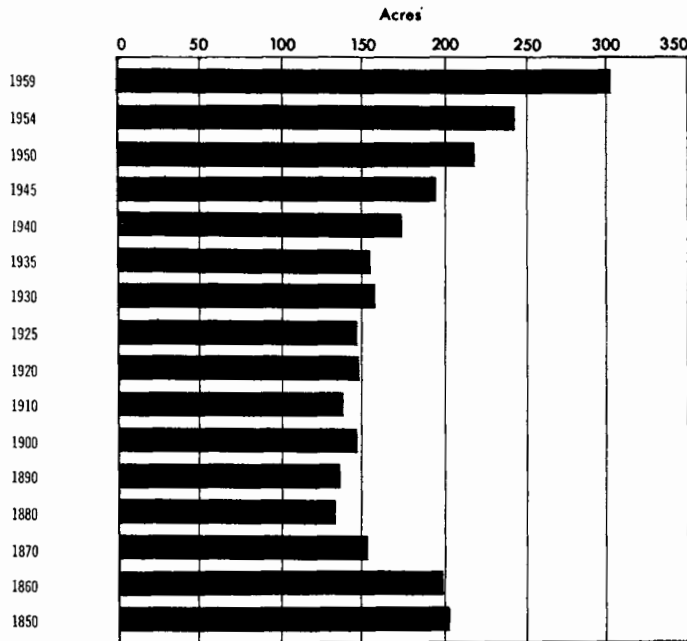


smallest number reported by the census of agriculture since 1870. Of the 1,079,000 decrease, approximately 232,000 resulted from the change in definition of a farm. In the period from 1954 to 1959, the number of farms decreased in every one of the 48 States and in all except 42 of the 3,067 counties in the 48 States comprising the conterminous United States. Even though the average size of farm varies considerably by States and geographic areas, an increase in size was reported for every State in the United States from 1954 to 1959. The average size of farm in 1959 varied from 83 acres in North Carolina to 5,558 acres per farm in Arizona.

AVERAGE SIZE OF FARM, FOR THE UNITED STATES: 1850 TO 1959



Alaska and Hawaii not included.

Table 3.—NUMBER OF FARMS AND PERCENT CHANGE IN NUMBER OF FARMS, BY SIZE OF FARM, FOR THE UNITED STATES: 1959, 1954, AND 1950

Size of farm	Number of farms					Percent change ¹	
	1959	1954 ¹	1950	Increase or decrease (-) ¹		1954 to 1959	1950 to 1954
				1954 to 1959	1950 to 1954		
Total.....	3,710,503	4,782,416	5,388,437	-1,078,522	-599,746	-22.6	-11.1
Under 10 acres.....	244,328	484,291	488,530	-243,558	-623	-50.3	-0.1
10 to 49 acres.....	813,216	1,212,831	1,479,596	-401,629	-265,019	-33.1	-17.9
10 to 29 acres.....	NA	713,335	855,000	NA	-140,273	NA	-16.4
30 to 49 acres.....	NA	499,496	624,596	NA	-124,746	NA	-20.0
50 to 69 acres.....	258,195	346,323	427,025	-88,280	-80,564	-25.5	-18.9
70 to 99 acres.....	399,795	517,740	621,050	-118,098	-103,174	-22.8	-16.6
100 to 139 acres.....	394,505	491,458	579,244	-97,063	-87,653	-19.8	-15.1
140 to 179 acres.....	378,003	461,651	523,659	-83,805	-61,800	-18.2	-11.8
180 to 219 acres.....	225,576	257,189	275,049	-31,670	-17,820	-12.3	-6.5
220 to 259 acres.....	188,899	206,509	212,344	-17,655	-5,807	-8.5	-2.7
260 to 499 acres.....	471,547	482,246	478,170	-10,850	4,162	-2.2	0.9
500 to 999 acres.....	200,012	191,697	182,297	8,268	9,433	4.3	5.2
1,000 acres and over...	136,427	130,481	121,473	5,818	9,119	4.5	7.5
1,000 to 1,999 acres	79,101	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
2,000 acres and over	57,326	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA

NA Not available.
¹Data for Alaska and Hawaii not included.

A group average derived entirely from the total acres in each place brings together, in a single size group, farms representing numerous types of agriculture and intensity of production. This is especially true when the averages are for geographic divisions, regions, or for the United States. Size of

agricultural operations in North Carolina, for example, are quite different from those in the extensive dryland range country in Arizona. Changes in definition of a farm and in the enumeration procedure have affected the number of farms reported for the various censuses, especially for farms under 3 acres. The effect of changes in definition is discussed in the Introduction to this volume.

Table 4.—NUMBER OF FARMS UNDER 3 ACRES IN SIZE, FOR THE UNITED STATES: 1880 TO 1959

[Figures for States in Table 13]

Year	Farms under 3 acres in size	
	Number	Percent of all farms
1959.....	79,083	2.1
1954 ¹	99,896	2.1
1950.....	78,110	1.4
1945 ²	98,966	1.7
1940.....	37,022	0.6
1935 ¹	35,573	0.5
1930.....	44,244	0.7
1925 ¹	15,151	0.2
1920 ²	21,158	0.3
1910 ²	18,033	0.3
1900.....	41,882	0.7
1890.....	NA	NA
1880.....	4,352	0.1

NA Not available.
¹Data for Alaska and Hawaii not included.
²Data for Alaska not available.

The total area of land in farms and the distribution by size groups for the various census periods for some States are affected by the method of enumerating and processing large ownership tracts such as grazing associations and Indian reservations. As indicated in the section of this chapter on "Land in farms," lands in grazing associations and Indian reservations, not reported by individual Indian or other operators, were to be reported as one farm. In certain instances, all of the agricultural land in a grazing association or in a reservation may have been reported as one farm, while in other years, all or part of this land may have been reported for a considerable number of different operators and, thus, counted as a considerable number of separate farms.

Between 1954 and 1959, the number of farms in the "Under-10-acres" group declined approximately 50 percent but the percentage of all farms represented by farms under 10 acres in size decreased from 10.1 percent in 1954 to 6.5 percent in 1959. Table 5 shows the number of farms included in the "Under-10-acres" group for each census beginning with 1880. The change in the definition of a farm accounted for a large part of the decline in the number of farms from 1954 to 1959 (see page XXXII of the Introduction). Farms of under 10 acres increased from 139,241 in 1880, to 594,561 in 1945, then decreased to 244,328 in 1959.

Table 5.—NUMBER OF FARMS UNDER 10 ACRES IN SIZE, WITH LAND IN FARMS, FOR THE UNITED STATES: 1880 TO 1959

[Figures for States in Table 13]

Year	Under 10 acres		Under 3 acres		3 to 9 acres	
	Number of farms	Land in farms (acres)	Number of farms	Land in farms (acres)	Number of farms	Land in farms (acres)
1959.....	244,328	1,052,591	79,083	NA	165,245	NA
1954 ¹	484,291	2,259,817	99,896	NA	384,395	NA
1950.....	488,530	2,451,013	78,110	NA	410,420	NA
1945 ²	594,561	2,805,435	98,966	141,252	495,595	2,664,183
1940.....	509,347	2,679,405	37,022	52,334	472,325	2,627,071
1935 ¹	570,831	3,057,166	35,573	51,269	535,258	3,005,897
1930.....	361,999	1,922,230	44,244	63,210	317,755	1,859,020
1925 ¹	378,535	2,096,610	15,151	22,976	363,384	2,073,634
1920 ²	288,772	1,600,287	20,350	33,613	268,422	1,566,674
1910 ²	335,043	NA	18,033	NA	317,010	NA
1900.....	268,446	1,481,899	41,882	79,508	226,564	1,402,391
1890.....	150,194	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
1880.....	139,241	NA	4,352	NA	134,889	NA

NA Not available.
¹Data for Alaska and Hawaii not included.