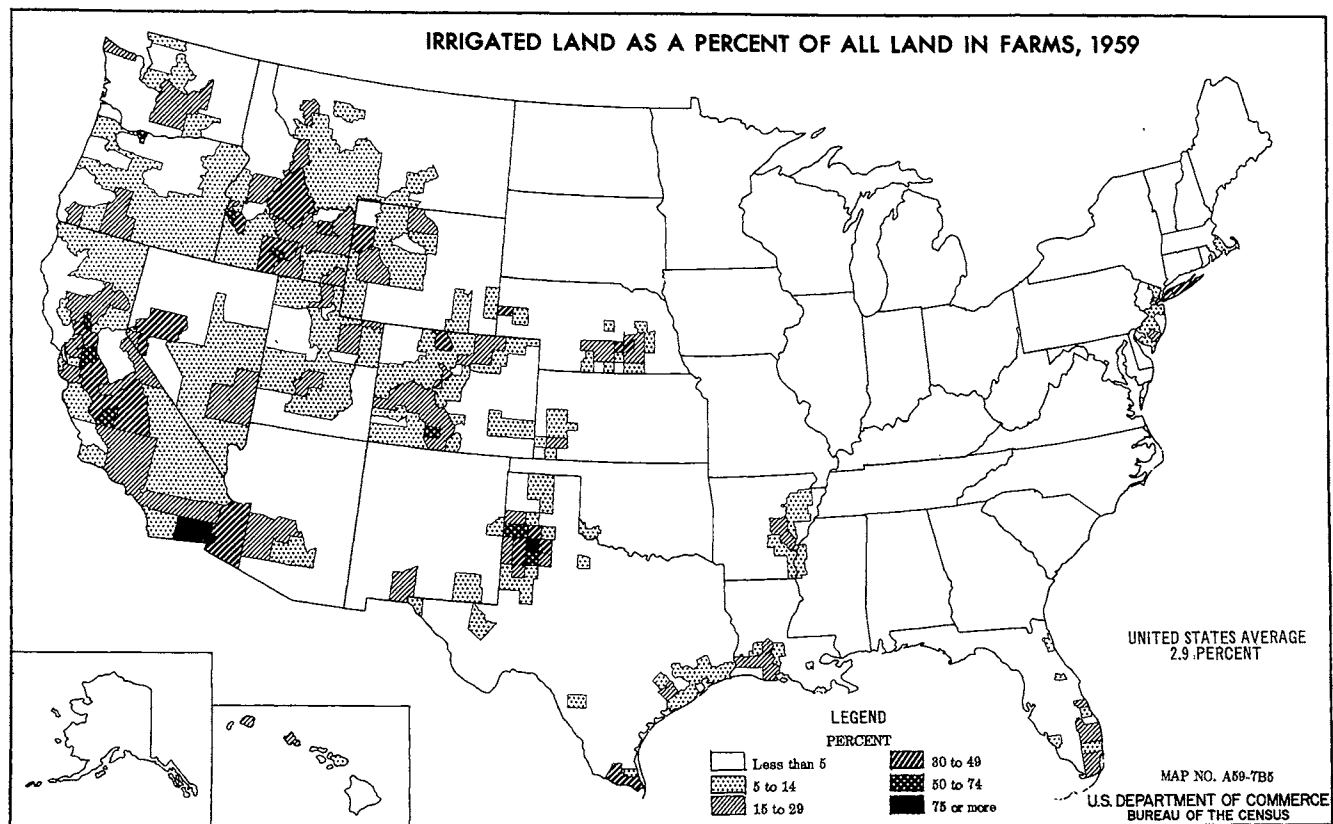


## IRRIGATION OF AGRICULTURAL LANDS

Of the 1,044,166 farms in the 18 States, only 267,431 reported land irrigated in 1959 and only 31.2 million acres were irrigated of the 715 million acres of land in farms in these States. Irrigated farms in these States contained over 213 million acres of land. In 1959, crops were harvested from 26.2 million acres of the 31.2 million acres irrigated. The 5 million acres of irrigated land from which no crops were harvested were largely irrigated pastureland, although a part of the acreage was irrigated land in cultivated summer fallow.

In the 18 States there were 144.4 million acres of land from which crops were harvested but only 26.2 million acres, or 18

percent, were irrigated in 1959. Approximately 68 percent (26.2 million acres) of the 38.5 million acres of land from which crops were harvested on farms with irrigation were irrigated in 1959. There were 178,029 farms on which all crops harvested were irrigated. Those farms had 71 percent of all irrigated land and 72 percent of the irrigated land from which crops were harvested. There were 24,998 farms with no crops harvested from irrigated land in 1959. These farms had 947,206 acres of irrigated land and nearly 645,000 acres of land from which crops were harvested. A large part of the irrigated land on these 24,998 farms was used for pasture.



In order to facilitate the tabulation of census data on crops, farm operators were asked to indicate which crops on their farms were entirely irrigated in 1959 and to report the acreage irrigated for those crops which had only a part of the harvested acreage irrigated in 1959.

There were approximately 26.2 million acres of crops harvested from irrigated land in the 18 States. Only data for the acreage harvested are available for the crops for which only part of the acreage harvested was irrigated, since farm operators were not asked to report separately the quantity harvested from the irrigated land if only a part of the acreage for a crop was irrigated.

The data in summary table 4 for crops harvested on irrigated farms relate only to the crops for which the entire area harvested was irrigated. The entire acreage harvested and the production were included in the totals for nonirrigated crops when only part of the acreage of the crop on a farm was irrigated. The figures for nonirrigated crops include about 2.9 million acres of irrigated crops for 1959 and more than 2.0 million acres of irrigated crops for 1954. This procedure should be kept in mind if the figures are to be used in making comparisons of relative yields for irrigated and nonirrigated crops. Since the acreage irrigated is not available for those crops for which only a part of the acreage

harvested was irrigated in 1954, the data in summary table 4 cannot be used to measure the change from 1954 to 1959 in the irrigated acreage of each crop harvested. Summary table 3 presents the total acres irrigated for each crop in 1959 and also the acreages irrigated for those crops for which only a part of the acreage was irrigated in 1959. Six crops—sorghums (755,000 acres), corn (725,000 acres), hay (483,000 acres), wheat (432,000 acres), cotton (446,000 acres), and barley (92,000 acres)—accounted for a total of 98 percent of the 3,000,000 acres of irrigated crops harvested on farms on which only a part of the acreage of such crops was irrigated in 1959. These were the only crops for which as much as 3 percent of the total acreage of the irrigated crop was reported on farms on which only a part of the crop was irrigated.

**Importance of crop production on irrigated land.**—In order to indicate the importance of the production of each crop harvested on irrigated land, estimates have been made for the production on the irrigated part for each crop irrigated, when only part of the acreage of the crop was irrigated. These estimates represent approximations as the estimates have been made by assuming that the yield per acre for the acreage irrigated for crops for which only part of the acreage was irrigated was the same as for the acreage for which the entire acreage was irrigated. These estimates have been made only for the 18 States as a group.