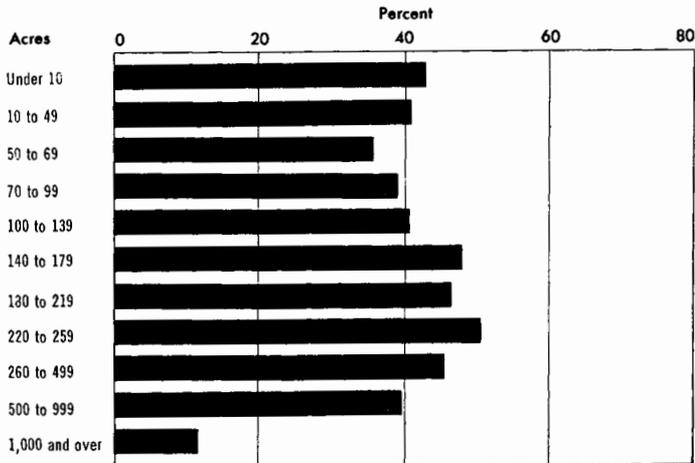


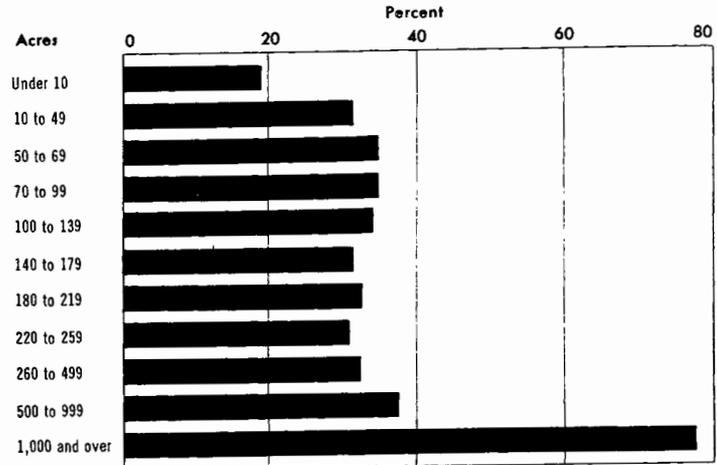
Farms of 1,000 or more acres in size accounted for 3.7 percent of all farms in 1959, 2.7 percent in 1954, 2.3 percent in 1950, and 1.9 percent in 1945. Farms in this 1,000-or-more-acres group accounted for 49.2, 45.9, 42.6, and 40.3 percent of the total farm land in 1959, 1954, 1950, and 1945, respectively. In 1959,

these large farms of 1,000 or more acres accounted for 24.2 percent of the total cropland, 69.3 percent of the total land pastured, and 36.5 percent of the total woodland compared with 20.7 percent of the cropland, 65.4 percent of the land pastured, and 36.1 percent of the woodland in 1954.

PERCENT OF ALL LAND IN FARMS REPRESENTED BY CROPLAND HARVESTED, BY SIZE OF FARM, FOR THE UNITED STATES: 1959



PERCENT OF ALL LAND IN FARMS REPRESENTED BY LAND PASTURED, BY SIZE OF FARM, FOR THE UNITED STATES: 1959



The increase in the number and size of large farms has resulted from farm consolidation arising as a result of improvements in farm technology and efficiency, further mechanization of agriculture, and the inclusion of additional acreages of grazing lands in the farms in certain areas in the West. Data in table 2 reflect the changes in size of farms as measured by the amount of capital represented by land and buildings as reported from 1850 to 1959.

Within any one area representing land of similar quality and similar farming practices, there are numerous factors determin-

ing the predominant size of farm. The size of farm varies with the size of holding at time of settlement, the type of farming, the age of the operator, the use of machinery, the resources of the farm family, the number of available workers in the family, and many other factors. The rural places in almost any area vary from those which are strictly commercial farms depending, largely, upon hired employees to places at the other extreme which represent, primarily, rural homes with limited agricultural operations.